

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS
SHORT COURSE: DESCRIPTION

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: Introducing Academic Writing in English

Duration: 15 contact hours

On offer: As from June 2024 (over 5 days)

2. TARGET AUDIENCE

This short course is aimed mainly, but not exclusively, at:

- (1) Prospective students, that is, students who are preparing to join university, locally and abroad.
- (2) Students who are already enrolled at university (locally and abroad) and require additional help with essay writing skills at this level.

3. PRE-REQUISITE(S)/PRE-REQUIREMENT(S)

Applicants should satisfy the following entry requirements, which are the General Entry Requirements for Undergraduate Certificates:

- (a) A School Certificate with credit in two appropriate subjects or equivalent
- OR (b) Qualifications awarded by other universities and institutions, which have been approved by the Senate as satisfying the minimum requirements for admission.
- OR (c) The IGCSE.

Participants will be required to submit a portfolio of assessment and will be awarded a 'Certificate of Successful Completion'.

The price of the short course is Rs 2 500.

There will be no more than 15 participants per group so that participants get individual attention during the workshops.

4. AIMS

The aims of this short course are as follows:

- Read, analytically and critically, a selection of texts on a specific topic
- Address a set question for an argumentative essay with understanding
- Identify ideas relevant to a set question for an argumentative essay
- Plan and draft a coherent argumentative essay
- Plan and draft coherent paragraphs
- Edit and proofread the final text

5. OUTLINE SYLLABUS

Through Contact Hours:

- Understanding key features of an argumentative text
- Using knowledge about argumentative texts to draft an academic essay
- Developing awareness of the importance of accurate language use in an academic essay

Through Self-Learning:

- Close, analytical and critical reading/understanding of selected assigned texts
- Viewing and reviewing online supporting materials
- Preparing for tasks to be carried out in face-to-face workshops
- Practising argumentative essay writing through assigned exercises and tasks

6. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Having studied this short course, the students should be able to achieve the following learning outcomes. The assessment criteria used to reflect the expected learning outcomes are also given hereunder:

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
Upon completion this short course, students should be able to:	Students' work should demonstrate:
➤ Describe various components of an argumentative text	➤ The ability to use the correct language to refer to the components of an argumentative text
➤ Read short academic texts with understanding	➤ The ability to identify the main argument of a text and the evidence supporting it
➤ Draft paragraphs for an argumentative essay	➤ The ability to write coherent and flowing paragraphs
➤ Edit and proofread their text	➤ The ability to re-read their text and focus on language accuracy

7. TRAINING COORDINATORS

	Training Coordinators (Short Course)
Name	Dr A M Auleear Owodally Dr T Auckle
Department	English Studies
Building	FSSH
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8. LECTURER(S)

Name	Dr A M Auleear Owodally, Dr T Auckle, Dr S Wong, Ms A Ramsoondur, Dr N Lallmahomed-Aumeerally, Dr S Rajkomar
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Contact Hours	
Contact Address (for P/T)	

9. VENUE AND HOURS/WEEK

This short course, designed as an intensive short course, will be carried in blended mode and will include face-to-face workshops on 5 days (9 am to noon).

10. SHOURT COURSE: MAP

Day	Topics	Learning outcomes
1	Reading short academic texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a selection of short texts with understanding • Identify the main argument in each text • Locate the evidence in each text • Identify the explanation in each text
2	Understanding the structure of paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a Topic Sentence • Develop a Topic Sentence into a coherent paragraph • Integrate examples into a paragraph • Insert comments into a paragraph • Cite using academic conventions
3	Planning an argumentative essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a thesis statement • Organise ideas to create a story • Structure an argumentative essay
4	Drafting an argumentative essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan an introduction • Draft body paragraphs • Plan a conclusion
5	Editing and proofreading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reread for grammatical accuracy • Reread for conciseness • Reread for spelling • Presentation skills

11. RECOMMENDED BOOKS/JOURNALS/WEBSITES

Videos and reading materials will be provided by the coordinators on Google Classroom.

12. PORTFOLIO OF ASSESSMENT

Day	Topic Title	Assessment
1	Reading closely and analytically	Journal entry
2	A paragraph	One drafted paragraph
3	Essay plan	A plan: Thesis statement, Topic Sentences
4	Drafting an essay	A draft essay
5	Editing and proofreading	A final essay

13. OTHER INFORMATION

This short course will be delivered using a blended mode: Google Classroom (to access the notes, videos, tasks) and FIVE (5) three-hour face-to-face workshops.

Each workshop will be carried out with not more than 15 candidates so that they get individual attention and individual feedback.