Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Fall 2022

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| Course Title ( Credits ) | SAB202 Independent Study (2 Credits) |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Iain Stanley |
| E-mail address | istanley@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | MIC2-106 / 3781 |
| Office hours | Mon, Tue, Thu 16:15 – 17:15 or by appointment. |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Anthony Diaz |
| E-mail address | adiaz@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | MIC2-407 / 3732 |
| Office hours | Mon, Tue, Thu 16:15 – 17:15 or by appointment. |
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| Course Description: | | |
| Study of the local culture, social issues, or other aspects of the area in which students are located for Study Abroad. Students may conduct formal research or produce a work which reports on their extensive direct experience of the topic being studied. | | |
| Course Objectives: | | |
| In this course, the student conducts independent research guided by the course instructor. The goal is to plan and write a final paper that draws on and cites the research conducted by the student during the semester. To reach this goal, the student must:   * Discuss potential research topics with the course instructor. * Formulate a research question with guidance from and approval of the course instructor. * Conduct preliminary research and write an annotated bibliography. * Write a 3750-word paper * Enhance your research and citation skills.   In addition, the student should:   * Choose a research topic that is interesting to the student and has academic merit (as determined through consultation with the course instructor). * Expect guidance from the course instructor about selected research sources. * Consult the course instructor to write a paper that adheres to the standards of academic English. * Report progress to the course instructor and seek advice. * Complete any revisions required by the course instructor before the final deadline. | | |
| Teaching Methodology: | | |
| Course objectives will be achieved through a variety of active learning teaching strategies, including but not limited to:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Active Learning Teaching Strategy** | **Course Schedule** | | Pause for Reflection | Most classes | | Journals | Regular homework | | Pair & Group work | Almost every class | | Presentations | Lessons 11 and 15 | | Written Peer Review | Most lessons from lesson 8 to 15 | | | |
| Course Schedule: | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Introduction | Explanation of Course and Syllabus |
| 2 | Investigation of Research Topic(s) | What is a research paper? How does it differ from a regular 5-paragraph paper? What are the steps in research? What are some example topics appropriate for the essay in this course? |
| 3 | How to research?  Research methods – quantitative vs qualitative.  How to acquire knowledge? |
| 4 | Preliminary Research Phase | Research questions  Formulating research questions and writing a thesis statement. |
| 5 | Planning and Research Stage | Plagiarism – what it is, how to avoid it.  Paraphrasing |
| 6 | How to write an annotated bibliography?  Citation and citation methods. |
| 7 | Preparation of research and writing plans  Students prepare a list of areas/topics of academic interest and discusses it with the instructor.  Group discussion: Students will explain the reason for the topics chosen |
| 8 | Writing Stage | Writing assignment: Working on a paragraph  Peer-review of classmate’s writing |
| 9 | Students must bring one summary to class  Peer-review of classmate’s writing |
| 10 | Students must bring one summary to class  Peer-review of classmate’s writing |
| 11 | Presentation 1: My project (on-going progress) |
| 12 | Writing, Revision and Final Submission | Writing an abstract |
| 13 | Revising your text  Peer-review: evaluating writings using a rubric |
| 14 | Putting things together: Working on connecting all written summaries |
| 15 | Presentation 2: My project (on-going progress) |
|  | Final Examination |  |
| Required Materials: | | |
| * Students must bring a new readings related to their chosen topic (The course instructor will provide additional readings to students in case the student cannot find such readings – please talk to your instructor!!!) * A personal computer or tablet computer is necessary for assignment submission. In addition, most work done in class will be on a computer, so make sure to bring your own. * There is no textbook for this course. Handouts will be provided when necessary. | | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | | |
| **Student Responsibilities**  As a class member, you are responsible for attending all classes and arriving on time, for participating as a member of a group, and for completing and handing in all assigned work.  **Attendance and Lateness**   * You can be absent a maximum of 5 times. Credit cannot be granted to students who have more than 5 absences, even if the final work is extremely good! * If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be given an absence * Two lateness are equal to one absence   If you sum up more than 5 absences (e.g. 4 absences and 3 lateness), you will receive an “X” grade, and will have to take the course again next year.  **Homework**  The homework should be handed in at the beginning of every class. All homework submitted after that will **not** be considered.  **Excused Absences**  Whenever possible, plan in advance and ask the instructors for the material of the class you are going to be absent. Homework and project deadlines **will not be changed nor postponed**, so plan ahead of time if you have to be absent for a class. Exceptional cases exist, so be sure to talk to the instructor if you have any questions/doubts.  **Late Assignments**  It is your responsibility to look for the course instructor and check what assignments are due. Also, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to get handouts and explanations (missing a class is no excuse for not handing in homework).  **Plagiarism and Intellectual Honesty**  Plagiarism is representing someone else's intellectual property, words, ideas, or images, as your own. It is a very serious academic offense and plagiarized work is not accepted in this course. Ask one of the instructors if you have any questions about this. You are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is and knowing how to avoid it in your work. | | |
| Class Preparation and Review: | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson, and one hour reviewing and doing homework. Make sure you review your notes after each class and make sure you understand the topics covered. Instructors are available outside the classroom in case students need additional assistance (Please check office hours on the first page of this syllabus).  Very often, you will have homework assignments. Make sure you review those before coming to the next class. Also, check the class Content/Activities so you can be prepared for the class. | | |
| Grades and Grading Standards: | | |
| Homework: 30%  Participation: 30%  Final report submission (3750 words): 40%  This is a Pass/Fail course. Students who receive less than 60% on their grading or fail to submit a final report, will receive an “X” grade, and will have to take the course again next year. | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| Homework assignments will be graded and returned within two weeks of submission. Additional comments and feedback will be given verbally in class, but students are encouraged to come to instructor’s office during office hours in case extra explanations are needed. | | |
| 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  4: Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English  5: Proficiency in the use of information technology | | |
| Notes | | |
| The content of classes can be connected to many SDGs. Instructors will encourage students to make these connections when writing their homework assignments and/or in the final report. | | |

