



# Core Academic Skills

## Summer Module

### OLive-UP 2020

Seminar Leader: Zoe Sutherland

Email: zgsutherland@berlin.bard.edu

Course dates: 2 June to 21 August 2020

Course Schedule: Self-study and monthly individual consultations

Office Hours: by appointment

Credits: n/a

Grading: Pass/Fail

## Course Description

This course is a Summer Module course, meaning a foundations course to prepare you ahead of further introduction in Module 1 and more advanced topics in Module 2. The Academic Skills course will support students in their independent study of core academic skills to do with reading and understanding academic texts, writing academic essays and developing critical thinking skills. It will do this by raising awareness of, practicing, and reflecting upon the conventions of written texts. The course will raise students' awareness of the conventions of research-based academic writing.

This course will support the assignments given in Academic Tutoring by workshoping these assignments to develop reading, writing and critical thinking skills. The overall aim is to develop students' critical approach to academic writing. We will do this by discussing in individual consultations how you can reflect on your reading, note-taking, and writing practices and how you can identify strategies for studying (with guidance from the teaching team). Each month, students will have the opportunity to consider and improve their academic skills.

This course has been designed in light of the Covid-19 online teaching conditions. All materials will be posted in the Google classroom. All meetings will take place online. Written assignments should be handed in via Google classroom.

## Learning Outcomes

- Gain confidence in reading and understanding academic texts progressing clearly to the level expected of a final year Bachelors students
- Be able to confidently express arguments and opinions in written form on academic texts

- Be able to identify what an essay question requires you to do, and to write in a manner consistent with those tasks
- Develop a study practice of reflecting on academic work done and looking for strategies to improve reading, note-taking and writing
- Implement study skills strategies, such as reading and essay structuring techniques

## Class Description and Student Requirements

Students will be required to dedicate 2 hours per week to independent study of Academic Skills. Guidance will be provided through monthly individual consultations. Students will be required to complete short assignments to assist in completing Academic Tutoring assignments.

To pass this course, students need to (1) attend all consultations, (2) demonstrate that they have reflected helpfully on their study practice, and (3) complete any exercises to address these skills, as assigned.

We will follow a three-step cycle of consultation, reading and reflection. Exercises tailored to each individual student will be provided

Please sign up for consultations here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SyMAPgbv6Ogpbq5cltefNro8D4bPD9xCoGMw\\_nUDEDU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SyMAPgbv6Ogpbq5cltefNro8D4bPD9xCoGMw_nUDEDU/edit)

<b>JUNE</b>		
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reflection</b>
<p>Tuesday 2 June</p> <p>Review of pre-session week writing ('The Great Learning Curve'), discussion of critical approach to questions, and of your independent study plan.</p>	<p>Your reading for Academic Skills is the reading assigned by your discipline-specific tutor.</p>	<p>Consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What did you find difficult/easy about the reading and note-taking?</li> <li>2. What strategies did you use to read and note-take in June?</li> <li>3. Where did you study? What was your physical environment like?</li> <li>4. What would have improved your study experience?</li> </ol> <p>Alternatively, what time-management/reading issues would you like help with improving?</p>
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reflection</b>

Tuesday 14 July Discussion of your written assignments for tutoring from a study skills perspective.	Your reading for Academic Skills is the reading assigned by your discipline-specific tutor.	TBD (to be determined) based on your independent study plan
<b>AUGUST</b>		
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reflection</b>
Tuesday 11 August Discussion of your written assignments for tutoring from a study skills perspective.	Your reading for Academic Skills is the reading assigned by your discipline-specific tutor.	TBD (to be determined) based on your independent study plan

### Attendance

You are expected to attend ALL consultations. In cases of absence caused by illness, you must inform me and the Program Director in advance of the scheduled consultation via email. Students are expected to be proactive and make up for any work missed.

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. You are expected to follow the university's code of academic integrity at all times throughout the course. Any work you submit must be your own original work. Make sure that you properly reference all the sources you use (e.g. books, journals, newspaper articles, websites, etc.). Cases of academic misconduct (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) in which you fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

### Policy on Late Submission of Papers

As per Student Handbook guidelines, assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Assignments that are more than 24 hours late may be rejected for grading, particularly if the explanation offered for the delay is not satisfactory. If a late assignment is accepted for grading, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.