# Academic Writing for 2yr History Graduate Students 2019-2021

# Course Syllabus

## Aims of the Course

The aim of this course is to help you develop as a writer within the English speaking academic community by raising awareness of, practicing, and reflecting upon the conventions of written texts. In addition to addressing issues related to academic writing, the course will also focus on the other skills you will need to complete your graduate level work in English. Initially it aims to improve your critical reading skills. The during the course, you will become more familiar with the genres of and enhance the skills related to evaluative and research-based writing. You will acquire an awareness of and ability to use effectively the discourse patterns of academic English. To do this you will have the opportunity to develop your writing process through generating ideas, drafting, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations. You will also learn to incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing within the requirements of English academic practice. Finally, it aims to help you to develop your own revising and editing skills.

## Learning Outcomes

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

• understand the importance of critical reading

• think and write more clearly and incisively

• identify the purposes, typical components and features of various genres in the discipline

• structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level

• have a variety of skills and approaches to draw upon when writing academic papers

• target the various audiences that academics write for, and understand the expectations of these audiences

• properly incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing

• understand the CEU policy towards plagiarism

• use the appropriate citation style guidelines

• edit and refine your own written work.

## Timetable & Registration

Please see your pre-session and term schedule for days and times of class or ask your instructor when classes are held. When you register for this course, please ask your department co-ordinator for the correct course number.

## Reading Assignments

Most of the reading and in-class materials you need for this course are included in this reader. These include a number of reading assignments in preparation for the classes. It is important that you complete the assigned reading *before class* because they contain information that will be essential in that session. Some other materials needed for the course will be 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

During the course, you will have to complete one piece of writing for the Writing Center in the Fall Term. There will be one mandatory consultation on this writing. We provide extensive qualitative comments during consultation, which are intended to help you in improving your writing. Furthermore, you will have one mandatory consultation before the end of the first semester related to your departmental work. Drafts will need to be submitted to CAW before final submission to the department. You will therefore have ample opportunity to redraft, revise and improve your work. Consultations on a voluntary basis will be available for all papers throughout your time here at CEU.

The academic writing course is a required course for ultimately 3 credits, which you need to pass in order to complete your degree, but as it is a support course (to help you with other courses) it will not affect your GPA although it will appear on your transcript.

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# Course Outline

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| Section A — Critical Reading*Aims of the section:* This section will introduce you to critical reading as a process of evaluating the context and purpose of written texts, and enable you to apply the insights gained from this process to the production of an evaluative piece of writing for our department. This is also intended as preparation for the first departmental paper to be submitted in October for the course on Modern Historiography (subject to change). Writing Task: The Position PaperIntroductory sessionIdentifying Key IdeasEvaluating TextsWriting Evaluative Texts – Analysis of Genres Improving your Text – Peer Evaluation Strategies  Giving a Presentation |
| Section B — Research Based WritingAims 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 apply these skills with the supervision and guidance of your writing instructor to papers that you are writing for your department.  The Nature of Research  Titles and Introductions  Macro and Micro level structuring Using Sources I: When and How to Use the Work of other AuthorsUsing Sources II: Analysing how authors use sources in their work Conclusions and Abstracts (Conference/Research Paper), Feedback  **Section C — The Thesis** Aims of the section: In your second year, we will begin to look at a range of issues connected with your thesis. Information on these sessions will be made available closer to the time. |
| Possible workshops — CV and Statements of Purpose This voluntary session aims to improve your ability to provide an effective PhD application by going through a CV, and highlighting how the Statement of Purpose complements it. |