

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Workshop on English Usage for Graduate Students in Science - 82851

Last update 08-02-2021

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Atmospheric Sciences

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English and Hebrew

Campus: E. Safra

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Carynelisa Haspel

Coordinator Email: carynelisa.haspel@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Carynelisa Haspel,
Dr. Nathan Steiger

Course/Module description:

In this workshop, we will focus on two subject areas: understanding those parts of English syntax and grammar that are often challenging for non-native English speakers and how to construct clear sentences and narratives. The content of the course will be geared towards those for whom Hebrew is their first language, but other non-native and even native English speakers will benefit as well. The course will be pass/fail; a passing grade will be given for attendance and genuine participation.

Course/Module aims:

To improve English usage in academic writing by graduate students in science.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- 1. Capitalize consistently and correctly.*
- 2. Use punctuation consistently and correctly.*
- 3. Use abbreviations and contractions consistently and correctly.*
- 4. Form compound nouns correctly in the singular and plural.*
- 5. Choose the correct verb tense in scientific contexts.*
- 6. Understand the construction of sentences and narratives.*
- 7. Write more clearly and more professionally.*

Attendance requirements(%):

90% of the class meetings; absences for academic/research purposes with proper documentation will not be counted as absences

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: one class discussion each week with explicit examples, group work, and peer editing

Course/Module Content:

Part I: Small Details That Are Not So Small and Basics That Are Not So Basic

- 1. Preface to the Course*
- 2. incorrect Capitalization*
- 3. Misplaced, Commas, Colons; and Semi-Colons*
- 4. Unnecessary-Hyphenation*

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5. *Incorrect Abbreviations and Use of Contractions, et. al*
 6. *Idioms That Don't Ring Any Bells, Slang, and Other Words That You Should Not Write Down in Formal Writing*
 7. *Beware of the Spell Chequer, Homophones, Auto-Correct, and Auto-Translate*
 8. *Citations, Reference Lists, Author Lists, and Salutations – Last Name First or First Name First?*
 9. *Which or That and Other Such Quandaries*
 10. *Compound Nouns*
 11. *Tenses: Simple Versus Progressive, Perfect Tenses, Conditional Sentences*
 12. *Prepositions*
 - Part II: *Putting It All Together*
 13. *Reverse Engineering Good Writing*
 14. *Classic Style: How to Write as Clear and Simple as the Truth*
 15. *The Curse of Knowledge, Chunking, and Functional Fixity: Why Correct Writing Can Still Be Incomprehensible*
 16. *How the Mind Understands Sentences and Narratives*
 17. *Writing an Abstract and Writing a Short Paper*
 - Part III: *Bonus Lectures*
 18. *Bonus Lecture on CVs*
 19. *Bonus Lecture on Manuscript Reviews*

Required Reading:

the course lecture notes and presentations

Additional Reading Material:

1. *Glasman-Deal, H., Science Research Writing for Non-Native Speakers of English*
2. *Pinker, S., The Sense of Style, The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century*
3. *Schultz, D. M., Eloquent Science: A Practical Guide to Becoming a Better Writer, Speaker, and Atmospheric Scientist*
4. *Caplan, N. A., Grammar Choices for Graduate and Professional Writers*
5. *Thurman, S., The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need*
6. *Barros, L. O., The Only Academic Phrasebook You'll Ever Need*
7. *Truss, L., Eats, Shoots & Leaves*
8. *Norris, M., Between You and Me, Confessions of a Comma Queen*
9. *Skillin, M. E., and R. M. Gay, Words Into Type*
10. *Strunk, W., Jr., and E. B. White, The Elements of Style*
11. *תחביר + למורים ולתלמידים מתקדמים, מאת ריקי בליבוים*

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 80 %

Project work 0 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: