



OLive 03

Introduction to Graduate Writing at Central European University (CEU)

OLive-Plus 2019

Seminar Leader: David Ridout

Email: d.ridout@berlin.bard.edu

Credits: 4 ECTS, 2 U.S. credits

Schedule: courses will take place in Week 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

The course develops writing skills necessary within a graduate level English-speaking academic community. It will do this by raising awareness of, practicing, and reflecting upon the conventions of written texts. As well as an introduction to reading strategies, critical thinking and critique writing, the course will raise students' awareness of the conventions of research-based academic writing. It will examine structural elements such as the introduction and conclusion, and the effective use of sources. Students will also have the chance to reflect on how these conventions influence the development of one's own voice through the production of their own academic texts. In the first half of the semester, students write papers specifically for the writing course. In the second half of the semester, the focus shifts to supporting the writing of papers for the other academic classes.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Develop reading strategies that can be used in this program and in future graduate studies
- Understand the importance of critical reading and writing
- Draft, edit and refine critical reaction papers
- Structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level.
- Develop appropriate strategies to incorporate the work of other authors into their own writing
- Understand what is plagiarism and how it can be avoided
- Develop a structured writing process
- Expand and improve their ability to work independently by exploring new strategies for learning

Requirements

Students are expected to fully participate in all classes, complete all readings and submit all assignments within the given deadlines.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

In cases of illness or other situations that lead to unavoidable absences, the student must inform the instructor and Program Director in advance. Students are expected to do make up work for any such absence.

Assessment

Participation (25%), Critical Essay I (25%), Critical Essay II (50%)

Schedule

Week 2 (Mon, Sep. 9 - Fri, Sep. 13)

Class 1. Tue, Sep. 10, 15:45 - 17:15

Introduction to Academic Writing

This class introduces the demands of academic writing in the graduate context. It talks about different kinds of written genres and focuses on the need for developing a clear writing process. In addition, the issue of contrastive rhetoric and how this may impact on those used to writing academically in a language other than English will be addressed.

Class 2. Thu, Sep. 12, 15:30 - 17:00

Critical Reading and Writing I - Reading Strategies

This class encourages students to develop clear reading strategies that will enable them to cope with the demands of a typical graduate reading load. Various techniques and strategies will be practiced.

Class 3. Fri, Sep. 13, 14:00 - 15:30

Critical Reading and Writing II - Summarizing and Contextualization

This class focuses on the demands to understand academic texts in a complex manner. It emphasizes the importance of understanding main ideas and meaning in a text and also discusses the need to situate any given text within a broader context. There is an in class writing task to summarize a text, followed by a peer review and group discussion.

Assignment : Students prepare a short evaluation of a text based on their own critical reading.

Reading : Bhagwati Jagdish “Coping with Antiglobalization: A Trilogy of Discontents” Foreign Affairs Vol. 81 No.1, January/February 2002

Class 4. Fri, Sep. 13, 15:45 - 17:14

Critical Reading and Writing III - Evaluating Arguments

In this class, students will peer review each other’s evaluations of the text by Bhagwati. This will be followed by a group discussion in which the text will be critically analysed.

Assignment : Critical essay I on Bhagwati’s text - 900 words.

Reading : “Writing a Critique” Center for Academic Writing, CEU, Graduate Class Reader, 2019

Week 3 (Mon, Sep. 16 - Fri, Sep. 20)

Mandatory consultations on the critical essay

1 hour consultation sessions via Skype to be scheduled individually - the instructor will get in touch with you by email 2 weeks in advance, to ask you to sign up for a consultation.

Week 6 (Mon, Oct. 7 - Fri, Oct. 11)

Class 5. Tue, Oct. 8, 15:45 - 17:15

Micro Level Structuring

This class focuses on structuring an academic paper on the micro level. The focus will be on the cohesion within paragraphs and the connection between them when developing argumentation.

Reading: “Developing Argument in Academic Papers”, Center for Academic Writing, CEU, Graduate Class Reader, 2019

Class 6. Fri, Oct. 11, 14:00 - 15:30

Incorporating Sources I



Using the work of others in academic papers is the focus of this class. How to paraphrase, summarize, choose when to quote.

Reading : “Using the Work of Other Authors in Your Writing”, Center for Academic Writing, CEU, Graduate Class Reader, 2019

Class 7. Fri, Oct. 11, 15:45 - 17:15

Incorporating Sources II

Students will examine examples of CEU students’ work in order to determine what is an appropriate use of sources.

Reading : “Central European University's Policy on Plagiarism”, CEU Official Document P-1405-1

Assignment 2 - Critical Essay II Incorporating Sources Version 1- 1200 words. Deadline 28th.

Individual Study Week - Week 9 (Mon, Nov 4 - Fri, Nov 15)

Mandatory consultation on critical essay

1 hour consultation sessions via Skype to be scheduled individually - the instructor will get in touch with you by email in advance, to ask you to sign up for a consultation.

Week 11 (Mon, Nov. 18 - Fri, Nov. 22)

Class 8. Fri, Nov. 22, 09:00 - 10:30

Structuring and Argumentation I

The class will primarily look at how to develop a structured and focused introduction. This will include how to situate a paper and develop a clear thesis statement.

Reading : “Introduction to Research Papers”, Center for Academic Writing, CEU, Graduate Class Reader, 2019

Class 9. Fri, Nov. 22, 10:45 - 12:15

Structuring and Argumentation II

This class will develop the themes of the previous class and focus on how to write an effective conclusion.



Week 15 (Mon, Dec. 15 - Fri, Dec. 20)

Class 10. Mon, Dec. 16, 14:00 - 15:30

Structuring Longer Papers

This class will look at examples of longer papers across the disciplines the OLive-Plus students wish to study.

Reading : “Writing Research Papers”, Center for Academic Writing, CEU, Graduate Class Reader, 2019

Class 11. Tue, Dec. 17, 14:00 - 15:30

Workshop on Papers for OLive-Plus courses

In this class, students will present a draft for one of the papers they have to submit at the end of the semester. Peer feedback will be given.

Class 12. Wed, Dec. 18, 11:00 - 12:30

Presentations Skills

In this class, what makes a good academic presentation will be discussed.