

SOC 109: ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING

Credits: 2

Marks: 30

Duration: 2 hours per week

This is a practice-oriented rather than a text-oriented course. It is built around a series of graded exercises in academic reading, writing and formal presentation.

Attendance (minimum 75%) is mandatory; you must pass this course to get your degree.

The class will be divided into groups. The groups will work together for the entire semester on all exercises. Evaluation will be based on the exercises done in class.

1. Overview: How and why academic reading and writing are different.
 - a) The community of scholars and the ongoing conversation
 - b) Basic “they say—I say” format and its variations
2. Techniques for Reading Academic Texts
 - a) Pre-reading: How to get a quick overview
 - b) Identifying the structure of a text and taking texts apart
 - c) Dealing with the difficult parts of a text
 - d) Getting outside help: Searching for material, seeking help from teachers
3. Techniques for Writing Academic Texts
 - a) Building a structure: What do you want to say?
 - b) Working with blocks: Sections, paras, sentences
 - c) Borrowing material: Paraphrasing, quoting, citing
 - d) Productive ways of asking for help from teachers/tutors
4. Formal aspects of academic writing: Citation, Referencing, Plagiarism
 - a) Citation styles – attention to detail
 - b) Bibliographical conventions
 - c) Plagiarism: Definitions and strategies to pre-empt it
 - d) Paraphrasing and summarising

Reference Materials:

1. G. Graff & C. Birkenstein 2014. *They say... I say: The moves that matter in academic writing*, 3rd edition, W.W. Norton, London & New York.
2. Howard S. Becker 2007. *Writing for Social Scientists*, 2nd edition, Univ of Chicago Press, Chicago.
3. Anthony Weston 2000. *A Rule Book for Arguments*, 3rd edition, Hackett Publishing, Indianapolis, USA.
4. Eric Henderson 2015. *The Active Reader: Strategies for academic reading and writing*, Oxford Univ Press, Oxford.
5. Edward R. Tufte 2006. *The cognitive style of PowerPoint*. 2nd edition, Graphics Press, Cheshire, Connecticut, USA.
5. Various style manuals (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)