

COURSE SYLLABUS

Practical Thesis Planning Seminar

Instructor: Szabolcs Pogonyi, Assistant Profesor
Nationalism Studies Program
Central European University
Fall and Winter Semester, 2016-2017
Course level: MA
2 Credits (# 4 ECTS Credits)

Course Description

Aim of the course

The goal of this course is to develop students' confidence and competence as a writer in an academic context. To this end, the course cultivates the skills necessary for writing well-organized, logically sound, and rhetorically effective papers. Organizational strategies, stylistic finesse, revision techniques, analysis of source material, and conventions of citation and attribution are discussed and studied. Practical research and thesis writing issues (including sources, citations, time management, supervision, revisions) are dealt with in the framework of the academic writing course. Students registering for this course are requested to submit papers and thesis proposals which will be discussed in the seminars. A special attention is given to thesis materials including the proposal, the outline, the annotated bibliography and the literature review. The course also focuses on stylistic issues with the help of The Bedford Handbook and occasional quizzes. In addition, students learn to use the Zotero open-source reference and bibliography management software which they are expected to use throughout their studies at the Nationalism Studies Program.

Learning Outcomes

The course will help students to write essays with a strong, clear thesis, body paragraphs, transitions, and a conclusion. During the classes, a special emphasis will be given to improve critical reading skills. The course will also provide students with strategies for generating sound research proposals. The seminar will help students to develop revision strategies and methods that help them constructing more coherent arguments. During the classes, students will familiarize with various research tools, including electronic databases and reference management software. The course will also help students to avoid plagiarism.

Course Requirements

Papers: The secret to good writing is frequent writing. Students will get in-class and take-home assignments related to the goals of this course, while incorporating writing assignments from other courses as well.

Grammatical and stylistic exercises: Occasional exercises from The Bedford Handbook will be assigned. The exercises will focus on problem areas for native as well as non-native speakers.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory

The course is pass/fail.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<https://nationalism.ceu.edu/academic-calendar-and-schedules>