Academic Writing II: Preparing for the MA Project (Non-credit)

Instructor: Prof. Myskow

Email: myskow-g@kanda.kuis.ac.jp

11/7 (Sat. 16:00-20:00)	12/12 (Sat. 16:00-20:00)	2/6 (Sat. 16:00-20:00)

Course Overview

This non-credit course is designed specifically to support students preparing to write their MA projects. Students will gain practice writing the project by preparing a mini-version of the full-length MA project. The course assignment will include all three sections of the MA Project: Issue in Context; Literature Review; and Plan for Action. Sections will be considerably shorter and less detailed than those in the actual MA Project. A major focus of the course will be on connecting the three sections of the paper to ensure there is a logical information flow across them. Useful language and discourse features will also be explored through genre analysis activities. Upon completing the course assignment, students may choose to develop their paper further into a full-length MA project under the supervision of a faculty member. Note that the paper will likely be changed significantly through the supervision process. Students may also use the skills and abilities developed in the course to pursue another topic for their MA projects. As this course focuses specifically on writing for the MA Project, it should be taken near the end of the program, ideally in the semester before students plan to write their MA projects.

Course Schedule*

Session	Topic
1.	● Overview of the assignment, including its purpose and organization
2.	● Key discourse and language features I ● Revising
3.	● Key discourse and language features II ● Editing and proofreading

Note:

There are no prerequisites for this course, but it should be taken near the end of students' studies in the program, ideally in the semester before they plan to write their paper. It is recommended (but not required) that students take Academic Writing I before enrolling in Academic Writing II.

Pre-course Reading

There may be some short pre-course readings of sample essays. The instructor will notify course participants prior to class and post them to Google Classroom.

Required textbook

None. Instructor will provide all handouts and materials.

Course Objectives

1. Terminal Objective

Students will be able to

Produce a well-organized mini-MA Project that outlines an issue in context, explores relevant literature, and makes recommendations for pedagogical action based on the literature.

2. Enabling Objectives

Students will be able to

1) Analyze samples for key discourse and language features.

2) Identify and select appropriate organizational patterns for different rhetorical goals.

3) Make appropriate use of genre-specific discourse features such as concessions, boosters/ hedges, reported speech formulations, logical connectors.

4) Accurately use APA conventions including citation and referencing practices.

5) Form a supportive community of writers to help each other in the writing process.

Instructor Bio

Gordon Myskow (PhD) is Associate Professor and Assistant Director of the MA TESOL Program at Kanda University of International Studies. He has taught courses at the secondary school and university levels in Japan since 2000 and teacher education courses for over a decade. His current research interests are in functional linguistics and subject-matter instruction (e.g., CLIL). His work has appeared in *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *English for Specific Purposes, Journal of Second Language Writing*, *Linguistics and Education*, *ELT Journal*, *Writing & Pedagogy*, *Functions of Language* and *Functional Linguistics*. He is an advisor to the United Nations Test of English (UNATE).