

### Syllabus: “Academic Reading”

International School, Winter Semester 2023/24

Kevin Rausch M.A.

Mondays, 17:15–18:45, room C0010

#### (a) Content and Approach

- This course is designed to prepare students for typical reading tasks set in university seminars. Different reading tasks (such as analysing a scholarly paper for a seminar discussion, preparing a report on a journal article, or merely reading a novel for private entertainment) require different reading techniques; hence, we will practise appropriate techniques for the extensive, selective and detailed reading of texts. Relevant techniques include dealing with unknown vocabulary, search-reading, skimming, close reading, understanding logical organization and evaluating arguments.
- Students require at least an upper-advanced level of English in order to follow the lessons.
- The course will take place in attendance, combined with a high share of self-studies. Completion of assignments and regular attendance (at least 80% of all sessions) are required for exam admission.
- 3 ECTS credits are granted for successful completion of the course. Therefore, students should be prepared to spend considerable time working on the study content.
- It is recommended (though not obligatory) to attend this course alongside the “Academic Writing” course offered at the International School.
- Participants are required to register for the course via StudIP, where all teaching resources will be made available. Students that are not enrolled yet and therefore do not have access to StudIP are asked to send an e-mail to [k.rausch@hs-sm.de](mailto:k.rausch@hs-sm.de).
- The script contains the following (exam-relevant) self-study material which students need to complete independently during the semester:  
Michael McCarthy & Felicity O’Dell (2016): *Academic Vocabulary in Use*. Cambridge University Press. Second edition.

#### (b) Learning Objectives

- The course aims at improving students’ reading comprehension in an academic context.
- Students will become familiar with various extensive and selective reading techniques.
- Students will enhance their academic vocabulary, including typical Latin and Greek roots for English words.

## (c) Course Structure

- Students will work independently at one topic each week. Please download the script that is available in the StudIP group “Academic Reading” in the section “files” and prepare the tasks as outlined below for each due date; the page numbers refer to the pages in the *file*, not in the actual *script*. Each following Monday we will discuss the respective topic, compare all assignments, and address any questions in the classroom.
- The course schedule is as follows:
  - 09/10–15/10: Cultural Studies: The Lessons of Travel I  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 3–9, up to vocabulary task C
    - pp. 84–87 (chapters 1–4 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**16/10, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class\*
  - 16/10–22/10: Cultural Studies: The Lessons of Travel II  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 10–12, up to vocabulary task B
    - pp. 88–91 (chapters 5–8 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**23/10, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
  - 23/10–29/10: Multicultural Literature: Writing about Cultural Identity I  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 14–21, up to vocabulary task C
    - pp. 92–95 (chapters 9–12 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**30/10, 14:15–15:45** Follow-up in class
  - 30/10–05/11: Multicultural Literature: Writing about Cultural Identity II  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 22–24, up to vocabulary task B
    - pp. 96–99 (chapters 13–16 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**06/11, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class\*
  - 06/11–12/11: Psychology: Theories of Intelligence I  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 26–33, up to vocabulary task B
    - pp. 100–103 (chapters 17–20 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**13/11, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
  - 13/11–19/11: Psychology: Theories of Intelligence II  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 35–37, up to vocabulary task B
    - pp. 104–107 (chapters 21–24 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**20/11, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
  - 20/11–26/11: Business: The Changing Workplace I  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 40–47, up to vocabulary task B
    - pp. 108–111 (chapters 25–28 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**27/11, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
  - 27/11–03/12: Business: The Changing Workplace II  
To be prepared:
    - pp. 48–51, up to vocabulary task B
    - pp. 112–115 (chapters 29–32 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**04/12, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class\*

- 04/12–10/12: Public Speaking: Messages and Messengers I  
To be prepared:
  - pp. 53–59, up to vocabulary task B
  - pp. 116–119 (chapters 33–36 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**11/12, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
- 11/12–17/12: Public Speaking: Messages and Messengers II  
To be prepared:
  - pp. 61–64, up to vocabulary task B
  - pp. 120–123 (chapters 37–40 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**18/12, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
- 18/12–07/01: Urban Studies: Living Together I  
To be prepared:
  - pp. 68–73, up to vocabulary task B
  - pp. 124–127 (chapters 41–44 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**08/01, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
- 08/01–14/01: Urban Studies: Living Together II  
To be prepared:
  - pp. 75–76, up to vocabulary task C
  - pp. 128–131 (chapters 45–48 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**15/01, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class
- 15/01–21/01: Revision and Exam Preparation  
To be prepared:
  - any pending tasks you have not done yet
  - pp. 132–133 (chapters 49–50 of "Academic Vocabulary in Use")**22/01, 17:15–18:45** Follow-up in class

\*The session will take place despite this being a public holiday.

#### (d) Contact

- [k.rausch@hs-sm.de](mailto:k.rausch@hs-sm.de)
- +49 3683 688 1014

#### (e) Course Assessment

- Written examination (29/01, 17:30–19:00, C0010 [room yet to be confirmed])
- 3 ECTS