

BR8351 ACADEMIC WRITING AS CRAFT

Course description

Writing is the most visible of academic tasks. Writing is how we convey our ideas in theses, books and articles. At the same time, writing remains the least visible of academic tasks. We do it behind closed doors, mostly in a kind of silent dialogue with ourselves. Academic writing remains profoundly private. Writing is a source of worry and anxiety, particularly among more junior academics and doctoral students. The anxiety related to writing comes precisely because we are expected to write regularly, and do it well, with little or no formal training. This course is designed to demystify the academic writing process, make it accessible, even fun. We will do this not only by talking about writing but also by actually doing it together.

How this course works

Each week students will have some texts to review and reflect upon. We will actively discuss themes from these texts in class. During each class we'll engage in a series of further activities to explore different dimensions of writing.

Between classes students will continue with these exercises. Students will also have the opportunity to receive feedback on their own writing in progress.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course participants should be able to:

1. recognize the principles of good academic writing,
2. use various tools and techniques to become more productive writers
3. be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their own writing.
4. be able to provide valuable feedback to others
5. be able to write scholarly reviews
6. Reflect on the practical and ethical dimensions of academic publishing