Course purpose and overview:
The main objective of the M course is to improve students’ proficiency in English for use in academic and/or professional settings. The primary focus is on enhancing reading comprehension of basic academic texts and developing basic writing, speaking, and listening skills. To this end, a variety of reading, writing, and language skills are taught and practiced throughout the course. Speaking and listening are integrated into the class sessions and assignments, and all students prepare and deliver a professional/academic oral presentation.

Teaching techniques, technology use, guest speakers:
✓ Frontal lectures
✓ Pair/group work
✓ Class discussions
✓ Moodle assignments (e.g. forums, PoodLL, videos)
✓ Internet use: videos, supplementary material (in class/homework)
✓ Games and activities using cell phones

Reading strategies, language components and related reading selections:
Below is a list of the reading, writing, and language skills taught and practiced in the course:
✓ Understanding the structure and typical contents of academic articles
✓ Paragraph structure (identifying main ideas and supporting details)
✓ Sentence structure (nominal phrases, simple, compound, and complex sentences)
✓ Transitions and organizational markers in reading and writing
✓ Meta-cognitive awareness of reading strategies and processes
✓ Reading fluency and speed
✓ Vocabulary enrichment
✓ Basic grammatical structures (parts of speech, verb tenses, passive, modals, conditionals)
✓ Speaking and listening practice
✓ Preparing academic/professional presentations (structure, presentation skills, PPT preparation)
✓ Paragraph writing (structure and development)
✓ Summarizing and paraphrasing
✓ Writing from sources (citation, quoting)

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

✓ Read and respond to intermediate-level academic texts
✓ Understand the main idea and/or purpose of texts
✓ Identify the main ideas in texts by analyzing paragraph structure
✓ Demonstrate knowledge of basic academic vocabulary and grammar
✓ Write short answers to comprehension questions and short response paragraphs
✓ Display improved oral proficiency and listening comprehension as a result of participating in class activities and assignments
✓ Prepare and deliver a professional/academic oral presentation

Course requirements:

✓ Attendance and active participation in class sessions
✓ Successful completion of class assignments and homework
✓ Oral presentation

Components of the class grade:

The final course grade is pass/fail, with all coursework earning a minimum of 75 to merit a passing grade. The grade is based on a series of assignments completed throughout the semester as follows:

✓ Two major seen comprehension exams (one at the end of each semester) - 40%
✓ Oral presentation – 30%
✓ Classwork (e.g. quizzes and class assignments on vocabulary and reading/language strategies) and homework – 30

Bibliography

Authentic academic articles compiled by each lecturer in a course booklet posted on the Moodle System

Articles chosen by individual students based on their individual needs