

ACADEMIC WRITING FOR HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENTS

AY 2020-21 FALL

ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

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COURSE AIMS

The aim of this online 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 other skills you will need to complete your graduate level work in English.

During the course, you will:

- become familiar with the genres of and enhance the skills related to critique and research-based writing;
- acquire an awareness of and ability to use effectively the discourse patterns of academic English;
- improve your critical reading skills, enabling you to think and write more clearly;
- have the opportunity to develop your writing process through phases of generating ideas, drafting, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations;
- learn to take into consideration the expectations of your readership with regard to discourse conventions in different communities;
- learn to incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing within the requirements of English academic practice;
- gain confidence in expressing yourself in speaking and writing in English.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- identify the purposes, typical components and features of various genres in your discipline;
- structure a critique, a research paper, a thesis proposal and a thesis at the micro and macro level;
- think and write more clearly and incisively;
- draw on a variety of skills and approaches when writing different academic papers;
- write for various audiences, adapting your writing to the expectations of these audiences;
- properly incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing, and understand the CEU policy on plagiarism;
- edit and refine your own written work.

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be delivered online. It consists of both asynchronous and synchronous elements. During the asynchronous parts of the course, you will work independently and in your own pace. All course material will be accessible via the course's Moodle site. It is recommended that you complete the targeted class readings and written tasks before each online session. Where appropriate, qualitative feedback will be given on these tasks.

The synchronous online sessions will each be around 50 minutes. During live sessions we will discuss the completed tasks, open questions and points of confusion from the assigned readings and do some practical exercises individually or in group work. You are expected to come to the sessions well prepared. The synchronous online sessions will be delivered via Zoom, the access links to which will be provided in advance.

ASSESSMENT

Academic Writing is a required course, which you need to pass in order to complete your degree. It will appear on your transcript, but will not affect your GPA.

Regular attendance and active participation in online sessions are expected and you can only miss two classes. In the case of an excused absence (e.g. by prior approval by the instructor), you are expected to come for an individual consultation to make up for the missed class.

During the course, you will have to complete one piece of writing for the Center: **a critique**. You will be required to come for **a mandatory individual online consultation** on this assignment in the fall term. **One-year MA students** will have **an additional mandatory consultation on their thesis proposal** in the winter term. We provide extensive feedback during consultations, which is intended to help you improve your writing. Following the first consultation on a paper, you will have the opportunity to redraft, revise and improve your work and discuss it again. Beyond this, individual consultations on departmental assignments are available to you and are encouraged on a voluntary basis throughout the academic year.

You can sign up for individual consultations using <https://ceu.mywconline.com>. For our consultation policy, see the attached guidelines on Moodle.

COURSE OUTLINE

The sequence of sessions may be subject to change during the course. Any changes will be communicated early, in the online meetings or via Moodle.

1. Introduction to the Course

Aims: To introduce you to some of the underlying issues of academic writing, including the writing process, contrastive rhetoric and genre theory

Section A — The Critique

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 a written critique as an example of such a text.

2. Critical Reading - Initial Stages of a Critical Reading Process

Aims: To provide you with a technique for actively engaging with a text and discovering key ideas

3. Critical Thinking - Evaluating Information

Aims: To give you the chance to evaluate ideas by critically reflecting on their validity

4. Writing a Critique

Aims: To help you recognize the typical structural elements and language of the critique genre

5. Micro-level Argumentation: Paragraphing

Aims: To familiarize you with the structure and development of paragraph-level argumentation

6. Peer Evaluation Strategies

Aims: To introduce you to strategies with which you can provide meaningful feedback on your peers' texts and successfully improve your own text

Section B – Research Writing

In this part of the course you will develop an awareness of structural and discoursal features of research writing. You will become familiar with how to use the work of other authors effectively in academic writing, and how to develop your own voice.

7. *The Nature of Research Writing and Developing Arguments in Research Papers*

Aims: To introduce you to research writing and familiarize you with strategies and techniques for developing written argument in academic texts, particularly at the macro level

8. *Supporting your Argument – Using Sources*

Aims: To help you to understand the role of sources in academic writing, how they underpin argument and how they can be used

9. *Using the Work of Other Writers Effectively*

Aims: To equip you with knowledge and strategies to enable you to cite correctly, use summary, paraphrase, quotation and reporting verbs effectively when referring to sources

10. *Information Literacy Session (CEU Library) – Relevant Databases and Zotero*

Aims: To inform you about advanced search techniques in the most relevant disciplinary databases that you can access through the CEU Library for research purposes, and how to use the freeware ‘Zotero’ for managing your sources when writing a research paper or a thesis

11. *Introductions to Research Papers*

Aims: To familiarize you with the conventions of academic writing as regards the structure of introductions and titles of research papers

12. *Conclusions to Research Papers*

Aims: To familiarize you with the conventions of academic writing as regards the structure of conclusions and abstracts of research papers

Section C – Thesis Writing (for 1-yr MA students in the winter term)

This section will introduce you to the thesis writing process and departmental expectations, and enable you to apply the insights gained to the writing of a thesis proposal and a thesis.

13. *Thesis Proposal Writing*

Aims: To familiarize you with the conventions of academic proposal writing as regards their structure

14. *Thesis Proposal - Peer Feedback Session*

Aims: To give you the chance to receive feedback from your peers on the first draft of your thesis proposal

15. *Thesis Outlining and Structuring*

Aims: To help you recognize the typical structural components of a thesis in your department

16. *Thesis Titles, Abstracts, Introductions and Conclusions*

Aims: To help you to analyze these sections of previous student theses from the department and to discuss ways to organise them

17. *The Literature Review*

Aims: To provide you with an awareness of how to approach compiling a literature review for your thesis

18. *TBD*