US 597 03W, 24453, Research Lit/Techniques
COURSE SYLLABUS: Academic Writing for Us
Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Salvatore Attardo
Office Location: Talbot Hall (Hall of Languages) 306
Office Hours: M-F 3:00 - 4:00 pm (by appointment and on zoom only)
Office Phone: 903-886-5260
Office Fax: 903-886-5980
University Email Address: salvatore.attardo@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: email**
Communication Response Time: 1 business day (feedback on writing, 1 week)
Zoom meeting link: https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6458619518

COURSE INFORMATION

This courses is for faculty and staff of the university.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: none.
Recommended: S. Attardo, H. Ergül, E. Gironzetti, and H. Gerónimo. 2026. *Academic Writing Demystified: Publish and Thrive*. Cambridge University Press.
Software Required: access to LMS/D2L
Optional Texts and/or Materials: all required materials are included in the shell.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The class is structured like a workshop. It is geared toward early and mid-career academics (pre- and post-tenure) who need to publish or writers who have "stalled" and need help on a major project (for example, finishing a book). The workshop/seminar is a hands-on 75 minute session, comprising an accountability writing group and a discussion of effective strategies and techniques to facilitate the writing of academic books and articles. Participants will work on at least one piece of writing.

Topics to be covered include overcoming procrastination and impostor syndrome; positive thinking and reinforcement; establishing and keeping momentum; the importance of planning (backward calendars) and tracking one's output; writing for thinking; and finding flow and joy in writing.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will create and use weekly and project-based writing output tracking tools;
2. Participants will work on at least one major piece of writing (a paper, a chapter of a book, a book-length manuscript)
3. Participants will become familiar with various techniques to facilitate writing, including but not limited to beating procrastination and impostor syndrome.
4. Participants will engage in self-reflection on their writing practices with the goal to improve their performance and more importantly their attitude toward the practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word, Web Browser, Google and Google Scholar, or similar search engines, use library web site.

Instructional Methods

The course is delivered entirely online, via LMS and zoom meetings. The first week is spent doing several surveys on impostorism, procrastination, and writing practices as well as becoming familiar with the output tracking tools. The remaining weeks will include a live session divided into an accountability group (in which the participants report how much they have written in the previous week) followed by a one hour discussion/seminar on various topics relevant tot writing.

Participants Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

• Participants will be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the syllabus and all course instructions found in the online course platform
• Participant will be responsible for taking the surveys and self-assessment tools and examining their results.
• Attendance at the meetings is important.

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Since in a sense the only required output of the participants are the surveys/self-assessment tools and the weekly production reports, it is crucial that these outputs be delivered. If the participants cannot do so in the early part of the course, it will be less useful.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

60% or over = Successful.
59% or below = Unsuccessful.

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Class Participation: 100%

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Course Outline/Calendar

All first-week assignments are due by 11:30 pm on the Friday of the first week, except the weekly reports which are due during the live session. If you cannot attend the live session, for whatever reason, please email your weekly "number" to the instructor.

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week		Topic (topics are tentative and may be changed in response to class surveys)	Date of the session	Live session:
1	March 16 to 20	No live session: take surveys/self-assessment	n/a	activities in D2L
2	March 23 to 27	What kind of writer am I?	March 26	Thurs 6:30-745pm
3	March 30 to Apr 3	Planning your work and tracking your output.	April 2	Thurs 6:30-745pm
4	Apr 6 to 10	Establishing and keeping momentum; overcoming procrastination	April 9	Thurs 6:30-745pm
5	Apr 13 to 17	Positive thinking and reinforcement; dealing with impostorism	April 16	Thurs 6:30-745pm
6	Apr 20 to 24	Demystifying writing: breaking down the process and exposing the solitary genius myth	April 23	Thurs 6:30-745pm
7	Apr 27 to May 1	Writing for thinking	April 30	Thurs 6:30-745pm
8	May 4 to 8	Finding flow and joy in your writing	May 7	Thurs 6:30-745pm

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please
contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal

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with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the Learning Management System Requirements Webpage.
- Learn more on the LMS Browser Support Webpage.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the Brightspace Support Webpage.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no "text" emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail online in the Student Guidebook.

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Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

USE OF AI TO GENERATE OR MODIFY ANY TEXT THAT IS PRESENTED AS THE STUDENTS' WORK IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. THIS APPLIES ALSO TO EMAILS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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