

**Academic writing and publishing, 7.5 credits (TUR012F)**

**April-June 2024**

**Study guide and course schedule**

**Course description**

Developing the skills and ability required to write and publish academic texts in English is essential for scientific researchers. This is particularly important with respect to the idea of “publish or perish”, i.e., the pressure to publish academic work in order to succeed in an academic career. Moreover, as the rate of research output increases globally, the need to communicate internationally in an impactful way is paramount.

There are many challenges related to communicating and publishing scientific research that require the attention of all scholars, not just PhD students, in order to achieve academic excellence. These challenges relate not only to the actual task of conducting the research, but also in finding the most suitable way to communicate the scientific problem and argument (e.g., the style and language used), as well as selecting an outlet to present the findings and conclusions. Further challenges relate to the publication process in terms of selecting appropriate target journals, following author guidelines and communicating with editors, reviewers and publishers.

The aim of this course is to develop a range of skills and abilities related to writing and publishing academic texts in English in order to facilitate publication in international peer-reviewed journals and books. The course will cover traditions and scholarship across multiple disciplines within the broader context of the human sciences. In the course, we will cover writing for various types of publications such as scientific articles (empirical, discussion/opinion, review papers), book chapters, conference papers and briefly touch upon popular science reports. An introduction to and insights into the publication and review processes will also be covered.

After completing this course the student is expected to be able to:

- present research confidently in writing and in dialogue with the international academic community;

- understand academic standards and ethical issues within different areas of specialization;

- navigate the publication process within different fields of specialization and understand how to respond to peer-feedback;

- make informed choices relating to publication opportunities in terms of different forms of review and publication processes, requirements and guidelines associated with different outlets;

- demonstrate relevant knowledge of bibliometric aspects of publishing.

The course is offered within the human sciences faculty at Mid Sweden University on campus in Östersund and/or Sundsvall during April-June 2024. The complete schedule appears below and include lecture presentations, seminars, workshops and student presentations. During the final seminar in May 2024 students will present and discuss their written texts in a peer-review process whereby they each receive comments from another student. Participation is required for all dates in the schedule.

The required and reference course literature texts are listed below. We advise students to independently read and use the literature throughout the course.

**Schedule spring 2024**

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Session title** | **Instructor** | **Location** |
| 25th of March | 13.15-17 | **Lectures**  **Introduction**: Course overview & planning  **Publishing:** Writing rituals, strategies and text styles, contacting editors/publishers and cover letters | Maria Lexhagen  Dimitri Ioannides | Room: |
| 26th of March | 9.15-12; 13.15-16 | **Lecture and Exercises**  **Academic English writing:** Rhetorical aspects and writing exercise | Dimitri Ioannides | Room: |
| 9th of April | 9.15-12 | **Lecture, workshop, seminar**  **Academic English writing:**  Introduction: The Genre (papers, monograph, kappa,) or syncopating your experience against the beat of #this is normal in academic writing. What do you already know? Discussion session | Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson | Room: |
| 10th of April | 10.15-12, 13.15-15 | **Bibliometric aspects of publishing**  **Workshop 1:** Systematic literature search/information retrieval; reference management  **Workshop 2:**  DiVA, Open Access, bibliometric analysis, Publons | Maria von Essen, Anders Danielsson | WS 1: G3217, Östersund  WS 2: G3217, Östersund |
| 11th of April | 10.15-12.00 | **Lecture/exercise**  **Experiences from writing and publishing**  (empirical/consensus/opinion/editorial/literature review papers and popular science reports)  NOTE! This session is linked to the session the day after with some tasks for participants to work on in groups. | Kerry McGawley | Room: xx |
| 12th of April | 13.15-15.00 | **Seminar/exercise**  **Experiences from writing and publishing**  (empirical/consensus/opinion/editorial/literature review papers and popular science reports) | Kerry McGawley | Room: xx |
| 16th of April | 9.15-12.00 | **Lecture, workshop, seminar**  **Academic English writing:**  Good examples. Present your own choice of a good article and point out its strengths. Why, in your opinion, is this good writing? Give one or two examples of what you mean. | Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson | Room: |
| 17th of April | 09.15-12.00 | **Lecture, workshop, seminar**  **Academic English writing:**  **Workshop I**. Paragraphs in your own sample text. | Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson | Room: |
| 23rd of April | 9.15-12.00 | **Lecture, workshop, seminar**  **Academic English writing:**  **Workshop II**. Coherence & Cohesion in your own sample text. | Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson | Room: |
| 13th of May | 10.15-12 & 13.15-16 | **Lecture & exercise**  **Reviews and reviewer comments**  Doing reviews | Dimitri Ioannides Maria Lexhagen | Room: |
| 14th of May | 9.15-12 | **Lecture & exercise**  **Reviews and reviewer comments**  Responding to reviews | Dimitri Ioannides Maria Lexhagen | Room |
| 16th of May | 16.00 | **Submit manuscript** | Maria Lexhagen, Dimitri Ioannides, Charlotta Palmstierna-Einarsson, Kerry McGawley + PhD student reviewer | e-mail |
| 23rd of May | 17.00 | **Submit review** | Maria Lexhagen, Dimitri Ioannides, Charlotta Palmstierna-Einarsson, Kerry McGawley +manuscript author | e-mail |
| 30th of May | 9.15-12; 13.15-16 | **Final seminar**: Student presentations of course assignment  **Course evaluation** | Maria Lexhagen  Kerry McGawley (via Zoom)  Dimitri Ioannides  Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson | Room |
| 31st of May  This date only applies if we need extra time | 9.15-12 | **Final seminar**: Student presentations of course assignment  **Course evaluation** | Maria Lexhagen  Kerry McGawley (via Zoom)  Dimitri Ioannides  Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson | Room |

**Guidelines & instructions for required assignments**

Students are required to participate in all scheduled lectures, workshops and seminars. Also, completion of the following assignments is required in order to obtain the course credits:

***Written assignment and final seminar:***

Each student must write **a complete draft manuscript** for a scientific paper for a conference or a journal, or book/monograph chapter, within their own area of research. The length of the manuscript should be in accordance with typical journals/books/conferences in your field and formatting according to real author guidelines for a specific target journal/book/conference. **In addition to this main task**, the student should also: **1)** **write a review** of another student’s manuscript using criteria for evaluation appropriate for the type of manuscript; **2)** **write a cover letter** to the editor of the targeted journal/book editor/-s/conference organizers/supervisor/-s for the manuscript; **3)** **include in the final seminar presentation a description** of the entire imaginary or real publication process including a justification for the choice of outlet, the target audience, the format, language style and structure of the text; and **4)** **include in the final seminar presentation a discussion** on 1 main strength and 1 main weakness of the manuscript as seen from an imaginary or real reviewer perspective, as well as the main challenges involved in your publication process.

In the final course seminar students are required to briefly present their manuscript. Furthermore, they should **discuss items 3 and 4 above**, as well as briefly respond to the written peer-review from a fellow student. Thereby, all students act as both authors and reviewers. The written review should be approximately 500-800 words.

Further instructions on how much time is available for the presentation of each manuscript will be given during the course and will depend upon the number of participants.

Please **send your manuscript and cover letter to the editor** to maria.lexhagen@miun.se and to the student reviewer that has been assigned to you **no later than 16th of May at 16.00**. Please send your review to maria.lexhagen@miun.se and to the author of the manuscript **no later than the 23rd of May at 16.00.**

**Key texts for the course:**

**Required Readings:**

Becker, Howard, S., *Writing for Social Scientists* *– how to start and finish your thesis, book or article*, The University of Chicago Press.

Booth, Wayne, C., Colomb, Gregory, G. & Williams Joseph, M., *The craft of research*, Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.

Becher, Tony & Trowler, Paul R., *Academic Tribes and Territories*, New York: The society for research into higher education & Open University Press.

Huff, Anne Sigismund, *Writing for scholarly publication*, ThousandOaks: Sage publications.

Hayot, Eric, *The Elements of Academic Style: Writing for the humanities,* Columbia University Press.

Swales, John, M*.* & Feak, Christina, B*., Academic Writing for Graduate Students: A Course for Nonnative Speakers of English,* University of Michigan Press.

Wallwork, Adrian, *English for writing research papers*, New York: Springer

**Optional Readings:**

Booth, Andrew, *Systematic approaches to a successful literature review*, Los Angeles: Sage.

Davis, Martha, *Scientific Papers and Presentations*, Academic Press Inc.

Gustafsson, B., Hermerén, G., & Petersson, B., *Good research practice – what is it? Views, guidelines and examples*, Vetenskapsrådets Rapportserie 2006:1.

Knight, L. V., Steinbach, T. A., & Levy, Y., Selecting an appropriate publication outlet: a comprehensive model of journal selection criteria for researchers in a broad range of academic disciplines. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 2008, 3, 59-79.

Murray, Rowena, *Writing for Academic Journals*, Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press.