

Course Title	Freshman Seminar 1 “Academic Foundations and University Life at MIU” (For all students)		Instructor(s)	Kenji Saietto
			E-mail	Ksayed@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	
Track	All Tracks		Mode of Instruction	
Credits	2		Allocated Year	1 st . year, Spring
Active Learning	1-1 Creative Writing 1-3 Written Paraphrases and Summaries 1-6 Response/Reaction/Writing 2-3 Presentations and Reverse Presentations		Compulsory or Elective	Compulsory
Course Overview	Freshman Seminar 1 introduces first-year students to academic life at Miyazaki International University, including its systems, policies, and expectations. The course develops essential skills such as academic writing, critical thinking, communication, and study strategies. Through active learning, students learn to manage their studies effectively and use campus resources. It also fosters an understanding of academic culture in Japan and supports students in planning their four-year academic journey.			
Course Objectives	To equip first-year students with the academic skills, learning strategies, and institutional knowledge required to succeed in university study at MIU. Learning Outcomes Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand MIU academic system and policies • Develop effective study habits • Improve academic communication skills • Apply critical thinking • Plan their 4-year academic journey 			
Prerequisite				
Course Schedule	No	Contents		Homework
	1	Unit 1 — Becoming a University Student I. Introduction to University Learning II. MIU System (credits, GPA, syllabus reading)		
	2	Unit 2 — Academic Skills I. How to study effectively (learning strategies) II. Note-taking & reading academic texts III. Academic writing basics IV. Avoiding plagiarism & academic integrity		
	3	Unit 3 — Thinking & Communication I. Critical thinking & argumentation II. Discussion & participation skills III. Presentation skills		
	4	Unit 4 — Academic Management I. Time management & deadline II. Using the library & research basics III. Communicating with professors		

	5	Unit 5 — MIU Life & Academic Culture I. MIU policies & expectations II. Japanese academic culture	
	6	Unit 6 -Academic Integrity & Avoiding Plagiarism Topics I. What is plagiarism? II. Citation basics III. Academic honesty at MIU	
	7	Unit 7 - Critical Thinking & Argumentation I. What is critical thinking? II. Claims, evidence, reasoning	
	8	Unit 8 - Academic Discussion Skills I. Asking questions II. Expressing opinions clearly III. Agreeing / disagreeing politely	
	9	Unit 9 - Presentation Skills (Basic) I. Structure of a presentation II. Slide design basics III. Speaking clearly	
	10	Unit 10 Time management study and planning I. Managing assignments II. Weekly & semester planning	
	11	Unit 11 - Using the Library & Research Basics I. Library services II. Academic sources vs internet III. Basic research skills IV. Presentation Skills Workshop	
	12	Unit 12 - Communication with Professors I. Email etiquette II. Office hours III. Asking for help	
	13	Unit 13 - MIU Policies & Academic Expectations I. Attendance rules II. Assignment submission rules III. Academic responsibilities	
	14	Unit 14 - Japanese Academic Culture I. Classroom behavior in Japan II. Communication style III. Expectations of professors	
15	Unit 15 - Final Project Presentation Final Task “My 4-Year Academic Success Plan at MIU”		
Grading		Assessment Breakdown I. Class Participation & Engagement – 20% Active involvement in discussions, group work, and in-class activities II. Weekly Assignments / Skill Tasks – 25% Short tasks such as writing practice, note-taking exercises, email writing, and reflections III. Mini Presentation – 15%	

		<p>Short individual or group presentation (e.g., study skills, academic topic)</p> <p>IV. Midterm Assignment (Academic Skills Task) – 15%</p> <p>Writing or research-based assignment demonstrating learned skills</p> <p>V. Final Project (4-Year Academic Plan + Presentation) – 25%</p>
Textbooks		Handouts
References		
NOTES		