

Course Description

In this course, students will focus on the writing process and develop skills needed to write organized and coherent academic texts. Pre-writing, drafting, editing and revision, paragraph and essay/document organization, and integration of quotations will be discussed and practiced. Sentence level grammar, based on student needs, will be an ongoing area of instruction throughout the course, along with some exposure to useful academic vocabulary and phrases. Regular written and oral feedback will be provided with attention given to individual needs.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Write a greater variety of sentences.
- Write more clearly and understandably.
- Write clear thesis statements, introductions and conclusions.
- Write organized paragraphs that use evidence.
- Develop a variety of academic writing genres.
- Understand the writing process.
- Identify and correct specific grammar errors independently.

Assignments

Details of all assignments will be provided in class.

Attendance & Letter of Completion

Students will receive a “letter of completion” at the end of this course, providing s/he attends a minimum of 80% of classes (8/10 classes). Please note that there will NOT be a record of this course on your U of M transcript.

Grading

Although homework will be assigned, assignments/presentations will not be formally graded. Instead, you will receive constructive feedback from the instructor. The emphasis in this course is on student improvement in the language areas covered in class.

What Will I Learn in Class?

Sentence Module:

- Different Sentence Types
- Connecting words

Paragraph Module:

- Paragraph structure and organization
- Transition words
- Quotation

Writing Skills Module

- Thesis statements
- Introductions / conclusions
- Using and integrating evidence
- Steps in the writing process (draft, revise, edit)
- Various forms of academic writing

Grammar Module

- Sentence level grammar (clauses, punctuation)
- Self-editing strategies (if time permits)

Vocabulary Module

- Transition words and phrases
- Cautious language
- Language to introduce evidence
- Other common phrases for academic writing (if time permits)