



Academic Year 2023-2024

Syllabus

"How to Develop and Write an Academic Paper"

Prof. Mattia Maglione

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

### Course Description

This course is designed to introduce the students to academic writing and basic research essay writing. The course outlines the basic principles, rhetorical modes, and developments of canonical essays along with the characteristics of proper grammatical structures. Throughout the twenty contact hours, students will be able to further engage with each step of academic writing from pre-writing and outlining to principles of research methodologies and argumentative strategies. The course will challenge the students to broaden research questions, encouraging them to explore their intended thesis statement and driving research questions coherently within their academic career. Finally, the course will cover different types of academic essays, showing how to write each, using, and challenging the fixed models of essay writing to the advantage of the essay topic.

### Teaching Method

The course is based on 2h/3h sessions. Lectures will blend essay theory and practicing and forging academic writing. Students are always encouraged to actively participate.

### Session Calendar

8/09 11-13

15/09 11-13

22/09 10-13

29/09 10-13

6/10 10-13

13/10 11-13

20/10 11-13

27/10 11-13

17/11 11-13

### Topics

#### WEEK 1

- Course introduction. The ecosystem of the essay. What is an essay?
- The art of the essay: Basic form and historical development. Why is it important?
- Orality vs writing research.
- Power of language + words as sings.
- Research question and thesis and intro to structure.

#### WEEK 2

- Rules, structure, and form of the academic paragraph.
- The act of *prewriting* and the *writing process*.
- Unity and coherence: the five body and the five body by extension.
- Ethics.

### **WEEK 3**

- Research methods: from personal narrative to process essays and taxonomies and the 'economics of an essay'.

### **WEEK 4**

- Dilemma and ambivalence. Compare and contrast and cause-effect relationships.
- Addressing continuity within research.

### **WEEK 5**

- Presenting research, bibliographies, annotations styles and citation.
- Student writing 1.

### **WEEK 6**

- Argumentative strategies, editing and polishing.
- Student writing 2.

### **WEEK 7**

- Argumentative strategies, editing and polishing (continued). Re-establishing the controlling idea.
- Dissecting the essays of others.

### **WEEK 8 & 9**

- Dissecting the essays of others (continued). + Final recap.

### **Main objectives**

Course objectives are articulated for each student to:

- Perceive the principles of an academic essay in all its forms.
- Acquire the knowledge to expose and present their paper according to grammatical properness.
- Exemplify collective and individual research through practical and effective paragraphs.
- Focus on the development of logical division within a written academic text.
- Plan, pre-write and outline larger topics controversial and/ambivalent topics.
- Filter and (un)filter research bias in writing.
- Gain a clear and well-rounded knowledge of the necessary coherence of research writing.
- Understand the ethical and moral implications of research.
- Be able to focus on argumentative rhetoric.
- Be able to recognize where to polish, edit and refine writing.
- Be able to distinguish types of essays within canonical forms.
- Be able to evaluate sources.
- Consider the relationship within pieces of scholarship and reporting them into an essay.
- Write an annotated bibliography.
- Write a complete academic paper.

**Required and Suggested Textbooks and Materials**  
(Books in *italics* are required for the course)

<b>Book Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>ISBN number</b>
<i>Writing Academic English</i>	<i>Ann Hogue, Oshima A.</i>	<i>Longman/Pearson</i>	<i>0131523597</i>
Models for Writers	Alfred Rosa, Paul Eschholz	Bedford	978-0312552015
How to Write a Thesis	Umberto Eco	MIT Press	978-0262328760
Intimations	Zadie Smith	Penguin	978-0241492383
The Pleasure of Finding Things Out	Richard Feynman	Perseus	0-7382-0108-1

\*editions may be subject to change over time, for the purpose of this course please refer to the most recent editions of each book.

**Assessment and final exam credit**

This course carries **3 CFU**. Credits will be assessed upon completion and passing of the final exam. Exam dates will be issued during the semester.

**Office hours**

Students can interact with the professor after each lecture. For extended meetings students must contact the professor by email to arrange an appointment: [mattia.maglione@johncabot.edu](mailto:mattia.maglione@johncabot.edu).