

ACADEMIC WRITING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS OF ECONOMICS
2018 WINTER COURSE SYLLABUS
TOM ROONEY, CENTER FOR ACADEMIC WRITING

Aims of the Course

The aim of this course is to help you further 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 the other skills you will need to complete your graduate level work in English.

During the course, you will:

- become more familiar with the genres of and further enhance the skills related to critical and research-based writing;
- acquire a better awareness of and ability to use effectively the discourse patterns of academic English;
- improve your critical writing 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; and
- gain more confidence in speaking.

Learning Outcomes

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

- identify the typical purposes, components and features of various genres in the discipline;
- better structure an academic paper at the macro and micro level;
- understand the importance of critical writing;
- think and write more clearly and incisively;
- use a variety of skills and approaches 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; and
- edit and refine your own written work.

Pre-Reading Assignments

Most of the reading and in-class materials you need for this course are included in this reader; please bring it every day. It includes a number of reading assignments in preparation for the classes, and it is important that you complete these readings before each class because they contain essential information that will be needed in that lesson. Other materials needed for the course will be handed out in class. This material will mostly be discipline specific texts, which you will analyze to get further insight into the specific aspect being addressed in that class. The reader also contains general reference information that you will need to refer to during and after the course.

Evaluation

During the course, you will have to complete one piece of writing for me as well as work on a paper for your Econometrics II course. For each piece, you will have ample opportunity to redraft, revise and improve your work, both in co-operation with peers and in consultation. I provide extensive qualitative comments during consultation, which are intended to help you in improving your writing. Academic Writing is a mandatory course and graded as Pass/Fail: you must pass the course in order to complete your degree but this grade will not affect your GPA

Deadlines

Writing Task 1: Critique of an article from an Economics journal

First draft	5 February in class
Revised draft	11 February at midnight
Consultation	Sign up for a time between 12 and 16 February
Final draft	To be determined when we meet in consultation

Writing Task 2: Research paper for Econometrics II

Proposal	4 March at midnight
First draft	11 April at midnight
Consultation	Sign up for a time between 12 and 16 April
Final draft	20 April at midnight

Course Details

1. Course Introduction

Wednesday 24 January, 11:00-12:40, Nador 11: 210

Follow-up Reading

“Introduction” (pp. 4-5) and “Course Syllabus and Outline” (pp. 6-9).

Homework for Seminar 2

Read “Keeping a Double-Entry Notebook” (p. 10) and “Background Reading on *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*” (p. 11).

Read and make a set of double-entry notes on “About *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*” by Thomas Piketty (pp. 12-16).

2. Approaches to Critical Reading and Writing

Monday 29 January, 13:30-15:10, Nador 15: 104

Follow-up Reading

“Advice from Daniel Dennett on How to Write a Critical Commentary” (p. 17).

Homework for Seminar 3

Read the two book reviews (pp. 19-22) and make notes on:

- The opening gambit (or move);
- The closing gambit (or move);
- The balance of summary and evaluation;
- The language of positive and negative evaluation;
- The number of direct quotations; and
- Anything else that strikes you as you read.

3. Critical Writing in Economics: Genre Analysis
Wednesday 31 January, 11:00-12:40, Nador 11: 210

Homework for Seminar 4

Write a first draft of your critical commentary on Thomas Piketty's article. Use Daniel Dennett's advice (p. 17) as a guide about how to structure it. The maximum word limit is 500.

Send me a copy of your draft by email before midnight on 4 February. (I will not read this first draft; it is for administrative purposes only.)

Bring three copies of the draft to the writing workshop on 5 February.

4. Writing Workshop
Monday 5 February, 13:30-15:10, Nador 13: 517

Follow-up Reading

"Micro-level Argumentation: Paragraphing" and "Transition Words and Phrases" (pp. 23-28). While the former focuses on argumentative writing the advice applies to critical writing as well.

"Consultations at CEU and the CAW Consultation Policy" (pp. 91).

"Being Critical" at the *Academic Phrasebank* (www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk).

Follow-up Writing

Revise your critique and submit it by email by midnight on 11 February.

Register at WConline (ceu.mywconline.com) and sign up for your first consultation.

Homework for Seminar 5

Read "Using the Work of Other Authors in Your Writing" (pp. 29-40).

5. How Economists Use Sources
Wednesday 7 February, 11:00-12:40, Nador 15: 202

Follow-up Writing

Examine your use of sources in your draft, and revise/correct as needed.

Follow-up Reading

"Working Habits that Work" by the Dean of the College at Princeton University (pp. 44-45).

Homework for Seminar 6

Read "The Nature of Research Writing" (pp. 46-48).

6. The Nature of Research
Wednesday 14 February, 11:00-12:40, Nador 15: 202

Follow-up Reading

"Some Terms in the Research Process and Research Paper" (p. 59).

"Writing a Research Proposal" (pp. 49-51).

"Three Proposals by Former Econometrics II Students" (pp. 54-58).

Homework for Seminar 7

Start filling out the "Research Questionnaire" (pp. 52-53). [The deadline for submitting your proposal to Prof. Weber or Prof. Muço is 4 March at midnight.]

Bring an academic paper you have written in English. It does not have to be in Economics. If you don't have one then bring your critical commentary on Piketty.

7. Techniques for Incorporating Sources into Your Work
Wednesday 21 February, 11:00-12:40, Nador 15: 202

There is no homework for Seminar 8

8. Giving an Effective Seminar Presentation
Wednesday 28 February, 11:00-12:40, Nador 15: 202

Follow-up Reading

“Giving Seminar Presentations” (pp. 62-63).

Homework for Seminar 9

Find a published, peer-reviewed, empirical research article from an economics journal that you think you will be using in your own research. Please be sure not to choose a review article, book review, comment, etc. And do not pick a working paper either, as it often is a work-in-progress. Ideally it will have been published since 2010, but something from the 2000-09 is fine. Do a search using ECONLIT, EBSCO, JSTOR and/or one of the other library databases. Ask a librarian if you need assistance.

Send me the title and either a link to the electronic version or a copy of the pdf version via email by midnight the night before class.

Read over the essay you chose before we meet. (You don't have to "know" it, but you should be familiar with the contents.)

Bring a printed copy of the essay to seminars 9 to 12.

9. Constructing a Research Article I: Titles, Abstracts and Introductions
Wednesday 7 March, 11:00-12:40, Nador 15: 202

Follow-up Reading

“Writing the Abstract” (pp. 67) and “Introductions: A ‘Formula’ for Your Econometrics Paper” (p. 70).

10. Constructing a Research Article II: Thesis Statements, Data Sections and Models
Tuesday 13 March, 11:00-12:40, Nador 15: 104

Homework for L11

Bring some results from your research for the econometrics paper. They can be in the form of a regression, table, graph, etc. Preliminary results are absolutely fine; I don't expect you to have final results by the time we meet.

If you do not have any results, then bring some from a paper you have written in the past.

11. Data Commentary
Monday 19 March, 13:30-15:10, Nador 11: 210

Follow-up Reading

“Swales and Feak on Data Commentary” and “Data Commentary: Three Examples” (pp. 77-82).

12. Constructing a Research Article III: Concluding Sections and Analysing Student Papers
Wednesday 21 March, 11:00-12:40, Nador 11: 210

Follow-up Reading

“Conclusions: A Brief Overview” (pp. 84-85).

Follow-up Writing

Write a first draft of your econometrics paper and submit it by 11 April at midnight.

Sign up for a consultation between 12 and 16 April.

Revise and submit the final draft by 20 April at midnight.