



Academic Year 2019-2020
Syllabus
How to Write an Academic Paper

Prof. Stephanie Kae Richards

Meeting Times: September 13, 9:00-11:00; September 27, 10:00-13:00; October 4, 10:00-13:00; October 11, 9:00-13:00

Total Contact Hours: 12

Course Description: This course introduces the skills needed to write well-organized essays, focusing specifically on argumentative essays. Topics covered include thesis statement development, paragraph and overall paper structure, organizing and outlining, paraphrasing and summarizing, and citation and documentation standards.

Learning Outcomes: Students will become familiar with how to write a well-organized and error-free argumentative research paper. By the end of the course students will be able to:

Reading — read and think critically about increasingly complex material

Rhetoric — understand the standard structure of a well-organized essay, write a strong and developed thesis statement, understand how to write and use an outline

Research and Citation — search for and evaluate proper sources, be familiar with how to paraphrase and summarize others' arguments and cite them properly, understand how to avoid plagiarism

Calendar:

Lesson 1

General introduction to basic principles of how to write an academic paper in English
Why writing is important
What English speakers expect: structure, key components

Lesson 2

Before you write: brainstorming, outlines
What is a research question?
What is a thesis statement?

Lesson 3

The paragraph: structure, topic sentences, supporting ideas, topic vs. controlling idea
Transitions within and between paragraphs

Lesson 4

Research and citation: how to start, evaluating sources, summarizing and paraphrasing others' work, proper citation to avoid plagiarism, various citation systems in English
Focusing on YOUR ideas, and learning how to bring them to the forefront of your paper