American Language Center
المركز اللغوي الأمريكي

Academic English & Research Methodology
2024-2025

Course Description:
Our Academic English class is designed specifically for university students who seek to enhance their academic writing skills, develop a strong understanding of research methodology, and gain proficiency in basic statistical analysis.

Course Objectives:

- Academic Writing Skills: The course places a strong emphasis on developing effective academic writing skills. Students will learn to structure academic essays, write cohesive paragraphs, employ appropriate academic vocabulary, and express complex ideas clearly and concisely. They will also focus on developing critical thinking skills, argumentation, and the proper use of citations and references.
- Research Methodology: Understanding research methodology is crucial for conducting meaningful academic research. Students will learn about various research methodologies, study design, data collection methods, and ethical considerations. They will gain practical knowledge on how to formulate research questions, design research studies, gather and analyze data, and draw valid conclusions.
- Basic Statistics: In today's data-driven academic environment, a solid understanding of basic statistics is essential. Students will learn fundamental statistical concepts, such as probability, hypothesis testing, correlation, and regression analysis. They will acquire practical skills in using statistical software and interpreting statistical results, enabling them to effectively analyze and present research data.

Course Structure:
Our Academic English class follows a structured and interactive approach to maximize student engagement and learning. The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures, group discussions, hands-on activities, individual assignments and a final research project. Students will have the opportunity to practice their academic writing skills through regular writing exercises, receive personalized feedback, and engage in peer review sessions.

Course Duration:
The Academic English class is designed as a semester-long course of 20 weeks (60 hours). Each week students will meet for a 3 hours-long class and will have multiple sessions to ensure comprehensive coverage of the course material and allow for ample practice and reinforcement of key concepts.

American Language Center
المركز اللغوي الأمريكي

The course contains three modules:

1. Academic Writing
2. Research Methodology
3. Basic Statistics

Course Instructor:
The course instructor is a Fulbright Scholar in the United States at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and is a current Ph.D. candidate in Cognitive Science. With a strong foundation in advanced research methods, publication experience in scientific journals, and proficiency in statistical methods and R coding, your instructor is well-equipped to guide you through the intricacies of Academic English and Research Methodology. Their commitment to student success is evident through a dedication to creating an engaging learning environment that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills. Enroll in the course to benefit from their expertise and elevate your academic and research capabilities.

Prerequisites:
This class is open to university students at all levels who possess a solid foundation in English language proficiency (Upper Intermediate +). While there are no specific prerequisites, it is recommended that students have a basic understanding of academic writing and possess a curiosity for research methodologies and statistical analysis.

Course Benefits:
By participating in our Academic English class, students will:

- Develop advanced academic writing skills essential for producing well-structured and persuasive research papers.
- Acquire a comprehensive understanding of research methodology, enabling them to design and conduct rigorous academic studies.
- Attain proficiency in basic statistical analysis, providing them with the skills necessary to analyze and interpret research data effectively.
- Enhance critical thinking abilities and develop logical argumentation skills.
- Strengthen their ability to write coherent and concise academic essays.
- Gain confidence in presenting research findings and engaging in academic discussions.

Join us in our Academic English class, where you will embark on a transformative journey towards becoming a proficient academic communicator, researcher, and analyst.

Program Outline:

I. Module 1: Academic Writing

The module is designed to provide students with the foundational skills and knowledge required to excel in academic writing at the university level. Throughout the module, students will develop a strong understanding of the key components of academic writing, including the structure of an academic essay, critical thinking and analysis, effective research strategies, and proper citation and referencing techniques. They will also learn how to tailor their writing to specific audiences and academic disciplines.

The module covers various aspects of academic writing, including:

1. **Understanding Academic Writing**: Students will explore the characteristics and purpose of academic writing, distinguishing it from other forms of writing. They will learn the importance of clarity, coherence, and conciseness in conveying ideas effectively.
2. **Essay Structure and Organization:** Students will learn how to structure an essay, including crafting a clear introduction, developing well-organized body paragraphs, and writing an effective conclusion. They will also understand the significance of creating a strong thesis statement and topic sentences.
3. **Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Students will develop critical thinking skills necessary for analyzing and evaluating academic texts. They will learn how to interpret and synthesize information, identify logical fallacies, and construct coherent arguments supported by evidence.
4. **Research Skills and Information Literacy:** Students will acquire research skills, including locating relevant sources, evaluating their credibility, and integrating research seamlessly into their writing. They will also learn to navigate digital databases, libraries, and other academic resources.
5. **Academic Style and Language**: Students will explore the appropriate use of language and tone in academic writing. They will learn to avoid plagiarism, use formal language effectively, and maintain objectivity and precision in their writing.
6. **Citations and Referencing:** Students will gain an understanding of various citation styles (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago) and learn how to accurately cite sources within their written work. They will also learn about the importance of referencing and creating a bibliography or works cited page.

Structure: The module will include a combination of lectures, workshops, writing exercises, and assignments to help students practice and apply the concepts learned. By the end of the module, students will be equipped with the fundamental skills necessary to produce well-structured, coherent, and properly referenced academic papers.

II. Module 2: Research Methodology

The Research Methodology module is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of research paradigms, approaches, and methodologies, enabling them to select the most appropriate methods for their research objectives. They will also gain practical

experience in designing research studies, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing meaningful conclusions.

The module covers various aspects of research methodology, including:

1. **Introduction to Research:** Students will gain an overview of the research process, its significance in academia, and its relevance to various disciplines. They will understand the differences between quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research.
2. **Research Design**: Students will learn about the key elements of research design, including formulating research questions and objectives, selecting appropriate sampling techniques, and choosing research methods that align with the research goals.
3. **Data Collection Methods**: Students will explore a range of data collection methods such as surveys, interviews, observations, and experiments. They will understand the strengths, limitations, and ethical considerations associated with each method and learn how to choose the most suitable method for their research.
4. **Data Analysis:** Students will gain knowledge of various data analysis techniques, both qualitative and quantitative. They will learn how to organize and analyze data using statistical software, interpret findings, and draw valid conclusions. Students will also understand how to present data effectively using tables, charts, and graphs.
5. **Research Ethics:** Students will explore the ethical considerations and guidelines associated with conducting research involving human participants. They will learn about informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, and the responsible handling of data. Students will understand the importance of ethical conduct in research and the potential impact on the credibility of their findings.
6. **Research Proposal and Report Writing:** Students will develop skills in writing research proposals and reports. They will learn how to structure and format their documents, articulate research objectives, justify research methodologies, and present findings effectively. They will also understand the importance of literature reviews and referencing in academic research.

The module will incorporate practical exercises, case studies, and group discussions to provide students with hands-on experience in research methodology. By the end of the module, students will be equipped with the necessary skills to design and conduct research projects, critically analyze data, and communicate their findings effectively in an academic setting.

III. Module 3: Basic Statistics

The Basic Statistics module provides students with a foundational understanding of the fundamental principles of descriptive and inferential statistics, enabling them to effectively analyze, interpret data sets, make informed decisions and draw reliable conclusions. Students will be introduced to the statistical software package R for statistical analysis and learn the basics of how to input, manage and analyze data and generate statistical outputs.

The module covers various aspects of basic statistics, including:

1. **Introduction to Statistics**: Students will gain an overview of the role of statistics in research and decision-making. They will understand the distinction between descriptive and inferential statistics and the importance of data representation.
2. **Data Types and Measurement:** Students will learn about different types of data, including categorical, ordinal, and continuous variables. They will understand the appropriate measurement scales for each data type and the implications for statistical analysis.
3. **Descriptive Statistics:** Students will learn how to summarize and describe data using measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and measures of dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation). They will also learn how to construct frequency distributions and use graphical representations (e.g., histograms, bar charts) to present data visually.
4. **Probability**: Students will explore the basic principles of probability, including probability rules, conditional probability, and the concept of independence. They will understand how probability theory forms the foundation for statistical inference.
5. **Sampling and Sampling Distributions**: Students will learn about different sampling techniques and their implications for generalizing findings to larger populations. They will understand the concept of sampling distributions and how they relate to statistical inference.
6. **Inferential Statistics:** Students will gain knowledge of common inferential statistical techniques, including hypothesis testing and confidence intervals. They will learn how to formulate null and alternative hypotheses, select appropriate statistical tests, interpret results, and draw valid conclusions.
7. **Correlation and Regression Analysis**: Students will explore the concepts of correlation and regression analysis, enabling them to examine relationships between variables and make predictions. They will learn how to calculate correlation coefficients, interpret regression coefficients, and assess the goodness of fit.

The module will incorporate practical exercises, data analysis projects, and problem-solving activities to help students apply statistical concepts in real-world scenarios. By the end of the module, students will have a solid foundation in basic statistics and be capable of conducting data analysis, interpreting statistical results, and making evidence-based decisions.