

UNIVERSITY TOWN WRITING PROGRAMME PILOT

**OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS FROM:
FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS), SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (BIZ),
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING (SoC), SCHOOL OF DESIGN & ENVIRONMENT (SDE),
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING (FoE), & FACULTY SCIENCE (FoS)**

Dear Students,

We are pleased to announce that all students (freshmen and seniors) from the above Faculties/Schools may apply for a place in the new University Town Writing Programme (UTWP) pilot for Semester 1 of Academic Year 2009-10.

University Town Writing Programme (UTWP)

NUS is pioneering an innovative model of learning and teaching integrated into residential colleges at the new University Town. Part of this effort is the creation of a writing programme designed to bring undergraduates from various academic disciplines together so that they can discover and develop composition strategies common to all disciplines for producing writing that alters their own, their classmates', and their professors' knowledge of a given topic.

These UTWP modules are driven by a topic and readings accessible to first and second year undergraduates. The amount of reading and writing for each type of module will be roughly the same. Although each topic will reflect the concerns of a particular discipline, the writing skills you will develop are designed to be applicable to other disciplines and tasks throughout your academic life.

Two types of UTWP modules will be offered:

1. Analytical Modules - These will focus on the following skills.

- Reading critically to classify and synthesize multiple readings;
- Writing clear, precise, and comprehensive critiques of a body of texts in a chosen content area; and
- Applying established theories to new data sets developed from primary sources.

WP2210A Analytic Writing: Language Death and *WP2210B Analytic Writing: Models of Press Freedom* are the 2 pilot modules that will be offered in Semester 1, AY2009/10.

2. Expository modules will focus on the following skills:

- Critically reading to raise solvable problems;
- Formulate solutions and defend with them with arguments (claims and defensible reasons);
- Articulate the assumptions on which their claims and reasons are based; and
- Recognize and elucidate the claims made by authors in assigned readings.

WP2201A Expository Writing: Language Death and *WP2201B Expository Writing: Models of Press Freedom* are the 2 pilot modules that will be offered in Semester 1, AY2009/10.

These 4 UTWP modules carry 4 MCs each, and they may be read on an S/U basis, provided that they are not being taken to fulfil a Faculty requirement which requires a graded writing module.

Who Should Apply

We especially encourage you to apply if you say, "That's me," to one or more of the four statements below:

- I want to think about ideas that make only partial sense to me;
- I want to put more sense into ideas that I find in my textbooks;
- I want to write about ideas, or
- I don't write about ideas, but I am curious about how to do this.

How will the Modules Count towards Graduation Requirement

- (i) **FASS** students may take one of these modules as an Unrestricted Elective (UE).
- (ii) **BIZ** students who have already taken or are enrolled for ES2002 may still take one of these modules and have it counted as a UE. Otherwise, it can be taken in lieu of ES2002.
- (iii) **SoC** students who have already taken or are enrolled for CS2301 may still take one of these modules and have it counted as an UE. Otherwise, it can be taken in lieu of CS2301.
- (iv) **SDE** students may take one of these modules as an Unrestricted Elective (UE).
- (v) **FoE** students who have already taken or are enrolled for EG1413 may still take one of these modules and have it counted as a UE. Otherwise, it can be taken in lieu of EG1413.
- (vi) **FoS** students who have not read SP1202 may take one of these UTWP modules to fulfil the Faculty Requirements. Students who have read or choose to read SP1202, as well as one of these UTWP modules, will have to count SP1202 to the Faculty Requirements and the UTWP module as UE. Pharmacy students, who are supposed to read SP1203 for their Faculty Requirements, may only count the UTWP module as UE.
- (vii) **USP** students who wish to read any of these modules may do so, but not in lieu of Writing and Critical Thinking Modules.

How and When to Apply

- Please bid for these modules via CORS.
- You will bid from your Programme Account
- Places are limited - each module has only 15 places, to be distributed amongst 5 Faculties/Schools. As an incentive to encourage participation in these pilot modules, upon successful bidding, the module will be allocated at 1 bid point. You will be refunded the rest of your bid points.
- BIZ students who are pre-allocated ES2002 can still bid for a UTWP module. If you intend to take a UTWP module in lieu of ES2002, please inform BIZ Dean's Office to drop ES2002 for you after you have successfully obtained a place in a UTWP module.
- Please note that the usual maximum permitted workload per semester applies.

Please note

- Pre-requisites

Students must have passed/been exempted from NUS Qualifying English Test (QET) or have passed the CELC English for Academic Purposes (EAP 1 & EAP 2) modules.

- Preclusions

All the above 4 UTWP modules will preclude each other, i.e. if you have read one, you will not be allowed to take any others in the future.

WP2201A: Preclusions - WP2201B, WP2210A & WP2210B

WP2201B: Preclusions - WP2201A, WP2210A & WP2210B

WP2210A: Preclusions - WP2201A, WP2201B & WP2210B

WP2210B: Preclusions - WP2201A, WP2201B & WP2210A

Time Table

WP2201A Expository Writing: Language Death: Monday & Thursday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WP2201B Expository Writing: Models of Press Freedom: Monday & Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM

WP2210A Analytic Writing: Language Death: Tuesday & Friday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WP2210B Analytic Writing: Models of Press Freedom: Tuesday & Friday 2:00-4:00 PM.

Venue

All classes will be held at BLOCK ADMIN SR-6, Level 5.

Module Descriptions

WP2201A Expository Writing: Language Death

What does it mean for a language to die? In this expository writing module, we examine issues in language extinction: its social, political, and economic causes, and the impacts that the loss of language diversity will likely have on human society. Students will read key texts in the field supplemented with films and other materials, and will develop skills in comprehensible and cohesive writing, critical reasoning, rhetorical persuasion, and intellectually rigorous argumentation. Students proceed through progressively more challenging tasks, beginning with précis writing, to arguing a policy position, and culminating in a research paper.

WP2201B Expository Writing: Models of Press Freedom

Who promotes, limits, and suppresses press freedom? What ideas lead them to justify these roles? In this expository writing module, we examine the social, political, and economic roots of divergent responses to press freedom and the likely impacts of restricting/restricting press freedom in democratic societies. Students will read key texts in the field supplemented with films and other materials, and will develop skills in comprehensible and cohesive writing, critical reasoning, rhetorical persuasion, and intellectually rigorous argumentation. Students proceed through progressively more challenging tasks, beginning with précis writing, to arguing a policy position, and culminating in a research paper.

WP2210A Analytic Writing: Language Death

Languages of the world are disappearing at an alarming rate. Why are languages dying, what impact does language death have on human society, and what, if anything, should be done to prevent it? In this analytical writing module, students will read a broad range of texts addressing the issue of language death, and will develop skills in synthesizing and thematically classifying arguments and evidence from multiple sources. The module emphasizes writing skills, the critical analysis of texts, identifying arguments, classifying information, and applying existing theoretical paradigms to primary sources.

WP2210B Analytic Writing: Models of Press Freedom

What is it about press freedom that spawns opposing notions of what press freedom is and role of a free press in democratic communities? In this analytical writing module, students will read a broad range of texts addressing the issue of press freedom, and will develop skills in synthesizing and thematically classifying arguments and evidence from multiple sources. The module emphasizes writing skills, the critical analysis of texts, identifying arguments, classifying information, and applying existing theoretical paradigms to primary sources.

Workload and assessment for all the above:

(1) Workload: 0-4-0-0-6 (4 MCs)

(2) Assessment:

CA components(%)

Class participation: 10%

Papers: 80%

Individual Presentations: 10%

Total for CA: 100%