Short Course Description

This five-day course, a combination of academic writing skills and journal analysis, will give participants the analytical, contextual, structural, and stylistic writing tools they need to compete with native speakers of English for limited publication space in international journals. Based on the linguistic theory of contrastive rhetoric, the course reveals the *unwritten rules* of English academic writing and discusses them within the context of the different and unconscious expectations accorded both readers and writers within the English linguistic community. Instructor Natalie Reid presents the five major strategies for maximizing the academic writer's chances of publication in the top journals in his or her field. These strategies help the writer to recognize and work with linguistic and organizational cues not readily apparent to the untrained eye. With a combination of lecture and in-class exercises, the course give participants the grammatical and stylistic tricks of the trade—as well as the basic principles of journal elimination and journal-of-choice analysis—for achieving their publication goals.

Daily Schedule

9:00 - 10:30   First session
10:30 - 10:45   Morning break
10:45 - 12:30   Second session
12:30 - 1:30   Lunch
1:30 - 3:15   Third session
3:15 - 3:30   Afternoon break
  (and possibly a 5-minute break during the next session)
3:30 - 5:00 or 5:15   Fourth session

List of Topics

Academic Writing
- Introduction to course and theory of contrastive rhetoric
- General writing and editing suggestions
- Clarity: pronoun reference analysis and exercises
- Pruning: analysis and exercises
- Pruning: structure words and hedge words
- Active/passive voice: analysis and exercises
- Modifier problems: analysis and exercises
- Parallel structure: analysis and exercises
- Paragraphing (including exercise if time permits)
- Organization (including purpose statements and parts of paper)
- Linguistic "logic": exercises
- Abstract analysis
- Overall structural analysis of framing and argumentation

Journal Analysis:
- General introduction
- Introductory elimination questions
- Sample journal overviews
- Sample journal analyses
- Author analysis exercise
- Conclusions analysis exercise
- Various language analysis exercises
- Analysis of abstract structures
- Abstract analysis exercises
- The language of framing

Both parts of the course will include both workbooks and lots of handouts.