**Academic Writing for Graduate Students of Medieval Studies**

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**Fall Term 2021/22**

**Mandatory MA level course**

**Credit value: US credits: 2, ECTS credits: 4**

**Course Description:**

The aim of this course is to help you develop as a writer within the academic community by raising awareness of, practicing, and reflecting upon the conventions of texts written for academic purposes. In addition to addressing issues related to academic writing, the course will also focus on related skills necessary for the successful completion of your graduate work.

**Aims of the Course:**

During the course, you will:

* become more familiar with the genres of and enhance the skills related to evaluative and research-based writing.
* acquire an awareness of and ability to use effectively the discourse patterns typical for the academic environment.
* improve your critical reading skills.
* develop your writing process through generating ideas, drafting, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations.
* learn to take into consideration the expectations of your readership regarding academic discourse conventions.
* learn to incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing.
* develop your revising and editing skills.
* gain confidence in expressing yourself in both spoken and written discourse, through in-class writing and speaking, homework and consultations.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

\*       identify the typical purposes, components and features of various genres in the

discipline.

\*       structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level.

\*       employ critical reading skills more effectively.

\*       think and write more clearly and incisively.

\*       have a variety of skills and approaches to draw upon when writing academic papers.

\*       understand and target the expectations of various academic audiences

\*       properly incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing.

\*       understand “Central European University's Policy on Student Plagiarism”

\*       edit and refine your own written work.

**Assessment:**

Pass/Fail

Attendance is mandatory, and you will be expected to fully contribute to each session. During the semester you will be required to submit one written assignment (in several drafts), which will be the Critique. You are also required to consult with your teacher on this assignment.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Pre-Reading Assignments**

Most of the reading and in-class materials you need for this course are included in the first section of the Course Reader (uploaded on moodle). These include a number of reading assignments in preparation for the classes. It is important that you complete the assigned reading before each class because it contains information that will be discussed and developed in practical activities during that lesson. Other materials needed for the course will be posted on the course site (moodle) and/or handed out in class. This material will mostly be discipline-specific texts, which you will analyze to get further insight into the specific aspect being addressed in that class.

**Evaluation**

Attendance is mandatory, and as this is a seminar you will be expected to fully contribute to each session. During the first semester you will be required to consult with your instructor on one piece of writing – the Critique assignment. In the CAW, we provide extensive qualitative comments during consultations, which are intended to help you in improving your writing. In addition to the mandatory consultation, you may consult with us as often as you wish on other assignments, up to and including your thesis. The academic writing course is graded PASS/FAIL and so will not affect your GPA.

**Teaching activities/teaching methods:**

The course is taught in a seminar-style. Teaching activities/methods are lectures by the instructors, presentations by students, and group activities – especially group discussions and writing workshops. The sessions outlined below represent what we aim to cover, but the order of those sessions and the content of some sessions may change depending on the individual teacher.

**Required Reading Material:**

Reader: Center for Academic Writing. 2021. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students of Medieval Studies*. Course Reader. Vienna: Central European University. You will find this Course Reader uploaded on moodle.

Additional Material will be posted on the course site (moodle) and/or distributed in class.

**Course Outline**

**Section A — Critical Reading and Writing**

***Aims of the section:***

This section will introduce you to critical reading and writing as a process of evaluating the context and purpose of written texts. It will enable you to apply the insights gained from this process to the production of your own evaluative text, the Critique.

***Writing Task: Evaluative Writing - The Critique***

1. Introduction to Academic Writing
2. Identifying and Summarizing Key Ideas
3. Evaluating Key Arguments in Academic Texts
4. Writing Evaluative Texts – Genre Analysis
5. Structure of Evaluative Texts, Micro-level Argumentation
6. Self-Evaluation and Peer Evaluation Strategies

**Section B — Research Based Writing**

***Aims of the section:***

In this part of the course you will develop an awareness of features of the genre of research-based academic writing. You will also become familiar with the conventions of using the work of other authors in English academic discourse and reflect on how these influence the development of your own voice. You will have the opportunity to discuss how to apply these skills to a paper that you are writing for your department.

1. Using Sources I: Voice and Authority — when and how to use the work of other authors
2. Using Sources II: Techniques for incorporating sources in your work
3. Structure of Papers I: Titles and Introductions
4. Structure of Papers II: Conclusions and Abstracts
5. The Nature of Research
6. Writing Research Proposals

***Due to both onsite and online teaching, and the uncertainty of when we have to switch from one to the other, you will receive detailed instructions for all readings and tasks in your Course Reader. If you arrive later, or for some reason miss a class, you will thus always know what to make up for and submit to your instructor. You will find the instructions in such bold orange italics, please follow them attentively. They include numbered tasks (Task1.1, Task 1.2) as well as the way you should work on them: individual (I), group (G), both, and the context in which we shall discuss these the following class. Tasks will be numbered 1-6 in both sections of the Course Reader, i.e. for Section A — Critical Reading and Writing as well as for Section B — Research Based Writing. Please note that tasks may diverge depending on individual instructors and the pace in which different groups work. Therefore, you should also check for updates on the Moodle platform as you go through the semester.***