

Research Paper Writing

研究報告寫作

Summer 2012

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I. Course objective

This course is intended to help students acquire the specific skills in writing a thesis. With this objective in mind, the teacher will focus his instruction on two aspects. First, he will teach students what to write in each chapter of the thesis, i.e., what should be included in each chapter. Second, he will teach them how to write, including (1) the ways of organizing, summarizing, paraphrasing, and writing critically; (2) the uses of verbal tenses in each chapter; and (3) the uses of APA format in citation and references. Well equipped with the knowledge of what to write and how to write, students will be able to write the thesis skillfully.

II. Course outline

The class will be conducted based on the organization of the thesis: (1) Chapter One: Introduction; (2) Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature; (3) Chapter Three: Method; (4) Chapter Four: Results; and (5) Chapter Five: Discussion. After all of these, the abstract will be introduced and discussed.

III. Schedule

Unit 1: Introduction/Organization of the thesis

Session 1: Introduction to the course

Session 2: Organization of the thesis

Writing Up Research (WUR): pp. 1-10

Unit 2: Chapter One: Introduction

Session 1: How to write Chapter One: Introduction

WUR: pp. 20-40 (five stages)

Also refer to the guidelines drawn up by English Department

Consultation on your thesis topic

Session 2: Discussion of your thesis topic

Unit 3: Discussion of Chapter One draft

Session 1: Discussion of your Chapter One draft

Session 2: Discussion of your Chapter One draft

Unit 4: Chapter Two: Review of related literature

- Session 1: How to write Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature
WUR: pp. 41-56
Chapter One due
- Session 2: How to write Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature
WUR: pp. 57-72
Consultation on the outline of your literature review
- Unit 5: Chapter Two: Review of related literature (continued)
- Session 1: How to write Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature
WUR: pp. 73-89
Research questions and hypotheses
WUR: pp. 11-19
Consultation on the outline of your literature review
- Session 2: Discussion of your Chapter Two draft
- Unit 6: Chapter Three: Method
- Session 1: How to write Chapter Three: Method
WUR: pp. 90-112
Discussion of your Chapter Two draft
- Session 2: How to write Chapter Three: Method
WUR: pp. 113-135
Consultation on the outline of your method
Chapter Two due
- Unit 7: Chapter Four: Results & Chapter Five: Discussion
- Session 1: How to write Chapter Four: Results
WUR: pp. 136-159
Discussion of your Chapter Three draft
- Session 2: How to write Chapter Five: Discussion
WUR: pp. 160-183
Discussion of your Chapter Three draft
- Unit 8: Abstract
- Session 1: How to write an abstract
WUR: pp. 184-197
Chapter Three due

IV. Teaching method

Basically, the class will be conducted in the way of discussion. The discussion is expected to function in two ways: (1) To clarify the difficult or confusing points students encounter in learning the step-by-step procedure in each chapter; and (2) to help students solve the problems they have in practicing writing their proposed topics.

In addition, the class will also be conducted in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere.

V. Course requirements and grading

Since the course is to help students acquire the necessary skills in writing the ETMA thesis, the students are required to choose a research topic at the very beginning of the class sessions to carry through the step-by-step procedure under the instruction. Deadlines are set for the assignments of chapters one, two, and three. Before the deadlines, prewriting and revision are greatly encouraged.

The grading system is based on students' performance in writing chapter one (20%), chapter two (35%), chapter three (30%), and other assignments for reinforcement (15%).

VI. Textbook

Writing Up Research: Experimental Research Report Writing for Students of English written by Robert Weissberg and Suzanne, 1990 (The book is a straightforward and readable guide to the conventions English-speaking researchers follow when they write up their work.).