

Centre for Academic Writing

Course title:	How to write a thesis
Course year:	all
Semester:	1st
Course Code:	19013
Scientific sector:	L-LIN/12
Lecturer:	Bora Simona Floare SimonaFloare.Bora@unibz.it
Module:	No
Lecturer other module:	/
Credit Points:	3
Total lecturing hours:	30
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:	9
Office hours:	from Monday to Friday on request
Attendance:	according to the regulations/optional
Teaching Language:	English
Propaedeutic course:	
Course description:	This course covers techniques for writing an academic thesis, helping students understand how to present their research using appropriate conventions and style. Through a series of writing tasks, participants will practice drafting and discussing aspects of thesis writing with support from other class members and the instructor in a workshop approach.
Specific educational objectives:	Students will learn specific research and writing skills related to the writing of academic thesis and will feel more prepared to write their own thesis in English. They will learn how to develop a research plan, how to sequence information into sections/chapters, how to approach writing specific sections such as the literature review, and how to identify and use the linguistic features of academic discourse.
List of topics covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a research plan • identifying a gap in research; filling the gap • defining a problem and formulating research questions the general structure of a thesis: organising a thesis in sections/chapters • choosing acceptable sources • critical thinking • writing literature reviews • in-text citations • talking about and presenting data; graphs and tables • discussing results, implications and conclusions • writing the abstract and the acknowledgments • compiling a list of references

Teaching format:	Lessons, class discussions, workshops, autonomous study and writing.
Learning outcomes:	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an understanding of how to develop a research plan, the necessity of identifying a gap in research, defining a problem and formulating research questions • develop an understanding of the structure of an academic thesis in English and the linguistic structures associated with different sections <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to develop a research plan, identify gaps in research, define problems and formulate a research question • plan an academic thesis • produce linguistically appropriate writing for an academic thesis <p>Making judgements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to make informed decisions about appropriate lexis and structure when producing (parts of) a thesis • be able to produce an appropriate research plan • be able to design an appropriate thesis structure <p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider audience when writing • summarise others' ideas • successfully communicate own ideas, opinions, research data and conclusions in an appropriate way <p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know how to refer to other academic texts as sources of language for their own writing • acquire the skills necessary to produce a written thesis in English autonomously
Assessment:	<p>Formative: portfolio of tasks completed during the course</p> <p>Summative: oral exam discussing selected written work</p>
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:	<p>Formative: adequate completion of tasks carried out during the course and evidence of reflection and progression.</p> <p>Summative: i) organisation and cohesion, accuracy of grammar and lexis and appropriacy of register and format of selected written work; ii) ability to reflect on written work and plans for the research and writing of one's own academic thesis</p>
Required readings:	Materials will be provided during the course, according to students' needs. Students may want to consult the titles in the 'supplementary readings' below.
Supplementary readings:	<p>Bailey, S. (2017). <i>Academic Writing: A Handbook for International Students</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Cottrell, S. (2014) <i>Dissertations and Project Reports</i>. Macmillan International</p> <p>Paltridge, B. (2019) <i>Thesis and Dissertation Writing in a Second Language: A Handbook for Students and their Supervisors</i>. Routledge</p> <p>Turabian, K. (2018). <i>A Manual for Writers</i>. University of Chicago Press</p> <p>Students may also like to download (for free) <i>How to Write a Dissertation Freebook</i> from: https://www.routledge.com/go/how-to-write-a-dissertation-freebook/reward</p>