

Academic Writing

Code:	W-114
Term:	Fall 2020
ECTS credits:	6
Lessons per week:	90 + 90 min
Language:	English
Instructor:	Tor Lindbloom, MA
Form of study:	seminar/lecture

Email: lindbloom@bisla.sk

Office Hours: TBA

Moodle Site: <http://kabinet.bisla.sk/moodle/>

Prerequisites

All students are required to take the placement test and will be divided into two sections accordingly.

Course Description

This compulsory first-year writing course aims to prepare students for the study requirements in their other courses. Academic writing is a set of practices for participating in a conversation with others. Through frequent practice and study of writing, W-114 introduces students to the conventions of this conversation.

Members of the class will practice using writing to develop, refine, and communicate ideas in academic contexts (especially in Political Science). Writing in this course is considered a process as much as, if not more than, the completion of a finished product. Students should expect to produce drafts, revise, edit and proofread. In addition, students will share their writing with others in the class, both giving and receiving important feedback on each other's work.

Students will work as individuals, but also in groups. Thus, it is important that students be active participants in this course, making positive contributions to activities, assignments and discussions.

Course Objectives

- Develop critical reading and critical thinking skills.
- Become adept in the techniques of argumentation and persuasive writing so that ideas are fully explained, assertions are supported and claims are credible.

- Master the basic structure of academic essays: paragraphing, transitions, research question/thesis, introductions and conclusions.
- Learn the basics of paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as citing sources in APA.
- Consistently follow standards of written, edited English at a proper level of formality.

Required Readings

All readings will be provided to students through moodle or given in class. Readings will come from appropriate news sources on current events. Extracts will also be taken from the following textbooks, and perhaps others:

Graff, G., & Birkenstein, C. (2018). *They Say/I Say*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (1999). *Writing Academic English*. White Plains, NY: Longman.

Online resources include:

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n. d.). Retrieved from https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

The Writing Center: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Tips & Tools. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/>

Contents

A tentative list of the topics and skills covered in the course follows. It is, of course, subject to change.

Week	Dates	Topics/Skills
1	14/9 + 16/9	Introduction to academic writing and paragraphing
2	21/9 + 23/9	Supporting evidence and body paragraphs
3	28/9 + 30/9	Introductions and conclusions
4	5/10 + 7/10	Transitions and concessions
5	12/10 + 14/10	The essay
6	19/10 + 21/10	Punctuation and commas
7	26/10 + 28/10	Organising essay exams
8	2/11 + 4/11	READING WEEK
9	9/11 + 11/11	Critical reading, summarising and paraphrasing
10	16/11 + 18/11	Critical reading, summarising and paraphrasing
11	23/11 + 25/11	Citing sources using APA
12	30/11 + 2/12	Summary critique
13	7/12 + 9/12	Analysing political cartoons
14	14/12 + 16/12	Political cartoon presentations

Evaluation Criteria

20% of the student's grade is based on participation (including attendance, preparation, being active in class, small in-class assignments, peer reviews and a presentation)

80% is based on the written assignments, using a total point system.

All written assignments (including various drafts) are required. Late assignments will be treated as follows:

For all assignments turned in to me, a 10% deduction of points will be made for the first two days late. 20% for days 3-5. 50% for days 6-10. Assignments turned in more than 10 days late will no longer be accepted. The following special rules also apply.

First drafts: Not bringing a first draft on the day it will be reviewed by your classmates will cost you participation points, as well as negatively affecting the dynamics of your group. It will also deprive you of the valuable feedback of your peers, which will (more than likely) negatively affect your grade on further drafts.

Revised drafts: I cannot guarantee that I will have the time (or energy or willingness) to comment on late revised drafts. If you submit a revised draft late, you may not get feedback from me before the final draft of your paper is due.

In-class assignments: Small in-class assignments cannot be made up later, even if you have a good excuse for your absence. For larger assignments (I plan an in-class essay and a presentation), the absence must be excused and arrangements made with me the lesson before the day of the absence (if it is planned), or immediately upon arrival back in school if it was unplanned (such as in the case of illness).

Course Evaluation (%)

A – excellent:	100-90%,
B – very good:	89-80%,
C – good:	79-70%,
D – satisfactory:	69-60%,
E – sufficient:	59-51%,
Fx – fail:	50-0%.

Passing a course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 lessons.