

Course Syllabus

Course: Academic Writing Style

Study Program: Islamic Studies

ECTS Credits: 4

Course Status: Mandatory

Course Code: 105

Hours: 2+1

Academic Year: 2026/2027

Semester: I

Lecturer: Prof. Asist. Dr. Rexhep Suma

Course Description

The "Academic Writing Style" course focuses on the role and mission of the caller (da'ee) in Islam, specifically regarding the methodology and balance applied in their lectures. It covers the high ethics and morals required of a caller, emphasizing the necessity of prioritizing core mission objectives over secondary matters.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with advanced theoretical knowledge and practical experience in academic writing, its specificities, structure, types, and expressive tools.

Interactive Learning: Through 3 hours of weekly sessions, students will be active participants, primarily through group work.

Critical Skills: Encouraging personal-critical approaches to intellectual tasks such as essays, diplomas, and seminar papers.

Practical Application: Elevating the level of critical reading of scientific texts and achieving a satisfactory academic level in written assignments.

Research Mastery: Mastering methods for analyzing primary and secondary sources and learning criteria for structuring research materials and evaluating social phenomena.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

Recognize the fundamental concepts and characteristics of academic writing and communication research compared to casual writing.

Conceptually design academic research papers in accordance with structural requirements.

Master the technique of correct referencing.

Write essays, seminar papers, and theses based on acquired theoretical knowledge.

Analyze and debate the multidimensional effects of various information sources correctly.

Practically manage the organization of a research process.

Plan and program professional practical work.

Develop critical reading skills for university texts and the ability to evaluate academic texts.

Develop satisfactory expressive skills and techniques for academic writing and research.

Teaching Methodology

The course is delivered through lectures and exercises. Teaching strategies include regular lectures, essays, exercises, discussions, and group work using modern techniques. Students are expected to engage in critical and reflexive thinking.

Lectures: Held according to the schedule at www.fsi-edu.net. Active participation and flexibility in classroom tasks are encouraged.

Practical Exercises: Demonstrations of knowledge and skills gained in lectures, including research topics pre-determined by the professor and student.

Individual Work and Assignments: Students will fulfill obligations through:

Lesson plans prepared for practical sessions.

Peer analysis of group members' plans.

Deep analysis and evaluation of specific lesson structures.

Research projects proposed for elective courses.

Seminar Paper: A research-based paper containing all the elements of an investigation (case study, literature analysis, or project).

Course content

Nr.	Week	Lecture name
1.	I	- • General presentation of the syllabus content and issues related to the course content.
2.	II	• Characteristics of academic writing versus common forms of writing.
3.	III	• The writing process (A brief history of the multidimensional importance of the writing process as a form of conveying ideas to others...). The nature of the subject of scientific research.
4.	IV	• Developing ideas. (A lecture on discovering ideas, specifically in the fields of communication and their development, through the academic writing process and research methodology. The path toward discovering, elaborating, and interpreting ideas and reflecting them in the form of academic essays. A typical scientific treatment of the methodology of the "Art of Thinking.")
5.	V	• Scientific research questions , hypotheses, and operational definitions of communication research.
6.	VI	• Planning a communication research project. Definition and practical aspects.
7.	VII	• Midterm I.
8.	VIII	• Critical evaluation of literature. Literature search. Practical aspects of literature review. The process of conducting a literature review.
9.	IX	• Research models. Qualitative model and quantitative model. The level and unit of scientific research. Scientific research strategies.
10.	X	• Data collection. Questionnaires, semi-structured interviews.
11.	XI	• Focus groups. Observation. Secondary data sources.
12.	XII	• Data analysis. Features of analysis. Statistical analysis. Thematic analysis. Working with qualitative data. Narrative analysis. Discourse analysis. Content analysis.

13.	XIII	• Planning and structure of academic writing. Style and manner of writing.
14.	XIV	• References in academic writing – Principles of citation. Plagiarism.
15.	XV	• Midterm II.

Final Exam

Criteria and assessment components:

Attendance and Engagement10%

Midterm (Colloquium I)30%

Seminar Paper / Project20%

Final Exam40%

Total 100%

Academic policies and rules of conduct:

The student must respect the institution and the established rules:

- To respect the lecture schedule;
- To maintain discipline during lectures;
- To adhere to the instructions provided by the teacher;
- To not keep mobile phones or other devices turned on during class hours.

Obligatory literature

1. Lectures prepared by Prof. Ass. Dr. Rexhep Suma.
2. Safet Zejnullahu, *Writing and Communication*, UBT, Prishtina, 2014.
3. Mid'hat Shamiç, *How to Write a Scientific Work*, Logos-A, Skopje, 2006.
4. Bob Matthews, Liz Ross (CDE 2010), *Research Methods - A Practical Guide for the Social and Human Sciences*.
5. Kathleen McMillan and Jonathan Weyers, *How to Write Essays and University Assignments*, Center for Democratic Education, Tirana, 2014.
6. Vehbi Miftari, *Basic Writing Techniques*, IMP, Prishtina, 2009.
7. Bardhyl Musai, *How to Write Essays (Paragraphs, Questions, and Assessment)*, Center for Democratic Education, Tirana, 2014.
8. Jill Lewis, *Academic Study*, CDE, Tirana, 2005.
9. Bernard Zeneli, Sonila Danaj, *Academic Writing*, UETpress, Tirana.

Supplementary literature:

- • **Umberto Eco**, *How to Write a Thesis*, Dituria, Tirana, 2006.
- • **Manjola Zaçellari & Suela Kastrati**, *Academic Writing*, Mileniumi i Ri, Tirana, 2017.
- • **Sylvan Barnet, Pat Bellanca, & Marcia Stubbs**, *Academic Writing*, Dita Publishing, 2008.

- Preferred literature

- **Elona Boce**, *How to Write a Research Paper*, Tirana, 2004.
- **Group of Authors**, *Study Everything, Reason First – Developing Critical Thinking During Reading and Writing*, Tirana, 1998.
- **Zejnullah Rrahmani**, *How to Write a Dissertation*, Prishtina, 2001.
- **Liljana Elmazi & Bajram Hasani**, *Research Methods*, 2009.

Student workload

Activity	Hours	Days/Week	Total
• Lectures	2	15	30
• Theory/ lab work/ exercises	-	-	-
• Practical work	1	15	15
• Preparation for intermediate test	-	-	-
• Consultations with the professor	0.5	6	3
• Fieldwork	2	1	2
• Homework assignments	1	15	15
• Individual study (in the library or at home)			3
• Final exam preparation			4
• Assessment time (tests, essays, final exam)			3
Total			75

