



# Academic English Support

Fall Semester 2017

Instructor: Elissa Feingold

## Description of the Course

The course aims to improve reading comprehension of academic English through the use of authentic, unedited texts from disciplines connected with environmental issues. The major goal of this course is to provide students with reading and writing strategies in order to both understand an academic article and be able to write their homework assignments for other courses in appropriate level academic English. For example: a research paper, policy briefs and abstracts at the required academic level.

## Materials

Articles will be provided and all texts and assignments will be on the Google drive . Assignments will be carried out in class or for homework .

## Dictionary

Students must bring a dictionary of any type to class either an electronic dictionary – Oxford or Babylon or a paper dictionary for use in class.

## Policies and procedures

Attendance is compulsory. If you are absent please send the instructor a message and catch up on the material as each class relates to the previous one. No grades are given but completion of the course will be a pass or fail .

There will be a final exam and completed assignments are noted including class work and will contribute to the **Pass** or **Fail** grade.

The course begins with an explanation of academic English versus Everyday English and then explores reading comprehension techniques and skills as the academic articles increase in complexity and academic vocabulary is taught in connection with each article.

## **Session 1**

Introduction to Academic English and the topics we are going to cover in the following workshops/seminar

## **Session 2**

- 1) Academic reading skills, academic articles and academic vocabulary: Skimming and scanning techniques to encourage recognition of text organization
- 2) Global reading and noticing format and organization of different types of texts/articles all on an academic level.
- 3) Reading and writing skills of an academic article: Abstracts identifying structure and purpose .Understanding long complex academic sentences.  
Increasing the reader's reading speed for greater fluency and comprehension.

## **Session 3**

How to avoid plagiarism! What it means. What to do about it. Examples .How to quote, cite and reference, bibliography etc.

## **Session 4**

Reading skills :Identifying topic /understanding title, subheadings, recognizing definitions in context, reference words

Identifying the main idea versus details .Using connectors, for comparison and contrast, argumentation, cause and effect

## **Session 5**

Writing skills continued;

Learn how to present your ideas in class and how to create a good PPT in class.

## **Session 6**

Writing skills- How to write a reflection on a reading /an article from class

## **Session 7**

Writing skills- How to write an abstract

## **Session 8**

Writing skills –How to write a research paper

## **Session 9**

Writing skills –How to write a policy brief

## **Session 10**

Tips on how to study for exams, how to succeed. How to answer different question types on a test from "multiple choice" to "open ended" questions.