ENGLISH FOR TECHNICAL WRITING:

SYLLABUS

A. The Ecosystem of Research and the Objectives of Academic Writing

- Diachronic and synchronic axes of research
- Discipline-specific use of language and the dynamics of "discourses"
- 'Paradigm shifts' in research and concomitant stylistic shifts in academic writing
- Target audience; anticipating the response of the reader
- Compatibility between writing style and academic/research context
- Academic intertextuality
- Sensing the zeitgeist of contemporary academia

B. Research Writing: Basic Principles and Technical Aspects

- Structure of a research paper
- Building an argument
- Consistency and logicality
- Using, incorporating and absorbing other voices (Summarizing, paraphrasing or quoting others' words)
- Dynamics of subject and object: active and passive verbs
- Certainty and uncertainty in the researcher's voice: appropriate expressions

C. Plagiarism, Copyright and Citation

- Need for citing others' writings
- What is plagiarism and how to avoid it?
- What is copyright infringement and what is "fair use"?
- Reference stylesheets and methods of citation

D. Research Questions and Academic Abstracts

- How to articulate /state a research problem /question?
- How to write an abstract?
- Essential features of an academic abstract

E. Academic Writing in the Age of Inter-disciplinary Research

- Cross-disciplinarity, multi-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity
- Stylistic mixing and "blurred genres"

Mid Sem.: Practical aspects of using other voices (summary, paraphrase, identifying the central idea of a given passage etc.)+ conceptual issues (from Module B)

End Sem.: Practical aspects of using other voices (summary, paraphrase, identifying the central idea of a given passage etc.)+ conceptual issues (from Modules A, C and E)

Internal Assessment*: Group Presentations on Framing Research Questions*