**Academic Writing II**

**Code:** W-124

**Term:** Spring 2020

**ECTS credits:** 6

**Lessons per week:** 90 + 90 min

**Language:** English

**Instructor:** Tor Lindbloom, MA

**Form of study:** seminar/lecture

**Email:** [**lindbloom@bisla.sk**](mailto:lindbloom@bisla.sk)

**Office Hours: TBA (as needed)**

**Moodle Site:** <http://kabinet.bisla.sk/moodle/>

# Prerequisites

Academic Writing I, or the instructor's approval.

**Course Description**

This continuation of the compulsory first-year writing course aims to support students in writing for their other courses. Academic writing is a set of practices for participating in a conversation with others. Through frequent practice and study of writing, W-124 will make students more familiar with and adept at using the conventions of this conversation. Since the basics of English writing structure will have been introduced in Academic Writing I (W-114), Academic Writing II will focus more on the improvement of these skills in various types of academic papers and essays.

Members of the class will practice using writing to develop, refine, and communicate ideas in academic contexts (especially in Political Science). Writing in this course is considered a process as much as, if not more than, the completion of a finished product. Students should expect to produce drafts, revise, edit and proofread. In addition, students will share their writing with others in the class, both giving and receiving important feedback on each other’s work.

Students will work as individuals, but also in groups. Thus, it is important that students be active participants in this course, making positive contributions to activities, assignments and discussions.

**Course Objectives**

* Continue to develop critical reading and critical thinking skills.
* Become more adept in the techniques of argumentation and persuasive writing so that ideas are fully explained, assertions are supported and claims are credible.
* Maintaining and improving upon the following skills introduced in W-114: paragraphing, transitions, research question/thesis, introductions and conclusions. paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as citing sources in APA.
* Consistently follow standards of written, edited English at a proper level of formality.

**Required Readings**

All readings will be provided to students through moodle or given in class. Readings will come from academic publications and appropriate news sources on current events. Students will continue to refer to extracts from the following textbook

Graff, G., & Birkenstein, C. (2018). *They Say/I Say.* New York: W. W. Norton.

as well as the OWL Purdue website.

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n. d.). Retrieved from <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html>

Additional helpful information can be found at:

The Writing Center: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Tips & Tools. (n.d.) Retrieved from https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/

**Contents**

A tentative list of the topics and skills covered in the course follows. It is, of course, subject to change.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Dates** | **Topics/Skills/Assignments** |
| 1 | 24/2 + 26/2 | Introduction to political socialisation assignment |
| 2 | 2/3 + 4/3 | Readings in political socialisation |
| 3 | 9/3 + 11/3 | Final preparations for political socialisation assignment |
| 4 | 16/3 + 18/3 | Film |
| 5 | 23/3 + 25/3 | Political parties assignment research |
| 6 | 30/3 + 1/4 | Political parties assignment research |
| 7 | 6/4 + 8/4 | Political parties assignment research/in-class essay |
| 8 | 13/4 + 15/4 | READING WEEK |
| 9 | 20/4 + 22/4 | Political socialisation assignment |
| 10 | 27/4 + 29/4 | Political socialisation assignment |
| 11 | 4/5 + 6/5 | Political parties assignment |
| 12 | 11/5 + 13/5 | Political parties assignment |
| 13 | 18/5 + 20/5 | Political socialisation assignment |
| 14 | 25/5 + 27/5 | Website assignment |
| 15 | 1/6 + 3/6 | Website assignment/presentations |

**Evaluation Criteria**

20% of the student’s grade is based on participation (including attendance, preparation, being active in class, small in-class assignments and peer reviews)

80% is based on the written assignments (but may also include presentations), using a total point system.

All written assignments (including various drafts) are required. Late assignments will be treated as follows:

For all assignments turned in to me, a 10% deduction of points will be made for the first two days late. 20% for days 3-5. 50% for days 5-10. Assignments turned in more than 10 days late will no longer be accepted. The following special rules also apply.

**First drafts:** Not bringing a first draft on the day it will be reviewed by your classmates will cost you participation points, as well as negatively affecting the dynamics of your group. It will also deprive you of the valuable feedback of your peers, which will (more than likely) negatively affect your grade on further drafts.

**Revised drafts:** I cannot guarantee that I will have the time (or energy or willingness) to comment on late revised drafts. If you submit a revised draft late, you may not get feedback from me before the final draft of your paper is due.

**In-class assignments:** Small in-class assignments cannot be made up later, even if you have a good excuse for your absence. For larger assignments (I plan an in-class essay and a presentation), the absence must be excused and arrangements made with me the lesson before the day of the absence (if it is planned), or immediately upon arrival back in school if it was unplanned (such as in the case of illness).

# Course Evaluation (%)

A – excellent: 100-90%,

B – very good: 89-80%,

C – good: 79-70%,

D – satisfactory: 69-60%,

E – sufficient: 59-51%,

Fx – fail: 50-0%.

Passing a course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 lessons.