# Course Title: Advanced Academic Writing Seminar for PhD students in Gender Studies

# Course Instructor: Andrea Kirchknopf (PhD), Center for Academic Writing

# Course Credits: 2

# Course Type: PhD elective

### Aims and Objectives

The aim of this course is to provide students from the 2nd year of their studies onwards with the skills necessary for completing a successful Gender dissertation in a timely fashion and to help students develop writing skills that they can use after the completion of their studies.

### Learning Outcomes

After participating in class discussions and completing their assignments, students will be able to:

* Plan and manage their research more smoothly
* Anticipate possible obstacles in the writing process
* Refine their Title, Abstract and Table of Contents
* Critically reflect on their own and others’ writing and provide constructive criticism on their peers’ dissertation projects
* Produce and maintain their Rolling Synopsis
* Structure their whole dissertation and individual chapters in a logical and coherent manner
* Write a coherent Dissertation Chapter
* Produce clear and concise texts

### Requirements

This course is for pass/fail and yields a total of 2 credits as a PhD elective in the Gender Studies program upon its completion. To receive a pass, students are required to attend sessions, complete and submit home assignments, participate in writing groups, work on drafts of their chapters and attend 2-3 consultations with their course instructor. During the course students are expected to complete tasks designed to help them improve their text and at the end of the course submit a fully revised version of it to their supervisors. In order to receive individual help, students are required to attend 2-3 consultations with their course instructor on their papers and make changes to their texts based on the outcomes of the consultations.

### Schedule and Structure

The first meeting will be in the first week of the term (week of September 19th). Consecutive meetings will be scheduled depending on the task given but you can count with one meeting per week either in a seminar format or in your assigned writing groups. The length of the sessions is again task-dependent but not longer than two hours per occasion. There will be approximately 6-7 class sessions, 2-3 writing group meetings and 2-3 individual consultations.

### Topics Covered

* Planning your research: Overview of your Studies, becoming aware of your Writing Process, Time Management, Strategizing, developing a Writing Portfolio
* Writer’s Blocks and coping strategies
* Title, Abstract, Table of Contents
* Working in Writing Groups
* Progress Report, Rolling Synopsis, mapping the dissertation as a whole (Macro-Structure)
* Organizing a Dissertation Chapter, Function Outline of Chapter (Micro-Structure)
* Writing clearly: issues of Style; Editing and Proofreading your text
* Presenting dissertation sections at conferences and Publishing the dissertation

**Assessment:** 2-3 mandatory consultations on the Dissertation Chapter with course instructor, handing in a fully revised text to supervisor

This syllabus is subject to change.