Course: Academic Writing for Publication  
Teacher: Dr Steve Wallace  
Place: Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Semester: Spring 2015  
Day: TBA  
Time: 2 hours per week

Course Description:
This course endeavors to help students publish their papers by eliminating common writing errors made by Chinese writers and discusses ways to correct them. Grammar, specific vocabulary and punctuation will receive special attention. Additionally, time will be spent on strategies for writing, preparing and revising research. This is a technical writing class designed specifically for those who are trying to publish papers in international journals. The first hour of class will consist of lectures on writing and the second hour will be available for students to sit down with the teacher and go over their corrected papers and discuss corrections and revisions.

Course objectives for Academic Writing for Publication
To learn how to:

1) Collect information for each paper section by asking a series of questions.

2) Use prewritten academic sentences which can be modified and used in the manuscript.

3) Follow structure guidelines presented for the introduction, methods, results, discussion, abstract, citations, and cover letter.

4) Avoid common submission mistakes

5) Select journals and follow editor instructions.

6) Correct Chinese writing errors by studying reviewer comments. Errors are explained and corrected.

7) Learn short, fundamental rules of English grammar through simply explained examples.

8) Stay motivated, productive, and efficient in writing with tips about how to develop good writing habits.

Course outline
Introduction Section
Week 1-5
1 What Is the Problem?  
   ● Describe the problem investigated
1. Summarize relevant research to provide context, key terms, and concepts so your reader can understand the experiment.

2. Why Is It Important?
   Review relevant research to provide rationale.

3. What Conflict or Unanswered Question Does Your Experiment Address?
   Identifying and solving the problem.

4. What Findings of Others Are You Challenging or Extending?
   Being critical and evaluating the contributions of others.

5. What Solution Do You Propose?
   Briefly describe your experiment: hypothesis, research question; method and reasons for using the method if alternatives exist.

### Methods Section
Weeks 6-7

6. How Did You Study the Problem?
   - Briefly explain the general type of scientific procedure you used.
   - What did you use? Describe what materials, subjects, and equipment you used.

7. How Did You Proceed?
   - Explain the steps you took in your experiment.
   - Describe the process: Infinitive of purpose.

### Results Section
Weeks 8-9

8. What Did You Observe?
   - For each experiment or procedure.
   - Briefly describe experiment without detail of Methods section.
   - Report main results, supported by selected data.

   Highlight figures and tables.

### Discussion Section
Weeks 10-12

10. What Do Your Observations Mean?
- Summarize the most important findings at the beginning
- What conclusions can you draw?

11 How Do Your Results Fit Into a Broader Context?
- Suggest the theoretical implications of your results
- Suggest practical applications of your results?
- Trends and projections

12 How Can You Describing Causes and Effects?

Revising
Week 13

13 How Can You Use Examples?
How to use examples

Abstract
Week 14

14 What Is the Report About Without Specific Details?
How to write the abstract

Citations
Week 15

15 How Can We Write About Others Who Helped Us?
How to write the references using different citation styles

Cover Letter to the Editor
Week 16

16 How Can We Write a Cover Letter to the Editor?
How to write the cover letter to the editor of an academic journal

Each week will contain the following sections.

How to write the...
This section explains each section of a research paper through a series of questions. By answering these questions, students can collect the information they will need to write the paper. This book provides format guidelines for the abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, citations, and cover letter.

Academic phrases for each section of the paper
This book provides dozens of example sentences which researchers can modify and copy
into their text when writing their papers

**Common Chinese errors and how to correct them**
Every week, reviewer comments are used to identify common Chinese writing errors. These errors are then explained and corrected.

**Simple punctuation point**
Short, fundamental rules of English grammar are simply explained with the help of examples.

**The writing process**
This section provides tips about how to stay motivated, productive, and efficient in writing by developing good writing habits.

**Tips for journal submission**
This section uses editor responses, reviewer comments, and journal submission guidelines to identify key publication strategies. Following these pointers, researchers can avoid common submission mistakes such as angering reviewers and letting them know the paper was previously rejected.

**Inappropriate vocabulary and improvements**
Taiwanese writers tend to use words and phrases which are easily misunderstood in technical writing. This section teaches students stronger substitute words or phrase.

**Academic vocabulary**
Essential words every academic writer needs to know.

**Course Requirements:**
Students taking this class should be working on, or at least thinking about, a research paper

**Homework:**
The student homework assignments focus on the sections of an academic research paper. By completing their homework, students will write a new section of their paper every week. The writing will be sent to the teacher via email in a Word file. The file will be corrected using Microsoft Word’s track changes function. Comments with suggestions from the teacher will also be placed in the margins on the paper with suggested revisions.

**Grading:** Scores will be determined by weekly quizzes and submission of weekly writing assignments and activities.

**Textbook:**
*How to write and submit an academic paper in 18 weeks: a textbook for Chinese researchers, 5th edition*, by Steve Wallace
Introduction to the Teacher:

Dr. Wallace has taught academic writing for publication to graduate students at Taiwan University, Tsing Hua University, Chiao University and Industrial Technology Research Institute for 12 years. He has researched and published in the *Journal of Usability Studies*, the *Journal of Information Design*, *Current Bioinformatics*, and *Information Technology and People* about technical documentation and how Chinese technical writers can publish more efficiently in international journals. Dr. Wallace has a background in Biology and completed his PhD in Technology Management.