Academic Writing
GENS 5130, 2 Credits
2015-16: Winter semester syllabus

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Class time: TBA
Place: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Objective
This course is designed to help students develop the academic research and writing skills they will need to complete the thesis and other requirements for the MA degree. The fall semester, led by instructors from the Center for Academic Writing, focuses on technical writing skills including organization of arguments, critical reading, quoting sources and avoiding plagiarism. The second half of the course, which extends into the winter semester, incorporates assignments geared towards the development of the thesis topic, situating research within existing scholarship, and preparing for the final stages of thesis research and writing. Students will learn critical research tools in three Archival Laboratory Sessions at OSA.

Grading
This course will be evaluated as Pass or Fail. To pass you must complete all assignments and attend all classes (or have a legitimate, documented excuse). As this is a mandatory course (2 credit for the whole academic year), you must pass it in order to complete the program!

Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1
Class (all groups together): Thesis Proposals
Handout: Thesis proposal guidelines
Sample proposals will be provided via email

Weeks 2-3
Consultations with supervisors, working on Thesis Proposals. Archival Laboratory meetings on authenticity, forgery and ethics of doing research at OSA.

Due January xx: Thesis proposal draft
(to your supervisor in the form s/he prefers)

Week 4-5
Consultations with supervisors, working on Thesis Proposals

Week 6
Class (all groups together): Literature reviews and bibliographies
Handout: writing about scholarly literature

Due February 16 (by 4pm): Final Thesis Proposal
(in hard copy to the Gender office– and to your supervisor)
Week 7  Researching and working on literature reviews, consultations

**February 23 (by noon): deadline for short research grants**
(to the main office)
This is limited funding for thesis research expenses, especially travel
All MA students are eligible but 2-year students may only apply once

Week 7-8  **Literature review workshop** (in groups with Writing Center instructors)
*Bring a printed draft of your literature review*

Week 9  Continue working on literature reviews, consultations (meeting at OSA)

Week 10  **Class (all groups together): Peer groups and final issues**
Thesis structure, tables of contents, abstracts
Peer group assignments

Week 11  **Due mid March: Literature Review Assignment**
(in hard copy to my box in the department office)

Weeks 11-12  Peer group meetings

**Due Monday, April 1 by 5pm: Peer Group Written Feedback**
(to my box in the department office in hard copy and to members of your group)
*Please share the feedback you get with your supervisor*

**Important dates for the rest of the year:**

**April**  Researching and writing the thesis

2 **May**  Students must be back in Budapest

**May 5-13**  Thesis writing workshops (one complete draft thesis chapter)

**June 3**  Final thesis submission for 2-year students (second year)

**June 7**  Final thesis submission for 1-year students

**June 13-16**  MA thesis defenses

**June 25**  **Graduation!**