**Language Centre of Tsinghua University**

**Reading & Writing for Academic Purposes (A): Research Paper Reading & Writing**

**Teacher: Russell w.a. Burgess**

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Office Hours: **Thursday, 13:00 – 15:00**

Office: **明理楼, Room 208D**

Please use e-mail or the course learning platform to ask questions if you are unable to see me during office hours.

**Course Description:**

**Reading & Writing for Academic Purposes (A)** is designed to develop students’ critical thinking and academic reading and writing competencies. This will lead up to producing an example research paper using the knowledge learned in the course. The course will prepare students for the research genre which is required in various academic fields. The experimental research article follows the four-part IMRD format (Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion). The project involves limited original research that provides the vehicle for developing the necessary writing skills.

**Textbook:**

Hongmei Pang, Reading & Writing for Academic Purposes (IV), Tsinghua University Press Course

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

* Demonstrate ability to evaluate and critique research articles in various fields.
* Apply critical thinking to academic writing, with an emphasis on the specific genre of experimental research article.
* Demonstrate ability to define a research question, develop a data collection instrument and write research articles that follow the four-part IMRD format.
* Be aware of cultural differences in academic reading and writing.
* Employ correct citation style, including parenthetical, in-text citation and works-cited pages.

**Course Requirements:**

**Attendance:**

Attendance is compulsory. There will be a sign-in sheet passed around each class.

If you miss classes without notifying your teacher, you will lose 1 point off your final grade for each class missed. **Please provide an explanation for absence (doctor’s note, official form, etc.) to avoid losing any points.**

You are still responsible for assignment deadlines. If you know you will have to miss class, you should check the learning platform for any assigned homework and hand in any work due that day **in advance.**

**Assignments and Deadlines:**

All homework/assignments must include your name & student number in the filename or document (to make sure they are marked).

Assignments and homework will be submitted on the course learning platform (learn.tsinghua.edu.cn).

Students will not be reminded about missing assignments or homework – you are responsible for your own deadlines.

Late assignments should be handed in via e-mail only (**not WeChat**), and will be penalized appropriately.

**Participation:**

While attendance is necessary for participation, it is not sufficient. To get participation points, you should use opportunities to read passages aloud, take part in class discussions, and volunteer to answer questions.

Correct answers are not needed for class participation points: a wrong answer is still worth more than silence! Just try your best!

**Cellphone Policy:**

While cellphones will be allowed for looking up words, spelling, or information, they are not to be used for gaming or other distractions! Anyone found using their phone improperly will be warned. Anyone disturbing the class, or who has been warned more than once, may be asked to place their phone at the front until the end of class.

**Plagiarism & Cheating:**

Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity.

* All assignments must be original student work, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.
* All ideas or quotes that are from other works must be cited properly using a consistent citation style that refers to the original work and author.
* Students are forbidden from cheating. Cheating includes but is not restricted to the use of electronic devices, physical notes, or other materials during an exam or sharing information with another student during an exam, such as intentionally allowing another student to view your exam paper or passing notes.Anyone found cheating during a test or exam will be asked to leave and will receive a 0.
* **There will be zero tolerance for infractions.** If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the teacher’s attention. The teacher reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty, in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university.
* **Plagiarism doesn’t help in the long term.** Even if plagiarism is not discovered, relying on it to pass assignments and courses means you will not develop the skills needed for academic publishing in the future where the consequences for plagiarism can be even more serious. The goal of this course is to give you the skills and techniques you need for the future, not to get the highest mark.

**Course Assessment:**

Class participation: 10%

Writing assignments: 30%

Quizzes: 20%

Final paper: 40%

**Course Progression** (Each unit ~2weeks, Subject to change due to holidays, other circumstances):

Introduction: IMRD overview, Plagiarism

Unit 1: What is a research paper?

Unit 3: Literature Reviews

Unit 4: Methods

Unit 2: Introductions

Unit 5: Results & Discussion

Unit 6: Title Pages & Abstracts

Unit 7: References