

ACADEMIC SKILLS

Week 1: Introduction

Richard Nowell & Sarka Jelinek Gmitterkova

Agenda

Structure

Introductions and Course Overview

Discussion: Producing Essays

Targeted Learning Outcome

Course purpose, structure, methods, assessments, and expectations.

Content Overview

Organization: 12 x 90-minute Seminars (more on this shortly)

Instructors: Sarka and Richard!

Focus: Helping you to produce high-impact assessments

Approaches: Discussion, self-reflection, and practice

Goals: Transferable frameworks and skills for your degree

Purpose: To make research and delivery less intimidating

Objectives

Purpose: Familiarize students with continental essay protocols

Assessment: 6-8-page original research paper

Grading: A-F

Due Date: Midnight CET Sunday 14 January 2024.

Research: A topic of your choosing relevant to your degree program

Sources: Use a wide range of secondary sources (many available online)

Presentation: Paragraphed, 12 Font Times New Roman, 1.5 or 2 spaced

Areas of Assessment

1. A topic of appropriate breadth to showcase original analysis
2. Evidence of a suitable number of well-chosen primary sources
3. Evidence of a suitable number of well-chosen secondary sources
4. Evidence of original thinking and critical analysis
5. Evidence of a clear argumentation
6. Evidence of argument/evidence based organization of the paper
7. Evidence of reader-friendly writing
8. Evidence of thorough and accurate referencing

Course Content

Project Development Seminars (x 3)

“Topics”, “Primary Sources”, and “Secondary Sources”

Project Execution Seminars (x 2)

“Arguments” and “Organization”

Project Presentation Seminars (x2)

“Writing” and “Referencing”

Analysis Refresher Seminars (x 2)

Work in Progress Seminars (x2)

Midway through, and towards the end of the course

Course Structure

Week	Date	Topic	Instructor
1	21.09.23	Introduction	Richard
2	28.09.23	NO CLASS – NATIONAL HOLIDAY	
3	05.10.23	Project Development Seminar I: Topics	Richard
4	12.10.23	Project Development Seminar II: Primary Sources	Sarka
5	19.10.23	Project Development Seminar III: Secondary Sources	Sarka
6	26.10.23	Analysis Refresher Seminar I	Richard
7	02.11.23	Work-in-Progress Seminar I	Sarka
8	09.11.23	Project Execution Seminar I: Arguments	Richard
9	16.11.23	NO CLASS – READING WEEK	
10	23.11.23	Analysis Refresher Seminar II	Sarka
11	30.11.23	Project Execution Seminar II: Organization	Nowell
12	07.12.23	Work-in-Progress Seminar II	Sarka
13	14.12.23	Project Presentation Seminar I: Writing	Nowell
14	21.12.23	Project Presentation Seminar II: Referencing	Sarka

How We Write and Research

What is your history of essay writing?

How did you go about producing your most recent essay?

What are the advantages of your approach?

What are the challenges of doing this your way?

What do you like most about essay writing?

What do you like least?

Take-Aways

The ways we tend to approach the production of academic outputs tend to increase pressure and decrease the quality of our work

Folks tend to approach this part of academic life as a series of private events, wherein they labor in isolation to produce a single manuscript

To maximize the quality of our academic outputs – and our grades – we may wish to rethink this approach by revising these approaches a little

The first step in so doing may be to replace private-events with semi-public processes, wherein we talk through our ideas and redraft work

Self-tailoring this approach, however, is predicated on having a good general sense about what we want to write about. Which brings us to ...

Next Time

Date: 5 October

Instructor: Richard

Topic: Project Development Seminar 1: Topics

Outcome: An academically viable & manageable research topic

Preparation: Think of a topic relevant to your degree program that interests you, which may form the basis of your research paper.