

# Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Academic Writing

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Liang Xiaoyun, Dr. Yang Lichao

**Course Credits:** 1

**Course Type:** Master elective

## **Aims and Objectives**

The aim of this course is to provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> year CDC students with the skills necessary for completing a successful thesis proposal and the final degree dissertation in a timely fashion and to help students develop writing skills that they can use after the completion of their studies.

## **Learning Outcomes**

After participating in lectures, class discussions and completing their assignments, students will be able to:

- Plan and manage their research more smoothly
- Anticipate possible obstacles in the writing process
- Refine their Title, Abstract and Table of Contents
- Critically reflect on their own and others' writing and provide constructive criticism on the peers' dissertation projects
- Produce and maintain their Rolling Synopsis
- Structure their thesis proposal in a logical and coherent manner
- Structure their dissertation chapters in a logical and coherent manner
- Write a coherent Dissertation Chapter
- Produce clear and concise texts

## **Requirements**

This course is for pass/fail and yields a total of 1 credit as a Master elective in CDC program upon its completion. To receive a pass, students are required to attend sessions, complete and submit home assignments, participate in writing groups and work on drafts of their thesis proposals. During the course students are expected to complete tasks designed to help them improve their text and at the end of the course submit a fully revised version of it to their supervisors. In order to receive individual help, students are encouraged to make appointment to meet with their course instructors and thesis supervisors to discuss about their proposals.

## **Schedule and Structure**

This course consists of 9 teaching sessions, 2 contact hours of each session. The

courses will be delivered in teaching week 1-2 and teaching week 6-12. In each session, lectures and class discussions will be integrated.

**Topic covered**

- Course Introduction & What is academic writing?
- Choosing and Narrowing a Topic
- Raising research questions
- Literature review
- Research design
- Presenting results
- Academic language
- Formatting thesis
- Summary

**Assessment:**

- 1) Class attendance and participation:15%
- 2) Thesis proposal: 85%