

B2+ to C1: Communication Skills for Researchers - Spring 2017

R021.0298 "Writing for Researchers"

Course leader: Fran Cook

Time and Location: Wednesdays 18h15 - 19h45 Miséricorde 10 (Language Centre), Room 01.04

Note:

- **Registration:** It is compulsory to do the online placement test and attend an oral interview before registering on Gestens for this course. Students who passed the complementary course in the fall do not have to repeat the test/interview. See the Université Fribourg, *Centre de Langues* Website, or visit the following link for test and interview information: <http://www.unifr.ch/centredelangues/fr/courses/CAT.A>

Introduction

The course is aimed for **junior** and **senior** researchers (MA, PhD) who desire to improve their level of formal writing in English for such purposes as publishing, proposals, professional correspondence, etc. Throughout the course we will engage in discussion and activities focused on the skills required for writing in different genres, styles and for different audiences. It is assumed that students attending this class will do so with a willingness to actively participate in all classroom activities, to do all assigned work, and to complete all course requirements, regardless of whether ECTS credits are required or not.

General Learning Outcomes:

- Write texts related to your particular field of research with greater clarity and concision.
- Use a rich, nuanced, academic vocabulary and grammar to write and speak about your field of research/study.
- Speak about complex topics related to various fields of research.

Specific learning outcomes:

You will:

- analyze a variety of texts
- write summaries, problem-solution texts, extended definitions, general to specific texts, etc.)
- highlight your claims
- reduce the number of grammatical and other errors that you make in English
- choose the correct tenses
- identify the correct style to use
- avoid ambiguity
- use the minimum number of words required to express yourself clearly and concisely
- offer constructive feedback to peers
- adjust your writing style to match your audience
- participate in small group discussions on topics related to your field and other students' fields

Course Materials:

Handouts (to be downloaded and printed from Moodle), student contributions (articles), and selected units from the indicated course book.

Recommended Course Book:

Academic Writing for Graduate Students 3rd EDITION,

Swales J. M. & Feak C. B., University of Michigan Press, 2012, ISBN 978-0- 472- 03475- 8

Methods:

- Analysis and discussion in groups of texts, research articles and academic writing.
- Individual and pair writing tasks done in class.
- Short assignments completed outside of class and discussed/reviewed in class.
- Selected written assignments will be submitted to the instructor for feedback.
- Ongoing course information and assignments will be posted on Moodle.
- About 2 hours/week of out of class work will be required.

Requirements (All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course and receive a certificate and/or ECTS credits.)

- . Weekly attendance with limited absences
- . Active in-class participation
- . Completion of out-of-class assignments
- . Preparation for and active participation in a number of small group discussions
- . Regular log-in to Moodle for the latest posted course information
- . Submission of assigned pieces of writing related to students' studies/field and their redrafted and resubmitted versions

Evaluation:

A final grade is awarded. 3 ECTS points are awarded to those students requiring them. Upon successful completion of the course and the requirements, you may ask the Language Centre secretary for a certificate of achievement.