

ASSERT Course

Academic Skills for Successful Exchange Research sTudents

Spring 2019
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General Course Information:

Academic Skills for Successful Exchange Research sTudents (ASSERT) Course aims to prepare students for their overseas research participation through the acquisition of academic skills and mindset comparable to students of professional educational institutions of other countries. These skills will include, but not be limited to the following: critical thinking, analytical, presentation, and academic writing skills, academic information literacy, and statistical literacy. Weekly opportunities for listening, speaking, writing, and presentation practice in English will be provided. A secondary focus of increasing students' knowledge concerning Japan to enable them to have conversations about their own country while overseas will also be covered.

Course Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Academic skills

1. Critical thinking skills
 - Demonstrate critical thinking skills at a level similar to that of average Western medical school graduates
2. Analytical skills
 - Quickly identify core ideas and logically summarize points
3. Presentation skills
 - Prepare and deliver effective oral and slide presentations
4. Academic information literacy
 - Effectively and efficiently search for relevant articles from literature databases
 - Learn academic paper structure and how to efficiently scan for information

Knowledge base

1. Knowledge of Japan
 - Describe contemporary issues in Japanese society from a medical, economic, or political perspective
2. Knowledge of research themes
 - Describe background, known and unknown facts, significance of, and approaches to his or her research theme(s)

Academic mindset

1. Assertiveness and extraversion

- Be assertive, and actively participate in and contribute to discussion
- Ask constructive questions to presenters to advance existing knowledge about presented contents

Course Instructors:

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Course Requirements:

Students taking this course will be expected to attend all classes, cover all required reading, and participate in class discussion and activities.

Any written work should conform to the following criteria:

- Single-sided, numbered pages, 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced
- Include your name, student number, and a title for all assignments
- Employ footnotes and include a bibliography whose style should conform to the stylistic guidelines of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, available on the following website:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Course Activities:

1. Critical thinking bootcamp
This is a one-day workshop, which includes an introduction to critical thinking, followed by practical applications where students can put their new knowledge to use
2. Rediscovering Japan
This activity's goal is to make students more aware of contemporary issues in Japan, and allow them time to practice discussing and describing these topics in English
3. Literature search exercise
Students will perform literature research outside of class on their intended research topic, present what they have found to other members of their group and practice summarizing and explaining
4. Research topic presentation
Each student must prepare a five-minute slide presentation pertaining to his or her proposed area of research and present once during the course

Materials:

All course materials will be available on the course page of e-SALON.

Schedule:

All sessions will be held in M&D Tower, 8F South "G-Lab", unless otherwise directed.

Workshop	March 26 (T)	09:00-17:00
Session 1	April 08 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 2	April 15 (M)	18:00-19:30
Session 3	April 22 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 4	May 13 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 5	May 20 (M)	17:30-19:00