

English: Advanced Writing Skills (A703040)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0

Study time 90 h

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

De Clerck, Bernard

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

English; Advanced writing skills

Position of the course

The "English: Advanced writing skills" (E3TV) study unit builds on the skills acquired in the first two bachelor years and continues to prepare students for advanced professional and academic writing tasks. Classes aim at an in-depth understanding and command of different genres, with particular attention being given to features of persuasive writing in academic and professional settings. Sub-skills of academic and professional writing, such as comparative analysis, writing for clarity, defining complex concepts, describing and interpreting results, evidence-based argumentation, and constructive feedback and text revision are addressed at length.

Exchange students may take up this course unit after passing an admission test. Please contact the course supervisor for more information. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

The "English: Advanced writing skills" (E3TV) study unit is a proficiency course. Advanced writing skills practice is based on authentic textual input from academic papers, corpus material to be analysed (e.g. political speeches) and business communication (advertisements, complaint management, sustainability reports). Sections from the WREN course book selected for the course include: expository analysis, paragraph structure, register, the sections of a research paper (academic moves analysis) and letter writing. Students are given individual feedback on a number of writing tasks: reporting on visual data in a graph or chart, writing (a reply to) a letter of complaint, building an academic Results section based on an analysis of political rhetoric or commercial language. Collaborative tasks (often involving native peers) and peer assessment are part of the didactic tools used.

Initial competences

The final objectives of the English units of study of the second bachelor year. CEFR level B2, with a basis of C1.

Final competences

- 1 Having a command of English, at C1/C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for comprehension (listening and reading), and writing skills. [B.1.2, assessed]
- 2 Recognising and independently interpreting English language structures and language variation, with close attention to contrastive aspects with, and possible interference from, the mother tongue. [B.1.3, assessed]
- 3 Having knowledge and understanding of text production and language processes. [B.1.6,

assessed]

4 Having knowledge of relevant dictionaries, reference works and electronic aids, using them adequately and efficiently, and critically evaluating them. [B.6.5, not assessed]

5 Adequately interpreting, analysing, assessing and correcting written communication, including messages of a specialised (academic, professional) nature. [B.6.1, assessed]

6 Editing text independently in English and assessing it critically, thereby justifying the text type appropriate to the (academic) purpose, target group and media. [B.6.2, assessed]

7 Critically reflecting on one's own thinking, learning, decisions and actions. [B.3.3, not assessed]

8 Displaying intellectual curiosity and a lifelong learning attitude. [B.3.4, not assessed]

9 Applying digital methods, resources and strategies in research (finding, collecting, analysing)

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Seminars focusing on analysing and discussing (persuasive) textual features, collocations, structure, register in academic texts and professional communication and text revision.
- Independent (collaborative) work: students submit four clustered writing tasks (reporting on visual data, persuasive texts, expository paragraph, academic paper section). Peer reviewing and individual feedback are integrated into class practice.
- Individual Teams meetings to discuss feedback.

Study material

None

References

Billingham, J. (2002). *Editing and Revising Text*. Oxford University Press.

Harper, G. (2013). *A Companion to Creative Writing*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Hyland, K. (2006). *English for Academic Purposes*. London: Routledge.

Swales, J.M. & Feak, C.B. (2012). *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*, 3rd edition.

University of Michigan Press,

Course content-related study coaching

Office hours by appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

FIRST SESSION

Continuous assessment (25%)

Assessment of one of the writing tasks submitted in the course of the semester represents 25% of the final grade.

Written examination (75%)

The examination contains academic and professional writing assignments (expository paragraphs, persuasive texts, section of a research paper). It also includes a feedback question based on class revision practice.

SECOND SESSION

Written examination with open-ended questions (100%)

Calculation of the examination mark

See evaluation method details

Facilities for Working Students

Class attendance is not compulsory but students are advised that interactive engagement is crucial to bolster writing proficiency.

Examination date can be rescheduled. Feedback can be obtained via email, Teams or by appointment during weekly office hours.

Addendum

E3TV