

Academic Writing for Political Science

Course Description

Instructors:

David Ridout Office 307

Thomas Rooney Office 311

Eszter Timár Office 310

Location: *Center for Academic Writing* (Nádor utca 11.)

Credits: Non-credit course

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

Office hours: Consultations by appointment using <http://rich75.com/ceu/>

Course overview

The Center for Academic Writing provides an integrated three-part academic support program for CEU students. The aim of this program is to equip students with the writing and language skills they 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, individual writing consultations and a self-access component.

The taught course introduces the kind of challenges and difficulties connected to English academic writing and gives you the chance to reflect upon and prepare for them. We will take you through issues involved in several different types of writing, ask you to look at examples of these types, and discuss their strengths and weaknesses before asking you to go through the process of writing your own papers, giving you the chance to express your own ideas within the conventions of acceptable English academic writing.

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, students and their instructors will work individually on a piece of writing (e.g. critique, term paper, CV, thesis chapter, etc.) in order to identify and work on those areas of their writing that need improvement. For signing up for an appointment, the <http://rich75.com/ceu/> schedule is used.

The third part of the Writing Center program is self-access. A key element of the program is helping students to develop the ability to be an independent learner. This takes two forms: the constantly expanding self-access webpage (<http://www.ceu.hu/caw/resources>) and the Multimedia Library.

Aims of the Course

The overall aim of this 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 language 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- use the Turabian style guidelines;
- edit and refine your own written work.

Requirements

During the course, you will have to complete a writing assignment (a critique) for the Writing Center as well as working with us on one or more papers for your department. For each piece, you will have 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 your degree, but as it is a support course (to help you 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 as an example of such a text.

Writing Task: The Critique

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

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.

- Paragraphing
- Strategies for Coping with Longer Texts
- Giving Seminar Presentations
- Making Decisions About Style
- The Nature of Research
- Using Sources I: How and When to Use the Work of Other Authors
- Using Sources II: Techniques for Incorporating Sources in your Work
- Using Sources III: Using Citation Styles Correctly
- Introductions: Analysis and Practice in an Academic Environment
- Conclusions: Analysis and Practice in an Academic Environment
- Data Commentary

Required reading

Reader compiled by the Center for Academic Writing