

Study Guide

Academic English

711G39

Spring 2024
Linköping University

Welcome to Academic English!

Teacher and course coordinator:

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Course aims: On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- read and understand English texts, both specialist and ordinary prose
- demonstrate an understanding of academic English vocabulary
- express themselves in writing, with basic grammatical and linguistic correctness
- understand and respond to English speech, from native or non-native speakers.

Course contents: writing exercises designed to make the student aware of different academic genres and the characteristics of various academic texts; analyzing academic texts with regard to structure, grammar and vocabulary; practicing reference systems; exercises focused on grammar and vocabulary; exercises focused on oral presentation skills.

Teaching: The course will use a combination of methods of instruction, including assignments, individual presentations, and group work allowing for student input and peer review. Particular emphasis is put on individually written texts. Homework and independent study form necessary complements to the course. The language of instruction is English.

Examination: The course is examined through seminar submissions, through written assignments, an oral presentation, and through a written exam. Detailed information about the examination can be found further down in this study guide.

Students failing any examination twice have the right to be marked by a new examiner, appointed for the reexamination.

Students who have passed an examination may not retake it in order to improve their grades.

Admission Requirements: General entry requirements for university studies at basic level. Certificate corresponding to English B/6.

Grading: U/G/VG. Credits and grade criteria specified below.

Certificate: Course certificates are issued by the Faculty Board on request. The Department provides a special form which should be submitted to the Student Affairs Division.

Course Literature:

- Articles and texts provided by the teacher (can be found on Lisam, the course platform)
- Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. (2021). *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W. W. Norton. ISBN 9780393427516
- A learner's dictionary, for example *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (which is available online if you don't wish to buy a paper copy: <https://www.ldoceonline.com/>)

Course Schedule

Please note that **the schedule below is subject to change**. Please refer to TimeEdit for up-to-date times and rooms.

Participation in seminars is compulsory. Should you miss a seminar, please contact your teacher to see what you need to do.

Week/ Date	Seminar	Topic	What to do
4 Jan 23	1	Introduction AWL (Academic Word List)	Comenius Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 1' folder
5 Jan 30	2	Reading for Argument Plagiarism Disclaimer	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 2' folder
6 Feb 6	3	Writing a Good Summary	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 3' folder
6 Feb 9		SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT 3 articles Deadline: Friday 23:59	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 3' folder
8 Feb 20	4	Writing for Argument Peer Review	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 4' folder + in "Assignments" folder
9 Feb 27	5	Peer Review Literature Review	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 5' folder
10 Mar 5	6	Referencing and Plagiarism Literature Review - Topic and Research Question	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 6' folder
11 Mar 15		ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER Deadline: Friday 23:59	

12 Mar 19	7	Literature Review Grammar & Structure – Editing Oral Presentations	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 7' folder
13 Mar 27	8	Grammar & Structure – Editing Oral Presentations	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 8' folder
14 Apr 5		SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT For the literature review Deadline: Friday 23:59	
15 Apr 9	9	Exam Information Grammar & Structure – Editing Oral Presentations General Recap	Instructions and material can be found in 'Seminar 9' folder
15 Apr 11		FINAL EXAM 08:00-12:00	Remember to sign up for the exam at least ten days in advance.
16 Apr 18	10	PRESENTATION SEMINAR Oral Presentations	Remember to submit your TED Talk analysis the day before.
17		Lit. Review – Peer Review Meeting	Schedule your meeting around this time.
20 May 15		LITERATURE REVIEW Deadline: Friday 23:59	Instructions and material can be found in 'Assignments' folder.
21 May 24		FINAL EXAM (RE-SIT) 08:00-12:00	Remember to sign up for the exam at least ten days in advance.

Course structure and course content

This is a course in academic writing in English and should be of interest to anyone who wants to work on the academic skills of reading, writing, and presenting ideas and arguments, and who wants to do so in English. Part of this course focuses on language: learning to avoid common grammatical mistakes, for example, and working on an academic vocabulary. The other part is largely focused on reading comprehension and writing. You will write a lot during this course and will repeatedly practice structuring arguments and information; skills that are useful no matter where your future studies take you.

Communication and platform

During this course, we will mostly use Linköping University's online platform Lisam. This is where you'll find the course reading material and instructions for all seminar work and assignments.

If you have any questions about the course—either pertaining to the course itself or regarding the material that we will cover—please ask them in the discussion forum on Lisam. You can also send me an e-mail: jonas.rentner@liu.se

All communication—with the teacher and with fellow students—should be in English. I'd also like to encourage you to take every opportunity that you can to use English this semester.

Preparing for class

Everything that we do together in the classroom is based on preparation. Therefore, make sure to check well ahead what you are supposed to do before each seminar so that you can come fully prepared to class. You can find instructions for how to prepare for each seminar in the designated seminar folders on Lisam (the course platform).

Examination

Seminar participation (OBL1, 1 credit)

Your seminar grade is based on active participation. This entails that you have to attend at least 80% of the seminars, including the peer-review meetings, and that you have to come fully prepared. Should your absence exceed 80%, you will need to hand in make-up work to obtain a G grade. More information about make-up assignments can be found in Lisam. Note, though, that should you be absent for more than four seminars in total, you will not be able to receive the seminar credits without re-attending the seminars the next time the course is given.

Some of the assignments listed below are connected to seminar activities. This means that you will not be able to receive seminar or assignment credits if you haven't completed these (this pertains to all G/U assignments listed below). Meeting the criteria for active participation will result in the grade VG. This grade will not affect your overall grade for the entire course. However, if you are absent enough times to have to submit make-up work, this will result in the grade G, which may result in a lower over-all grade for the course (see further below). Finally, a fail will of course result in an incomplete course.

If you are unable to come to class, please send me an e-mail beforehand to let me know. Include your full name and the course code (711G39).

Assignments (ESS1 + RED1: 2.5 credits)

During this course, you will submit and/or complete a number of assignments:

- Summary assignment: you are asked to briefly summarize three articles which you can choose yourself from a selection of approximately ten texts
U/G
- Argumentative paper: a short argumentative text which presents a they say/I say
U/G/VG
- TED-talk commentaries: in connection with your own oral presentation you are asked to watch two TED talks and submit a commentary focused on presentation techniques. (Instructions for this assignment are included in the instructions for the mini-TED talk.)
U/G
- Oral presentation: a five-minute presentation (the mini-TED talk) U/G/VG
- Summary assignment: you write a summary of an article in relation to your literature review.
U/G
- Literature review: a short essay where you present research in relation to a specific research question
U/G/VG

Instructions and grading criteria for all assignments can be found on Lisam (and we will also talk about them in class). Note that you may be asked to resubmit individual assignments should they not meet the grading criteria; **assignments that have to be resubmitted will receive a G, no matter how well they meet the grading criteria after revision.** Therefore, please make sure to read the instructions carefully before beginning work on each assignment.

In order to receive OBL1, all U/G assignments above must be completed. RED1 is based on your oral presentation (seminar 9) and ESS1 is based on your summaries and your two essays: the argumentative paper (AP) and the literature review (LR), both of which will be graded. In order to receive a VG on ESS1, you must receive a VG on either the AP or the LR.

Written Exam (TEN1, 4 credits)

At the end of the course, you will write a written exam that tests the academic-English skills you have worked on during the entire semester, including reading and writing skills, academic vocabulary, basic grammar, and referencing. Please remember to sign up for the exam as soon as possible, no later than ten days before the date. To sign up for the exam, go to student.liu.se and click on 'Student Portal'.

Final Grade

Once you have received all the credits specified above, you will receive a grade for the completed course. For a G, course work must be completed with a grade no lower than G. For a VG, you must either get 1.) VG on TEN1, or 2.) G on TEN1 and VG on ESS1, RED1, and OBL1.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism: 'to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; use (another's production) without crediting the source' (Merriam-Webster). In order to let me know that you understand what plagiarism is and that all your submitted work is yours, please include the following line in your essays' header: 'I, [name], ensure that I am the author of the present paper'.

Please note that all your written work during this course will be submitted to Urkund, a software designed to detect plagiarism. Any detected plagiarism will result in a report to the university's disciplinary board. You can read more here:

<https://www.student.liu.se/studenttjanster/lagar-regler-rattigheter/disciplinarenden>

In connection with plagiarism, it is important to note that the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools, such as ChatGPT, is strictly prohibited for assessed assignments. Thus, any assignment that has been written with the help of, or entirely by, AI tools is considered plagiarized and will also be reported to the university's disciplinary board.

Teacher Feedback

For more information about when you will receive feedback from your teacher, see instructions for specific assignments.