

## Academic Writing via the Internet

Instructor: Lisa Hsu  
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Course: ESL N9 – Section 3  
Dates: July 2 – August 10, 2007

### Course Description:

This course will provide a supportive learning community to guide you in improving your academic writing skills through critical analysis of effective writings and practice of different essay forms. We will engage in writing as a process, equipping you with strategies to generate ideas, organize your thoughts, make revisions with the help of teacher and peer feedback, and find and fix your most troublesome grammar mistakes. We will address a variety of college writing tasks: paraphrasing, summarizing, responding to an academic article or essay, comparing and contrasting, persuading, and incorporating research into essays.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Plan, draft, revise, and proofread an academic essay
- Develop well-organized paragraphs with plentiful support
- Produce well-formed complex sentences common to academic writing
- Identify main ideas and details in a piece of writing
- Write three different types of academic essays using the appropriate organization, language, style and format

### Grading:

This course is graded only on a Pass/Fail basis. You need a minimum overall grade of C (70% or higher) to pass the course.

The quality of your work is based on the following percentages:

A	=	90 – 100%	excellent
B	=	80 – 89%	very good
C	=	70 – 79%	average
D	=	60 – 69%	below average
F	=	0 – 59%	failing

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

- 45% essays and drafts
- 25% discussion participation
- 10% journals
- 10% homework
- 10% quizzes

### Due Dates:

All work is due on the due date given for the assignment. Late work will drop 1 letter grade (e.g. A→B) for each day it is late. You should have a back-up plan in case technical difficulties arise. If necessary, contact your instructor for permission to submit late assignments by e-mail.

### Discussion Participation:

Our online class includes a web-based discussion where you interact with your instructor and classmates. The discussion simulates traditional classroom discussions, except that participation

is asynchronous. This means that you can visit or contribute to the discussion at any time during the assigned time period for the discussion.

You are required to participate in class discussions on a regular and frequent basis. Due to the intensive nature of the summer semester, you should be logging on and participating at least once a day every other day during the weekdays. At a minimum there should be at least one comment addressed to the instructor's discussion topic and a second comment addressed to a fellow student for all assigned discussion topics. You should participate both at the beginning of the assigned time period and at the end of the time period for each discussion topic. More interaction is better and this is reflected in the class grading. Class participation in the discussion area is required and makes up a significant part of your grade.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism means taking other people's words – published authors, other students, Internet contributors – and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism is a serious offense and results in a failing grade for the assignment. A second offense results in a failing grade for the course and possible university expulsion. Any student who knowingly aids in plagiarism or other cheating (e.g. allowing another student to copy a paper or examination question) is as guilty as the cheating student.

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Topic
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online skills survey</li> <li>• Classmate interview &amp; introduction</li> <li>• Writing a summary &amp; response</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review</li> <li>• Paraphrase vs. Summary</li> <li>• Plagiarism</li> <li>• Citing sources</li> <li>• Grammar: Sentence Structure</li> <li>• <b>Essay #1: Summary &amp; Response due</b></li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Compare &amp; Contrast</li> <li>• Point, purpose, audience</li> <li>• Essay organization</li> <li>• Thesis statements</li> <li>• Peer review</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions &amp; conclusions</li> <li>• Grammar: Verb Problems</li> <li>• Proofreading: 2<sup>nd</sup> draft</li> <li>• <b>Essay #2: Compare &amp; Contrast due</b></li> <li>• Intro to Argument</li> <li>• Types of evidence &amp; support</li> <li>• Read 2 argument articles</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate</li> <li>• Online research</li> <li>• Peer review</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar: Sentence variety</li> <li>• <b>Essay #3: Argument due</b></li> <li>• Self-assessment</li> <li>• Course evaluation</li> </ul>