

ENGR 722: Academic Writing in the Engineering Disciplines

Spring 2021 – 3 credits
[Online Synchronous Course]
T/Th 2- 3:15 p.m.

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Bulletin Description

Students will learn to effectively use structural elements of academic writing by analyzing published papers. They will also work on sentence-level clarity as well as draft their own papers for publication.

Prerequisites

Enrollment is limited to graduate students in the College of Engineering or graduate students whose advisers are faculty members in the College of Engineering.

Course Description & Objectives

This course is designed to help students in the College of Engineering improve as academic writers. Students will learn what readers expect from academic papers by investigating where and how information is presented in published papers. They will activate their learning in discussions and group work, written exercises, reflections, and analyses. Students will also work at developing sentence-level writing skills and put all their learning into practice by writing the draft of a manuscript.

The objectives of the course are for students to do the following:

1. Understand how the structural elements of academic writing serve to convey information;
2. Analyze different published works to understand specific disciplinary expectations of academic writing;
3. Compose original assessments of discipline-specific examples of academic writing;
4. Understand the role and significance of audience in writing;
5. Create drafts of their own academic writing that demonstrate the above understanding;
6. Engage in written and oral discourse and critique.

Policies and Procedures

Attendance, Participation, and Assignments: Students are expected to do the following:

1. Attend all class meetings and meetings with a Center for Writers consultant;
2. Complete all assignments;
3. Participate actively, professionally, and in a spirit of positive collaboration in all course activities and interactions.

If a situation arises whereby the above expectations cannot be met, students must inform the instructors by email. Students are responsible for making up any missed work.

Attendance Statement: The above attendance expectations conform to NDSU [attendance policies](#).

Veterans Statement: Veterans and student service members with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.

Accommodations: Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need special accommodations are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact the [Disability Services Office](#) as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty: The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. [NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct](#) applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty.

Resources

Required text:

- J. Schimel. *Writing Science*. New York, NY: Oxford U Press, 2011.

Recommended resources:

- H. Glasman. *Science research writing: For Non-Native Speakers of English*. London: Imperial College Press, 2010.
- J.M. Williams. *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. Chicago: U of Chicago Press. (Many editions, but any works.)
- J. M. Swales and C.B. Feak. *English in Today's Research World*. Ann Arbor, MI: U Mich Press, 2000.
- J. M. Swales and C.B. Feak. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*, 3rd ed. Ann Arbor, MI: U Mich Press, 2012.

Assignments

Weekly Assignments: Readings, responses to readings, and writing exercises. These include rubrics that students will develop collaboratively in class; these rubrics will be used to assess the articles analyzed.

Document Analysis: Students will analyze sections of several articles using the information from the class. The analyses will be combined in a portfolio at the end of the semester.

Draft of Own Document: Students will develop a writing plan for a document (e.g., paper for publication, grant application, proposal) and write a draft with feedback and guidance from a writing consultant from the Center for Writers.

Requirements for all the above will be spelled out in assignment sheets.

Evaluation Procedures and Course Grades:


This course is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Assignments must be successfully completed for students to receive credit. The criteria for successful completion of an assignment will be detailed in assignment sheets. Should students not meet these criteria for any assignment, they will have the opportunity to revise the assignment.

In order to receive a "satisfactory" grade for the course, students must do the following:

- Meet attendance and participation requirements
- Get credit for all Weekly Assignments
- Get credit for the Document Analysis
- Get credit for the Draft of their Own Document

Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments	
1	I. Introduction	Article Selection & Own Document Writing Plan	<p>Own Document (working with CFW Consultant)</p> 
2	I. Introduction	Rubric	
3	I. Introduction	Document Analysis: Intro.	
4	II. Methods		
5	II. Methods	Rubric	
6	II. Methods	Document Analysis: Methods	
7	Workshop Own Writing		
8	III. Results / figures		
9	III. Results / figures	Rubric	
Spring Break			
10	III. Results / figures	Document Analysis: Results	
11	IV. Discussion/conclusion		
12	IV. Discussion/conclusion	Rubric	
13	IV. Discussion/conclusion	Document Analysis: Discussion	
14	V. Abstract	Rubric	
15	V. Title	Audience Exercises	
16	Final	Final Portfolio: Analyses & Own Document	