

YALOVA UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Course Name/Code: *Academic Writing Skills / CIR108*

Instructor: *İzzet Soner Ayhan*

Aim of The Course:

International Relations (IR) students, like in almost all other disciplines, are expected to write well written research papers throughout their academic lives. The success of students' ability to write a good research paper is one of the most important determiners of their current and future academic success. Therefore it is crucial for students to develop their research writing skills to the highest limit.

This course aims to develop IR students much needed English academic writing and research skills in two steps. First by developing their essay writing skills in English and secondly by introducing students how to design and write an IR research paper. By following these steps, students will be able to both develop an effective writing ability and also get familiarized with the basic concepts of research and methods such as formulation of a good research question, a theory, hypotheses and data collection. Overall, the objective of the course is to build a basic background in students who are later in their training expected to write good research papers and to develop their general essay writing abilities in English.

Course Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students are expected to:

- 1) Develop English academic writing skills
- 2) comprehend the basics of research paper writing in IR
- 3) be able to formulate effective research questions, build hypotheses and conduct scientific data collection
- 4) be able to organize and write a well written research paper in IR.

Method:

The instructor will use case studies, lectures, questions and exercises from the textbook and articles. This course will encourage students to be active in the learning process by commenting and discussing the lecture notes and practicing the exercises in the textbooks.

Textbooks:

The course will not follow a main textbook, but a compilation of chosen articles and chapters of selected textbooks. The basic recommended readings of the course is as follows. Additional weekly reading list will be provided by the instructor during the course.

Readings:

Chapters from these books will be used.

Ready to Write, From Paragraph to Essay, Karen Blanchard and Christine Root, Pearson, 2010.

Writing Essays, From Paragraph to Essay, Dorothy E. Zemach and Lisa A. Ghulldu, MacMillan, 2011.

Writers at Work, The Essay, Dorothy E. Zemach and Lynn Stafford-Yilmaz, Cambridge, 2008.

Research and Writing in International Relations, Laura Roselle and Sharon Spray, Routledge, 2008.

Attendance Procedure:

Attendance for this class is mandatory. Please keep in mind that you will be responsible for all of the material covered in your absence. Students will be expected to arrive for class on time and to remain in class until the end of the class session.

Evaluation Methods and Tools:

Students will be evaluated according to below.

Mid-term exam (%25) + in-class writing (%25), Final exam (%50)

*In-class writings will form an important part of your evaluation. Therefore it is important for you to attend classes regularly.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Any student found to be involved in any verifiable incident of academic dishonesty (copying, cheating, plagiarizing, etc.) will receive a grade of “F” for the class

Content of the Course:

| Week | Subject |
|-------------|--|
| Week 1 | Understanding Paragraphs |
| Week 2 | Writing Paragraphs |
| Week 3 | Essay Writing Basics |
| Week 4 | Outlining an Essay |
| Week 5 | Unity and Coherence |
| Week 6 | Writing Essays |
| Week 7 | Revising and Editing |
| Week 8 | Mid-Term Exam |
| Week 9 | Research Paper |
| Week 10 | What is Scientific Method Basics of Research Paper, organizing your research |
| Week 11 | Project resources, literature review, data collection |
| Week 12 | Citation, what is plagiarism, avoiding plagiarism |
| Week 13 | Analysis and Writing, overview of the writing process |
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