

Miyazaki International College
Course Syllabus
Fall 2020

Course Title	Academic Writing 2 (AW 2-2) (2 credits)
Course Designation for TC	
<u>Language Teacher</u>	
Instructor	Craig Yamamoto
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Office hours	Tuesday 13:00~16:00

Course Description:

This second semester writing course for first year students aims to build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Academic Writing 1. The Academic Writing 2 course assists students in developing the ability to write well-organized paragraphs and to combine paragraphs into longer pieces of writing. Students will practice writing to suit various kinds of purpose with an awareness of the context and audience of their writing. After learning to write paragraphs, students will learn to combine paragraphs into longer pieces of various different genres such as academic essays and personal reflections. Students will learn various different ways of planning and editing a formal essay. Students will also be given the chance to complete fluency based writing activities on topics covered in concurrently taught reading courses, and will be able to further develop their fluency through regular journaling. The course also aims to help students to reflect on ways of teaching writing and promoting interaction in a writing classroom.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to...

- Write well-organized paragraphs with a topic sentence and supporting details
- Use various structures in their essays as specified in the MIC writing handbook for AW2
- Plan and write an essay with a logically structured introduction, body and conclusion
- Further develop the ability to write paragraphs with clear topic sentences, supporting ideas, and concluding sentences
- Combine paragraphs to form essays with various patterns including narrative, description, comparison, persuasion, problem/solution and cause/effect
- Evaluate what makes a good essay and edit their own /their peers' work to improve the grammatical accuracy, content and organization
- Write faster and more fluently (in a 10-minute period, students should be able to write at least 200 words on a topic with which they have knowledge or experience without use of a dictionary)
- Word process and re-draft their own essays to improve the appearance, grammar, vocabulary and flow of their writing
- Write English to suit various kinds of purpose, scene, situation and context, for various different themes and genres with an awareness of the reader or audience
- Reflect on their learning and evaluate their learning experience in a way that will assist their professional development as future teachers

MEXT Attainment Objectives

1. To be able to write English to suit the purpose, scene and situation etc, for various different themes.
2. To be able to execute language activities that integrate multiple themes

Course Schedule (subject to change):		
Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	Course introduction; Getting Organized	Introductions; Course outline and objectives; Expectations; Syllabus; Capitalization and punctuation; Organizing information
2	Parts of a paragraph	Paragraph form; Paragraph unity; Compound sentences
3	Review	Organizing information; Paragraph form
4	Organizing Information	Time-order paragraphs; Prepositions of time; Complex sentences with <i>before</i> and <i>after</i>
5	Organizing Information	Gerunds in topic sentences; Comma splices
6	Organizing Information	Prepositions of place; Spatial order
7	Writing Process	Sentence fragments
8	Writing Process	Recognize and use the steps of the writing process
9	Review	Review Organizing Information; the Writing Process; Quiz
10	Giving Support	Introducing examples (<i>for example, for instance, such as</i>)
11	Giving Support	Punctuating quotes
12	Explaining a Process	Imperative sentences
13	Explaining a Process	Time-order signal words
14	Review	Review Giving Support; Explaining a Process; Quiz
15	Descriptive Paragraphs	Order of adjectives
16	Descriptive Paragraphs	Sensory words
17	Expressing Opinions	Run-on sentences
18	Expressing Opinions	Using reasons
19	Review	Review Descriptive Paragraphs; Expressing Opinions; Quiz
20	Compare/Contrast Paragraphs	Sentence patterns of comparison
21	Compare/Contrast Paragraphs	Comparative adjectives
22	Review	Review Compare/Contrast Paragraphs; Quiz
23	Structure of an Essay	Parts of an Essay 1
24	Structure of an Essay	Parts of an Essay 2
25	Outlining an Essay	Parts of an Outline; Developing an Outline 1
26	Outlining an Essay	Parts of an Outline; Developing an Outline 2
27	Introductions & Conclusions	Introduction in an Essay; Conclusion in an Essay
28	Introductions & Conclusions	Introduction in an Essay; Conclusion in an Essay
29	Review	Structure of an Essay; Outlining an Essay; Intro/Conclusions
30	Exam review	Preparation & practice for final exam
	Final Exam	

Required Materials:

- A4 writing paper, pens, pencils
- Handouts provided by teacher/ downloaded by students as necessary
- Binder for handouts
- MIC Writing Handbook
- Textbook as prescribed by the teacher

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

Attendance

You will not get any points for attendance because it is expected that you will attend 100% of classes. If you are absent for any reason you need to 1) contact your teacher and 2) ask a classmate for class notes and homework assignment information. Participation is required at all classes. *If you have four or more 'unexcused absences' you may be asked to withdraw from the class.* An 'unexcused absence' is any absence for which you do not have permission. Medical reasons, family emergencies and so on are **NOT** counted as unexcused absences and will **NOT** influence your grade.

Academic Honesty

You are not allowed to use translation software or Internet translation sites in this or any course at MIC. Plagiarism (cheating) is not tolerated. The following are common examples of plagiarism:

- Getting another students to write your assignment or essay for you. (Getting another student to check your work and give advice is OK.)
- Copying language from a book, newspaper, journal or website without using quotation marks and citing (Citing means giving credit to your sources; telling the reader where you found the information.)

Assignment Submission

- Follow the teacher's instructions carefully in terms of the length of the assignment and make sure you understand if the assignment needs to be handwritten or wordprocessed and uploaded to Moodle. If you are not sure how to do the assignment, ask the teacher in class or in the office hour!
- Be sure to write your full name in English, your student number, the teacher's name, the date, a title, and the page number and exercise of the assignment if appropriate.
- Late assignments (drafts to the teacher) may result in a lower score, so please submit your writing on time.

Class Preparation and Review:

- Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. This means you should expect to spend six hours each week outside of class time on this course.
- Remember that if you have brainstormed ideas, and organized them into a detailed outline, the actual writing part of your paragraph or essay should not take so long – it is the planning part that takes time.
- "I was absent" is not an excuse for not completing assignments or being prepared for class. If absent, be sure to talk with your classmates first to find out what was missed. Contact the teacher after trying to consult with your classmates.
- If you do not understand anything at any time, it is your responsibility to ask questions. If you do not ask questions, the teacher may assume you understand everything.

Grades and Grading Standards:

Participation – 10%

Participation refers to being prepared and being active in class.

Journal – 20%

Several times a week you will be required to write a journal entry, choosing from whatever subject you desire, possibly from a list of topics provided. These will be checked several times a semester for quantity, but your entries will be neither graded nor edited. The purpose of the journal is for you to gain fluency in writing; how correctly you write in English is less important. You will also be expected to regularly comment on your peers' work.

Homework and writing assignments – 50%

You will have writing assignments after almost every class. Sometimes these assignments will be peer-edited before submitting to the teacher. For major assignments you will be expected to submit two or even three drafts on-line (with later drafts including corrections and improvements suggested by the teacher). From time to time there may also be quizzes, handouts, and Moodle assignments. You will receive a grade for each of these assignments based on the draft you initially submit to the teacher and bonus points for improving it. The teacher will edit these assignments, and you are expected to submit a final copy with previous edits. Please keep all your work.

Final Exam – 20%

The final exam will take place during exam week. Information on the content of the exam will be given in class.

Methods of Feedback:

Student work will be assessed several times on periodic assignments submitted online and/or on paper. Journal entries will be checked for quantity and frequency of work at least four times in the term. Particularly struggling students will be contacted by email for one-on-one consultations with the teacher. Students will be formatively assessed on class performance by their teacher and by their peers on preliminary written work.

Diploma Policy Objectives:

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
3. The ability to identify and solve problems
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English
5. Proficiency in the use of information technology

Notes:

It is your responsibility to seek help if you need it. Please visit your teacher during office hours if you need help with the course or simply basic study advice, and feel free to contact your teacher by email. You will likely be using several on online platforms in this course, which you will learn about early in the semester.