# Academic Writing for Gender Studies - Fall Term 2017 (GENS 5041)

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## Aims of the Course

The course seeks to help you develop as a writer within the English-speaking academic community by raising awareness of, practicing, and reflecting upon the conventions of written texts. As well as an introduction to critical thinking and critique writing, the course will also develop your awareness of conventions of research-based academic writing, both regarding structural elements such as the introduction, literature review and conclusion, and also how to use the work of other authors appropriately in your work. You will also have the chance to reflect on how these conventions influence the development of your own voice. In the fall we will cover presentation skills, and critical writing, with a special focus on critiques, reaction papers and micro and macro-level argumentation for term papers. The winter session will focus on the thesis writing process with a workshop on literature reviews.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to:

* Understand the concept of genres and their features with particular focus on critiques and research papers
* Draft, edit and refine your own critique including context, summary and evaluation
* Utilize different reading and presentation skills appropriate for graduate level
* Go through the research process and be able to structure your research papers
* Incorporate the work of other authors into your own writing in keeping with the requirements of English academic practice
* Develop your writing process through generating ideas, peer evaluation and individual writing consultations
* Expand and improve your ability to work independently by exploring new strategies for learning
* Draft a literature review for your thesis

## Timetable & Registration

The course starts with three classes in the pre-session and continues through the Fall Semester. Please see your pre-session schedule for days and times of class or ask your instructor to explain when classes are held. The Fall Semester schedule for Writing Center classes will be included in your departmental schedule. The course number for this course is GENS 5041.

## Reading Assignments

Most of the reading and in-class materials you need for this course are included in the first section of this Study Packet. These include a number of reading assignments in preparation for the classes. It is important that you *complete the assigned reading before each class* because they contain essential information that will be needed in that lesson, and if some students do not have this information, a great deal of everyone’s time will be wasted. Other materials for the course will be handed out in class. This will mostly be discipline specific texts you will analyse to get further insight into the issues addressed in that class.

## Assessment

During the course, you will have to complete one piece of writing. You will have ample opportunity to redraft, revise and improve your work, both in co-operation with peers and in consultation with a Writing Center instructor. We provide extensive qualitative comments during consultation and when relevant annotations on your paper which are intended to help you in improving your writing. You will also be expected to attend two mandatory consultations on papers for your department. One of these must be for a final paper. The class is for credit and graded pass/fail.

# Course Outline

* First Session: Introduction to Academic Writing

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| Section A — Critical Reading Task: The CritiqueAims of the section:This section will introduce you to critical reading as a process of evaluating the context and purpose of written texts, and enable you to apply the insights gained from this process to the production of a written critique as an example of such a text.* Critical Reading I – Identifying Key Ideas
* Critical Reading II – Evaluating a Text
* Genres of Critical Writing – Writing the Critique
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| Section B — Research Based WritingAims of the section:In this part of the course you will develop an awareness of features of the genre of research-based academic writing. You will also become familiar with the conventions of using the work of other authors in English academic discourse, and reflect on how these influence the development of your own voice. You will have the opportunity to apply these skills with the supervision and guidance of your Writing Center instructor to a paper that you are writing for your department.* Micro-Level Argumentation
* Reading Skills
* Making Decisions about Style
* Using Sources: Voice and Authority – Incorporating Sources in your Work and Citation Styles
* The Nature of Research
* Introductions and Conclusions: Analysis and Practice in an Academic Environment
* Structuring your research papers: The use of meta-discourse
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There will also be mandatory library and OSA tutorials organized by your department and there may be extra classes on making presentations.