

ACADEMIC WRITING FOR SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS FALL AND WINTER 2020-21

Course Instructors: David Ridout (offline), Andrea Kirchknopf (online in Fall Term, offline in Winter Term)

Mandatory MA level course

Prerequisites: None

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 as well as situate your research within existing theoretical and topical scholarships.

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.
- Understand the importance of critical reading.
- Draft, edit and refine your own critique including context summary and evaluation
- Structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level.
- Incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing in keeping with the requirements of English academic practice
- Target the various audiences academics write for, and understand the expectations of these audiences.
- Develop your writing process through generating ideas, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations
- Draft a thesis proposal for your thesis
- Draft a literature review for your thesis
- Expand and improve your ability to work independently by exploring new strategies for learning

Timetable & Registration

The academic writing classes will be included in your departmental schedule and you will be placed in either the offline or online group. Please check moodle and your e-mails for joining online classes.

Assessment

As this is a seminar, you will be expected to fully contribute to each session. During the fall term you will be required to consult with us on a critique that we will set you in the first half of the course. You are also encouraged to consult with your instructor for any other departmental paper you are writing. We will provide qualitative comments during consultations, which are intended to help you to improve your writing. During the winter term you are expected to have a consultation on your thesis proposal. In addition to these mandatory consultations, you may consult with us as often as you wish on other assignments. As academic writing is a required support course (to help you with other courses) it is graded PASS/FAIL.

Teaching activities/teaching methods

We have done our best to cover various scenarios, so we are offering the course face-to-face and on-line. 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 methodology of the on-line course is adapted to accommodate remote learning, please consult the Moodle for practical details of joining online classes. 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. 2020. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students of Sociology and Social Anthropology*. Course Reader. Vienna: Central European University.

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

Course Outline

In the Academic Writing course we will cover the following topics:

Fall

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

In addition, the Library will offer Database as well as Citation Software training.

Winter

- Writing a Thesis Proposal
- Writing a Literature Review
- Analyzing Sample Proposals and Literature Reviews
- Presenting and Giving Peer Feedback on Thesis Proposals and Literature Reviews