

EN6942: ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN ENGLISH STUDIES

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

English for Academic Research in English Studies

Subject Code

EN - English

Course Number

6942

Academic Unit

English (EN)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

EN6471 Research Methods in English Studies or EN6508 Critical Approaches to Literature

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course aims to provide students of English Studies with the language skills and strategies necessary for the production of a variety of high level written scholarly research texts. The course is specifically designed for students who are concurrently enrolled in EN6941 Dissertation. The course will benefit those who plan to publish an ongoing research project or pursue a doctoral program upon graduation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	describe the generic formats of a variety of research texts and adapt the formats in order to organize their research writing effectively;	x	x	x
2	describe and present in coherent fashion the essential types of information needed in the key sections of the research text types described in CILO 1;	x	x	x
3	describe and employ various conventions as well as strategies of citation needed to create well-integrated, meaningful prose and to establish their own authorial voices when drawing on others' work in written research texts;	x	x	x
4	describe and apply various linguistic resources and rhetorical strategies necessary for academic research writing	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will engage in interactive lectures to gain knowledge about academic writing.	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Tutorial	Students will engage in language tasks and activities and have small group discussions.	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Research text	1, 2, 3, 4	60	-	No
2	Reflection	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Goal

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The writing displays a very clear and meaningful goal(s) appropriate to the genre/genre part.
- It also conveys a very clear and a specific message about the research described.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The goal(s) is quite appropriate to the genre/genre part.
- Conveys quite a clear and specific message about the research described.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- The goal is somewhat appropriate to the genre/genre part.
- The message about the described research is somewhat clear.

Marginal

(D)

- The goal is somewhat appropriate to the genre/genre part.
- The message about the described research is not very clear.

Failure

(F)

- The goal is not appropriate to the genre/genre part.
- There is no specific message conveyed about the research described.

Assessment Task

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Content

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The writing carries all essential information expected of the genre/genre-part that the writing represents.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The writing carries most essential information expected of the genre/genre-part that the writing represents.
- Some minor details are missing.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Some essential details are missing.

Marginal

(D)

- Many essential details are missing.

Failure

(F)

- All essential details are missing.

Assessment Task

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Citation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Extensive reading is evident as reflected by the impressive number of sources cited.
- Source ideas are meaningfully engaged and are very well-synthesized to advance the goal of writing.
- Authorial voice over source ideas is strategically enacted.
- Sources are properly cited and documented using a recognized citation style.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- Fulfils the minimal number of sources required for the writing.
- Source ideas are mostly meaningfully engaged and are quite well-synthesized to advance the goal of writing.
- Stray source ideas are evident but do not affect much the flow of discussion.
- Authorial voice over source ideas is evident and is enacted somewhat strategically. - Sources are properly cited and documented using a recognized citation style.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Fulfils the minimal number of sources required for the writing.
- Evident attempts at engaging source ideas to advance the goal writing though not entirely successful.
- A noticeable number of source ideas are not synthesized
- A noticeable amount of stray source ideas.
- Some attempts at establishing authorial voice are evident though not very successful.
- Sources are properly cited and documented using a recognized citation style.

Marginal

(D)

- Fulfils the minimal number of sources required for the writing.
- Rather unsuccessful attempts at engaging source ideas to advance the goal of writing
- Few attempts at synthesizing source ideas.
- Many stray source ideas that significantly obscure the goal of writing.
- Sources are properly cited and documented using a recognized citation style.

Failure

(F)

- Fails to fulfil the minimal number of sources required for the writing.
 - Very few attempts at engaging source ideas to advance the goal of writing
 - Source ideas are not synthesized at all.
 - Source ideas are not related to the goal of writing at all.
 - Sources are not cited nor documented properly using a recognized citation style.
-

Assessment Task

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Argumentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- A sharp awareness of readers' refutations about the research.
- An impressive range of strategies are effectively /successfully employed to defend/justify most/all major aspects of the research.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- An awareness of readers' refutations.
- A range of rhetorical strategies are employed quite effectively to defend/justify a few major aspects of the research.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- A limited awareness of readers' refutations.
- Attempts at defending/justifying a few specific aspects of research using a rather limited range of rhetorical strategies though not all attempts are successful.

Marginal

(D)

- A very limited awareness of readers' refutations.
- Very few attempts at defending/justifying the research.

Failure

(F)

- A lack of awareness of readers' refutations.
 - Writing is entirely descriptive and no attempts at defending/justifying the research.
-

Assessment Task

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Organization

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The writing is very effectively sectioned.
- Very effective signposting is employed.

- The piece is on the whole very easy to navigate.
- Ideas within and across sections are well-connected and well-aligned.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The writing is quite effectively sectioned.
- Signposting is quite effectively employed.
- The piece is on the whole quite easy to navigate.
- Non-intrusive ruptures are evident.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- The writing is somewhat effectively sectioned and the sectioning needs some revision.
- Some signposting is employed though not entirely effective.
- Requires some efforts to navigate the writing.
- Intrusive ruptures are evident.

Marginal

(D)

- The writing is ineffectively sectioned.
- Very limited signposting is employed.
- Quite difficult to navigate the writing.
- Frequent intrusive ruptures

Failure

(F)

- The writing is extremely difficult to navigate.
- It is extremely poorly organized.

Assessment Task

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Language

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The ideas are communicated very clearly, effectively and succinctly.
- The writing displays an outstanding mastery of the English language (syntax, lexis, collocations, etc.), punctuation, and the scholarly register.
- Very few errors are evident.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The ideas are communicated quite clearly, effectively and succinctly.
- The writing displays an advanced mastery of the English language (syntax and lexis) and the scholarly register
- Some non-intrusive errors are evident.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Intrusive errors / limited lexicon are evident which affect the clarity the succinctness and effectiveness of the writing.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Marginal

(D)

- Frequent intrusive errors / a very limited lexicon are evident which seriously affect the clarity, the succinctness and effectiveness of the writing.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Failure

(F)

- Serious and very intrusive errors / an extremely limited lexicon are evident which render the piece almost unintelligible.
- OR
- Evidence of serious plagiarism is detected which disqualifies the piece and calls for disciplinary actions.
-

Assessment Task

Research text (60%)

Criterion

Visuals (where needed)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Very effective employment of visuals to complement / supplement textual descriptions.
- Visuals are very easy to comprehend and well-labelled.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- Quite effective employment of visuals to complement / supplement textual descriptions.
- Visuals are mostly easy to comprehend and quite well-labelled

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Somewhat effective employment of visuals to complement / supplement textual descriptions.
- Some visuals require some efforts to comprehend.
- Some are not labelled.

Marginal

(D)

- Ineffective employment of visuals.
- Many of the visuals are difficult to comprehend and/or not labelled. -

Failure

(F)

- No visuals are employed Or
 - Incomprehensible visuals.
-

Assessment Task

Reflection (40%)

Criterion

Goal

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The writing displays a very clear and meaningful goal(s) appropriate to the task.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The goal(s) is quite appropriate to the task.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- The goal is somewhat appropriate to the task.

Marginal

(D)

- The goal is not entirely appropriate to the task.

Failure

(F)

- The goal is not appropriate to the task.

Assessment Task

Reflection (40%)

Criterion

Content

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The writing carries all essential information expected of the task.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The writing carries all essential information expected of the task.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- A few essential details are missing.

Marginal

(D)

- Quite a few essential details are missing.

Failure

(F)

- All essential details are missing.

Assessment Task

Reflection (40%)

Criterion

Organization

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The writing is very effectively sectioned.
- Very effective signposting is employed.
- The piece is on the whole very easy to navigate.
- Ideas within and across sections are well-connected and well-aligned.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The writing is quite effectively sectioned.
- Signposting is quite effectively employed.
- The piece is on the whole quite easy to navigate.
- Non-intrusive ruptures are evident.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- The writing is somewhat effectively sectioned and the sectioning needs some revision.
- Some signposting is employed though not entirely effective.
- Some efforts are required to navigate the writing.

Marginal

(D)

- The writing needs some major re-sectioning.
- Limited signposting is employed.
- Considerable efforts are required to navigate the writing.
- Intrusive ruptures are evident.

Failure

(F)

- The writing is extremely difficult to navigate.
- It is extremely poorly organized.

Assessment Task

Reflection (40%)

Criterion

Language

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- The ideas are communicated very clearly, effectively and succinctly.
- The writing displays an outstanding mastery of the English language (syntax, lexis, collocations, etc.), punctuation, and the scholarly register.
- Very few errors are evident.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- The ideas are communicated quite clearly, effectively and succinctly.
- The writing displays an advanced mastery of the English language (syntax and lexis) and the scholarly register
- Some non-intrusive errors are evident.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Quite a few intrusive errors / a fairly limited lexicon are evident which somewhat affect the clarity, the succinctness and effectiveness of the writing.
- No plagiarism is detected.

Marginal

- (D)
- Some major intrusive errors / a limited lexicon are evident which seriously affect the clarity, the succinctness and effectiveness of the writing.
 - No plagiarism is detected.

Failure

- (F)
- Many serious and very intrusive errors / an extremely limited lexicon are evident which render the piece almost unintelligible. OR
 - Evidence of serious plagiarism is detected which disqualifies the piece and calls for disciplinary actions.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Authorial voice, citation conventions, citation strategies, research articles, theses writing for publication.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Cargill, M & O' Connor, P (2013) Writing Scientific Research Articles: Strategy and Steps (2nd ed) Wiley-Blackwell
2	Curry, M J & Lillis, T (2013) A scholar' s guide to getting published in English : critical choices and practical strategies Multilingual Matters
3	Fabb, N & Durant, A (2014) How to Write Essays and Dissertations: A Guide for English Literature Students (2nd ed) Routledge
4	Flowerdew, J & Pejman, H (2021) Introducing English for Research Publication Purposes Routledge
5	Lunenburg, FC, & Irby, B J (2008) Writing a Successful Thesis or Dissertation: Tips and Strategies for Students in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Corwin Press (Sage)
6	Paltridge, B & Starfield, S (2016) Getting Published in Academic Journals: Navigating the Publication Process University of Michigan Press

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Belcher, D (2007) Seeking acceptance in an English-only research world Journal of Second Language Writing, 16, 1-22
2	Casanave, C & Vandrick, S (eds) (2003) Writing for Scholarly Publication: Behind the Scenes in Language Education Lawrence Erlbaum Associates
3	Flowerdew, J & Dudley-Evans, T (2002) Genre analysis of editorial letters to international journal contributors Applied Linguistics 23 463-489
4	Swales, JM & Feak, C (2000) English in Today' s Research World University of Michigan Press
5	Weissberg, R & Buker, S (1990) Writing up Research: Experimental Research Report Writing for Students of English Prentice Hall Regents
6	Williams, HC (2004) How to reply to referees' comments when submitting manuscripts for publication Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, 51 79-83
7	Online resources

8	Sample theses: On-line theses (CityU library)
9	Concordancing tool: AntConc (http://www.antlab.sci.waseda.ac.jp/software.html)
10	Sample academic English (written): BNC (http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/)
11	Citation style guides: https://libguides.library.cityu.edu.hk/citing
12	Citation style guides: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html