

(ONLINE) ACADEMIC WRITING FOR GENDER STUDIES
FALL AND WINTER, 12 SESSIONS

BORBÁLA FARAGÓ

2020-21

Aims of the Course

The course seeks 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. As well as an introduction to critical thinking and critique writing, the course will also develop your awareness of conventions of research-based academic writing, both regarding structural elements such as the introduction, literature review and conclusion, and also how to use the work of other authors appropriately in your work. You will also have the chance to reflect on how these conventions influence the development of your own voice. In the fall we will focus on critical writing as well as micro and macro-level argumentation for term papers. The winter sessions will concentrate on the thesis writing process, helping you develop and present a thesis topic, situate your research within existing theoretical and topical scholarships, and prepare for the final stages of thesis research and writing.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand the concept of genres and their features with particular focus on critiques and research papers
- Draft, edit and refine your own critique including context, summary and evaluation
- Utilize different reading and presentation skills appropriate for graduate level
- Go through the research process and be able to structure your research papers
- Incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing in keeping with the requirements of English academic practice
- Develop your writing process through generating ideas, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations
- Expand and improve your ability to work independently by exploring new strategies for learning
- Draft a thesis proposal for your thesis
- Draft a literature review for your thesis
- Utilize crucial research, organizational, and writing skills that you need to develop and complete your research projects and theses for the MA degree

Learning activities/teaching methods

The methodology of the on-line course is adapted to accommodate remote learning, and therefore, includes synchronous and asynchronous components. Live meetings in real time are conducted via an appropriate platform (e.g. Zoom). To promote an active working environment, students are expected to complete individual and small groups tasks prior to attending live meetings. Detailed instructions to pre-class activities are given before each meeting.

Students will develop their reading and writing skills by drafting and redrafting papers in and outside the (virtual) classroom. They will work in peer feedback groups so that they are able to constructively critique other students' texts. Students also have the opportunity to regularly consult with their writing instructor on an individual basis.

Timetable & Registration

The course starts with eight classes in Fall Semester and continues with a thesis research proposal and thesis writing block in the Winter Semester.

Reading Assignments

All the reading and in-class materials will be available on the CEU e-learning site, or will be emailed to the students directly. These include a number of reading assignments in preparation or as follow-up material for the classes.

Assessment

During the Fall Course, you will have to complete one piece of writing. You will have ample opportunity to redraft, revise and improve your work, both in co-operation with peers and in consultation with your Academic Writing Center faculty. We provide extensive qualitative comments during consultation and when relevant annotations on your paper which are intended to help you in improving your writing. You will also be expected to attend two mandatory consultations on papers for your department. One of these must be for a final paper. During the Winter Course you will have to submit two texts: your Thesis Proposal and your Literature Review. You will have more classes on these assignments including workshops where you can also receive peer feedback for your work. You are also expected to have consultations on assignments of the thesis development sessions both with your Writing Center Instructor and Gender Studies Faculty, at least three altogether. The class is for 2 Ceu/4 Ects Credits, mandatory and graded pass/fail.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to Academic Writing
2. Critical Reading I – Identifying Key Ideas
3. Critical Reading II – Evaluating a Text and Writing the Critique
4. Reading Skills and Peer Review
5. Micro-Level Argumentation
6. Using Sources: Voice and Authority – Incorporating Sources in your Work and Citation Styles
7. Writing Research Papers: Introductions, Conclusions and Structuring your research papers: The use of Meta-Discourse
8. Thesis Planning

Winter

9. Thesis Proposal Introduction
10. Thesis Proposal Workshop
11. Literature Review Introduction
12. Literature Review Development