

ACADEMIC WRITING MA ECON 1ST YEAR STUDENTS 2020/21 WINTER

COURSE SYLLABUS

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Winter Term

M.A. level course

Credit value: 4 ECTS (2 US credits)

Mandatory for all Economics MA 1st year students

Aims of the Course

The aim of this course is to help you further 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.

During the course, you will:

- become more familiar with the genres of and further enhance the skills related to critical and research-based writing;
- acquire a better awareness of and ability to use effectively the discourse patterns of academic English;
- improve your critical writing skills;
- have the opportunity to develop your writing process through generating ideas, drafting, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations;
- learn to take into consideration the expectations of your readership with regard to academic English discourse conventions;
- learn to incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing within the requirements of English academic practice;
- develop your revising and editing skills;

Learning Outcomes

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

- identify the typical purposes, components and features of various genres in the discipline;
- better structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level;
- understand the importance of critical writing;
- think and write more clearly and incisively;
- use a variety of skills and approaches when writing academic papers;
- target the various audiences 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; and
- edit and refine your own written work.

Prerequisites: none

Pre-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 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). 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.

Assessment: Pass/Fail

Attendance is mandatory, and as this is a seminar you will be expected to fully contribute to each session. During the semester you will be required to submit one written assignment, which will be the Research Proposal. You are also required to consult with your teacher on this assignment.

Teaching activities/teaching methods

The course is taught in a seminar-style. Teaching activities/methods heavily rely on group activities – especially group discussions and writing workshops.

Online Course Guidelines

Since this is an online class the live-instruction will be problem-oriented. This means that you will read the assigned texts and/or do the set tasks for the class beforehand, use the moodle learning forums and/or your peer groups for discussions, and participate in the class dialogue with your problems and findings. The instructor will send a zoom link for the live meetings via e-mail shortly before the first class. All subsequent sessions will take place via the same link. Online class ethics will be put up on moodle, please follow the guidelines outlined there.

Required Reading Material

Reader: Center for Academic Writing, 2021. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students of Economics*. Course Reader. Vienna: Central European University.

Additional Material will be posted on the course site (moodle).

COURSE OUTLINE

Section A – Critical Reading and Writing, Using Sources

This section introduces you to the process of evaluating the context and purpose of written texts, so that you are able to adequately respond to published texts. You also learn the conventions of using the work of other authors in English academic discourse.

Session One: Introduction to Academic Writing

Aims: To introduce the aims, structure and approach of this course and discuss your familiarity with Academic Writing conventions

Session Two: Critical Reading Skills and Note-Taking Strategies

Aims: To share best practices in how to read critically and in how to manage your time well with maintaining a note-keeping system

Session Three: Identifying Main and Supporting Arguments

Aims: To teach strategies for identifying key arguments, summarizing those arguments and contextualizing texts within a wider debate

Session Four: Evaluating Claims and Comparing Ideas

Aims: To teach criteria and techniques for evaluating claims and supporting evidence

Send your Critique to your group members and writing instructor by January 23rd and have the peer feedback session until class on January 26th

Session Five: Peer Review and Introduction to Using Sources at CEU

Aims: To introduce and give you the opportunity to practice giving and receiving peer feedback on your critical commentary and to help to understand the role of sources in academic writing, how they underpin argument and how they can be used

Session Six: Using the Work of Other Writers Effectively

Aims: To practice source-integration techniques

Section B — Research-Based Writing

In this section you develop an awareness of research-based academic writing, focusing on the research process, the research proposal and the research paper. We discuss these items in connection with your project for the course Econometrics II.

Session Seven: The Nature of Research Writing

Aims: To introduce the process and nature of research writing and help you begin to plan and manage your time towards the effective completion of written work for the semester

Session Eight: The Research Proposal

Aims: To help you plan your research and project work for the Econometrics II course, by narrowing down your research focus, formulating a good research question and thesis statement

Session Nine: Sample Proposals

Aims: To discuss successful proposals from previous years, in order to help you refine your own

Submit your Research Proposals to your writing instructors by March 14th and have the Mandatory consultations on them by March 22nd

Session Ten: Micro and Macro-Structure of Research Papers

Aims: We discuss how to divide your paper into sections, how to put together an informative Title and Table of Contents and how to write cohesive and coherent paragraphs.

Session Eleven: Introductions and Conclusions

Aims: To help you understand and work with the conventions of academic writing as regards the structure of introductions and conclusions

Session Twelve: Sample Econometrics Papers

Aims: Discuss requirements for your Econometrics II assignment and look at successful samples from previous years that help you construct your own paper