

Academic Writing for Political Science

Course Description

INSTRUCTORS:

Robin Bellers	Office	310
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David Ridout	Office	307
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LOCATION: Center for Academic Writing (Nádor utca 11.)

Credits: Non-credit mandatory course

Course Level: One-year MA students and first year students of the two-year program

Office hours: Consultations by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

The aim of this program is to equip you with the writing skills you need to carry out graduate level work at CEU, as well as in any professional or academic English-speaking environment. The program includes a taught course and individual writing consultations.

The taught course introduces the basic issues of academic writing, including the concept of genre, structure and style. We will analyse issues involved in several different types of writing, asking you to find and to look at examples, before going through the process of writing your own papers.

The second element of the Writing Center program is one-to-one writing consultations. These are available to all CEU students from the beginning of the first semester to the time they hand in their thesis. During an individual consultation that you sign up for using WCOonline (<https://ceu.mywconline.com/register.php>) you will work individually with your instructor on a piece of writing, in order to identify and work on those areas of your writing that need improvement.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The aim of this course is to help 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 address other skills you 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
- 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 components and features of various genres in the discipline
- structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level
- understand the importance of critical reading
- think and write more clearly and incisively
- have a variety of skills and approaches to draw upon 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
- edit and refine your own written work.

REQUIREMENTS

During the course, you will have to complete a writing assignment (a critique or position paper of approximately 1,100 words) for the Writing Center as well as working with us on one or more papers for your department. For each piece, there will be ample opportunity to redraft, revise and improve your work, both in co-operation with peers and in consultation with a writing instructor.

EVALUATION

The academic writing course is a required course, which you need to pass in order to complete their degree, but as it is a support course (to help with other courses) it will not affect your GPA.

Course Outline

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 a written critique or position paper as an example of such a text.

Writing Task: The Critique/Position Paper

- Introduction to Academic Writing
- Critical Reading I – Identifying Key Ideas
- Critical Reading II – Evaluating a Text
- Evaluative Writing
- Peer Evaluation

SECTION B — RESEARCH BASED WRITING

Aims 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 a paper that you are writing for your department.

- Micro-level argumentation
- Giving Seminar Presentations
- Writing Research Papers
- Introductions: Analysis and Practice in an Academic Environment
- Using Sources I: How and When to Use the Work of Other Authors
- Using Sources II: Techniques for Incorporating Sources in your Work
- Conclusions: Analysis and Practice in an Academic Environment
- Data Presentation and Commentary (optional)
- Writing a Research Proposal (optional)