

VB037: Writing in English**Fall 2015, Monday 8:00 – 9:50****Mgr. Antonín Zita, M.A., 179209@phil.muni.cz****Course description:**

This course is designed to teach students the necessary skills that will enable them to proceed from sentence construction and paragraph writing to essay writing. The students will be familiarized with the writing of topic sentences, thesis statements, and different types of paragraphs and essays. The students will practice these steps of the writing process via in-class writing, text analysis, peer assessment, editing, and writing of a draft of the final essay. While some grammatical aspects of English used in the academia will be touched upon in the class, the students are expected to study individually in case they find their levels of knowledge not sufficient for class purposes.

Course assessment:

Students write one shorter essay during the writing week which constitutes 20 percent of the final grade (600 – 1200 words) and an expanded version of the essay at the end of the course. The grade for the final essay, which is to have between 900 – 1800 words, constitutes 50 percent of the overall grade and is split between two parts – the quality of the essay and the quality of peer-review feedback to other students' essays. The deadline for the final essay will be set sometime during the semester. Active participation is expected and it constitutes 30 percent of the final grade; this includes not only work in class but also preparing short written assignments at home.

Course policy:

Students are allowed not to attend two classes.

Syllabus**Week 1, Sept 21**

Introductory class: course policies and assignments, introduction to academic English, academic register and style.

Week 2, Sept 28

NO CLASS – State Holiday

Go to <http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com/AWL/index.htm> and practice academic vocabulary.

Week 3, Oct 5

Paragraphs – functions of paragraphs, writing and revising paragraphs, topic sentence

Week 4, Oct 12

Paragraph coherence: noun repetition, parallel structures, transitional expressions, developing paragraphs.

Week 5, Oct 19

Developing skills – more practice in paragraph writing, contrasting paragraphs

Week 6, Oct 26

Planning and organizing + writing introductions and conclusions, forming a thesis statement

Week 7, Nov 2

No class. During this week students write the first draft of their essays.

Week 8, Nov 9

Peer feedback on the first draft.

Week 9, Nov 16

Working with sources: searching for sources and citing them in the text.

Week 10, Nov 23

The mechanics and clarity of writing – misplaced and dangling modifiers; the passive voice.

Week 11, Nov 30

The mechanics and clarity of writing – capital letters, commas, periods, semicolons, quotation marks.

Week 12, Dec 7

Writing effectively

Week 13, Dec 14

Revision of the course