Name of Course: Introduction to Academic Writing for Quantitative Social Sciences

Lecturer: Ágnes Diós-Tóth (Center for Academic Writing)

Credits: 2 US credits and 4 ECTS credits

Mandatory course for 1st-year BA QSS students; no prerequisites

Time Period of the Course: Pre-Session Week and Fall, AY 2022-23; 11 weeks (Sep 12-Nov 23), class meets 6 times in Pre-Session Week and twice a week during the fall term

Class Times: Mondays 3.20-4.20 pm and Wednesdays 9.30-10.30 am

COURSE DESCRIPTION/AIMS:

The aim of this course is to increase students’ agency as writers by acquiring both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to produce texts for interdisciplinary academic discourses. More specifically, students will have an opportunity to practice critical thinking, reading, and writing through summarizing, analyzing, and evaluating ideas. Students will also learn how to engage with scholarly sources effectively and incorporate them into their own texts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of English academic writing
- Engage with readings critically by evaluating the various contexts (social, historical, or personal) underpinning them, and by understanding their main purpose, style, and target audience
- Effectively summarize, analyze, and evaluate various texts
- Develop independent perspectives and arguments via persuasive support and successful incorporation of research thus developing their own voice and creating a balance between their own voice and source summaries
- Produce a critique
- Practice the revision skills necessary for the accomplishment of a writing project
- Constructively critique their own and peers' writing, with an awareness of the collaborative and social aspects of the writing process
WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

The syllabus is subject to change. The updates will be announced in advance and posted on the Moodle site of the course.

The class is mainly hands-on and workshop-based, but short weekly readings or additional tasks will be assigned as well. All material will be available on the course's Moodle site or via electronic access to the CEU library.

Pre-Session Week / Day 1: INTRODUCTION

Class 1 (Mon, Sep 12): Introduction to the Course
Class 2 (Mon, Sep 12): Components of the Writing Situation

Pre-Session Week / Day 2: ENGLISH ACADEMIC WRITING

Class 3 (Tue, Sep 13): Cultural Differences in Thinking and Writing
Class 4 (Tue, Sep 13): Features of English Academic Writing

Pre-Session Week / Day 3: WRITING TO THINK

Class 5 (Wed, Sep 14): Effective Reading and Note-taking Strategies
Class 6 (Wed, Sep 14): Creating a Writing Habit

Week 1: MICRO-LEVEL STRUCTURING OF AN ACADEMIC TEXT

Class 7 (Mon, Sep 19): Paragraphing
Class 8 (Wed, Sep 21): Paragraph Coherence and Effective Topic Sentences

Week 2: MICRO-LEVEL ARGUMENTATION

Class 9 (Mon, Sep 26): Paragraph Cohesion and Quality Support
Class 10 (Wed, Sep 28): Linking Paragraphs

Week 3: A CRITICAL APPROACH TO TEXTS

Class 11 (Mon, Oct 3): The Critical Reading Process
Class 12 (Wed, Oct 5): Critical Writing – Summarizing Information
Week 4: CRITICAL WRITING

Class 13 (Mon, Oct 10): Critical Writing – Evaluating Information

Class 14 (Wed, Oct 12): Constructing a Persuasive Argument

Week 5: THE CRITIQUE

Class 15 (Mon, Oct 17): Critical Genres

Class 16 (Wed, Oct 19): The Critique

CRITIQUE DUE: End of Week 5

Weeks 6-7: USE OF SOURCES IN ACADEMIC TEXTS

Class 17 (Mon, Oct 24): Selecting Relevant Scholarly Sources

Class 18 (Wed, Nov 2): Ways of Integrating Sources into Academic Texts

Week 8: CITATION OF SOURCES

Class 19 (Mon, Nov 7): Citation Systems

Class 20 (Wed, Nov 9): Citing Sources Effectively

Week 9: PLAGIARISM

Class 21 (Mon, Nov 14): LIBRARY SESSION on Discipline-Specific Databases and Zotero

Class 22 (Wed, Nov 16): Plagiarism

CRITIQUE WITH SOURCES DUE: End of Week 9

Week 10: CONCLUSION TO THE COURSE

Class 23 (Mon, Nov 21): Editing and Revising Texts

Class 24 (Wed, Nov 23): Conclusion to Course, Discussion, and Consolidation
ASSIGNMENTS:

Essays need to adhere to CEU’s Policy on Student Plagiarism.

(1) CRITIQUE DUE: End of Week 5

DEADLINE: Sunday, Oct 23, 11:59 pm

Task: The Critique needs to respond to an assigned reading in a critical way and provide elements of summary and evaluation.

Further assignment instructions will be provided in class.

Length: 500 words

(2) CRITIQUE WITH SOURCES DUE: End of Week 9

Deadline: Sunday, Nov 20, 11:59 pm

Task: The Critique needs to engage with 3 academic sources and integrate revisions based on feedback.

Further assignment instructions will be provided in class.

Length: 800 words

ASSESSMENT:

Attendance: 10% (No more than 2 absences)

Participation: 20% (Providing Feedback to Peers, Contributing to Class Discussion, Contributing to Class Workshops by Timely Preparation)

Critique 1: 30% (Responding to the Assignment, Length and Timely Submission)

Critique 2: 40% (Responding to the Assignment, Incorporation of Sources, Incorporation of Feedback, Length and Timely Submission)

Late Submission Policy:

The mandatory written assignments – the critiques – need to be submitted on time. Late submissions will result in lowering the FINAL GRADE by ½ letter grade per each day the assignment is late.
Grading:

Essays will be evaluated according to the CEU Grading Scheme.

Percent Grade: 100-96 A 95-88 A- 87-80 B+ 79-71 B 70-63 B- 62-58 C+ 57-0 F