

Academic Writing and Editing (SS 2334/ENGL 2191)

Credit Hours: 4

Pre-Req: None

Instructor Name: Ateeb Gul

Schedule: Monday to Friday (02:00 PM – 04:50 PM)

This course will train students in the art of academic writing and editing.

One of the foremost issues that university students face everywhere is getting a strong grip on how to write for an academic readership. Usually, they are uncertain about their subject matter. However, even when they have a decent understanding of what they want to write, they are unable to formulate their questions/problems, evidence, and conclusions in a way that would be understandable to people in the academic community.

This course will train undergraduate students in: (1) the different ways of formulating research questions in the humanities and the social sciences; (2) the art of interpreting texts/data, of presenting evidence, and of shaping an argument; and (3) ways of extrapolating fair and justified conclusions from research materials.

During the course, the students will also learn about some of the common mistakes that occur in the formal use of the English language—as well as how to avoid them. Matters of grammar and syntax, clichés and archaisms, punctuation and quotation—these and other important issues in the academic use of the English language will be discussed. Toward the end of the course, the students will be given tutorials in the importance of editing (self-editing and proofreading) as an indispensable step in the writing process.

Students will be expected to work closely with the instructor on developing an academic essay as the term progresses. They will have smaller writing assignments distributed throughout the term which will then culminate in a well-written, rigorously-argued essay by the end of it.