## Syllabus

### Course description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Introduction to Academic writing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course code</td>
<td>27043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific sector</td>
<td>SPS/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Bachelor in Economic and Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and academic year</td>
<td>2nd semester, 2017/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modular</td>
<td>No</td>
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### Specific educational objectives

The course is designed to enable students to acquire academic writing skills. The specific objectives are:

- to introduce students to Anglo-American academic writing conventions;
- to develop students’ critical thinking skills (e.g. fact v opinion, authorial stance, main v supporting arguments) and to enable them to identify key information in Economic and Social Sciences-related texts;
- to apply these skills in order to gather, report and critique conflicting arguments, to present convincing arguments and standpoints with supporting reasons and exemplification and to present key information given in a text in a coherent summary;
- to provide students with the ability to progress to a wider range of written academic assignments on more subject-specific topics as required in the 2nd and 3rd years of their degree course.

### Lecturers

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Tel: 0471 013278  
https://www.unibz.it/en/services/language
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Teaching language</strong></th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office hours</strong></td>
<td>Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: <a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&amp;degree=12833">https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&amp;degree=12833</a></td>
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| **List of topics covered** | - introduction to/analysis of expectations of Anglo-American academic writing conventions  
- types of academic paper  
- critical thinking  
- discursive essays: structure, paragraphing, coherence, supporting arguments, exemplification  
- gathering source material  
- summarizing and critiquing texts  
- plagiarism, citing sources and writing a bibliography  
- academic language work e.g. register and style, lexical chunking, discourse linkers and markers, caution, collocations, synonyms and paraphrasing, compounds |
| **Teaching format**   | Frontal lectures, seminar work, class discussion, group and pair work, peer review |
| **Learning outcomes** | Knowledge and understanding: acquiring or reinforcing basic knowledge and understanding of academic writing conventions, critical thinking, structure of academic papers, and appropriate register, style and lexis for academic writing 
Applying knowledge and understanding: producing written work that presents logical and well-supported arguments, a convincing stance, and the ability to identify key information and report it in a coherent summary on a range of Economic and Social Sciences-related topics 
Making judgements: showing evidence in written essays of the ability to gather and present clearly a range of arguments on an Economics and Social Sciences-related topic and of applying critical thinking in interpreting them and presenting a convincing and well-argued standpoint; and in written summaries to identify and report key information in a text and to present a reasoned critique of the text 
Communication skills: showing the ability in written work to communicate arguments, solutions and viewpoints on |
Economics and Social Sciences-related topics in an appropriately academic register and style and with awareness of the intended audience

Learning skills: the course is intended to enable students to apply the skills learnt to more specialist areas of study in their degree program and to work with a degree of autonomy in their future written assignments

**Assessment**

- Written coursework 50%: one discursive essay from a range of topics related to Economic and Social Sciences and one summary of a longer text plus critique
- Written examination 50%: one short discursive essay IELTS-style, one summary of two short texts, one error detection exercise regarding citing sources

**Assessment language**

English

**Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks**

- Coursework: students are assessed on their ability to analyse both sides of a question, argue a stance coherently, clearly and convincingly, identify key information, summarise it and evaluate the source text; and on their ability to write appropriately in English
- Examination: students are assessed on their ability to devise arguments on a range of potential topics in a short time and to present them clearly and coherently; to identify key information and summarise it; to show awareness of citing sources and to write in clear and appropriate English.

**Required readings**


**Supplementary readings**

Students should have access to:
- a large (not pocket-sized!) monolingual learners dictionary (any large dictionary published by Collins, Macmillan, Oxford, Cambridge or Longman and/or online version)
- an advanced grammar (B2+) (any advanced grammar published by Macmillan, Oxford, Cambridge or Longman)