**Writing**

**Course objectives**

This course is meant to develop writing skills that students will need in their academic writings in general. This course is designed to take students with an intermediate ability from paragraph writing to essay writing. The course combines a process approach to writing (where students work on invention, peer response, editing and writing multiple drafts) with a pragmatic approach to teaching the basics of writing (with direct instruction on topic sentences, thesis statements, and outlines). Critical thinking is emphasized so that students become aware of the impact of their choice of words, sentences and organizational techniques on the effectiveness of their writing. The focus throughout is on academic writing used in university courses and exams.

**Course outline**

**Semester I**

Week 1: introduction to process writing, choosing and narrowing a topic, gathering ideas, editing ideas

Week 2: the structure of a paragraph (definition of a paragraph, parts of a paragraph, identifying and writing topic sentences)

Week 3: the development of a paragraph (paragraph support and development, writing concluding sentences, peer editing)

Week 4: descriptive and process paragraphs

Week 5 & 6: opinion paragraphs

Week 7 & 8: comparison/contrast paragraphs

Week 9 & 10: problem/solution paragraphs

Week 11: revision

Week 12: mock exam

**Semester II**

Week 1: the structure of an essay

Week 2: outlining an essay

Week 3: writing introductions

Week 4: writing conclusions

Week 5 & 6: unity and coherence

Week 7 & 8: the expository essay

Week 9 & 10: the argumentative essay

Week 11: revision

Week 12: mock exam