

Graduate School for Social Research, GSSR

Academic Writing and Publishing in Philosophy and Social Theory

SEMINAR 2022

This course is funded by Narodowego Centrum Badań i Rozwoju (NCBiR) for the “Humanities and Social Sciences for Society and Enterprise” programme administered by the Graduate School for Social Research.

INSTRUCTORS	dr Mikołaj Ratajczak (mikolaj.ratajczak@gmail.com), dr. Matthew Chambers (matthewjosephchambers@gmail.com), and Invited Lecturers
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HOURS	SPRING Semester – 30 h
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MEETINGS	2 hours seminar + 1 hour of applied workshop every two weeks starting Monday, February 28 and ending June 27, 2022
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PLACE	Staszic Palace, Nowy Świat 72, 00-330 Warsaw, room 268 and zoom
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COURSE TOPICS: Academic Writing, Theory of Writing, Theory of Interpretation, Rhetoric, Contemporary Philosophy and Social Theory.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

- The course is available to all students (general course open to all students)
- The course language is English
- Requirements: knowledge in modern and contemporary philosophy and/or contemporary social theory; a written draft of an academic article.
- Credit requirements: attendance, participation and the submission of an original essay for publication at the end of the seminar are necessary for course credit. You can miss one class in a semester.
- Time of classes: alternate Mondays starting February 28, 16.00–18.00, room 268 / online.
- Tutorial hours: the same Mondays, 15.00–16.00 or 18.00–19.00, to be announced in advance.
- Applied workshop hours: by arrangement with the instructors.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course is to develop the skills necessary to complete and submit articles to academic journals on philosophical and theoretical issues. You will gain knowledge on how to properly define the aim of the article, structure the paper according to publication standards, write convincingly and clearly, and identify suitable journals in the field. The course also imparts soft-

skills that are inherent to the process of communication to a scholarly audience and to colleagues, external peer reviewers, and editors. A properly constructed and well-written text still needs to undergo a rigid process of reviewing and editing before it can be published, and the process of publication requires communication with the reviewers and editors.

You will develop these skills by working collectively in a workshop format with the lecturers, invited faculty, and other course participants. This format includes, in addition to *seminar hours*, *applied workshop hours* devoted to discussing the construction, style and clarity of your writing, and *tutorial hours*. During tutorial hours, instructors are available to discuss any issues you might have with the organization of the course or with academic writing and publishing in general.

Given the course's focus on writing toward journal publications, **at the beginning of the course every participant must already have a draft paper**. Invited faculty will review your draft paper and we will discuss reviews in class. As we seek to identify the potential journal (or journals) where your text would constitute a good fit, we will discuss the criteria to consider when selecting where to submit your work for publication consideration.

During the course, you will systematically revise your article for publishing. Finally, by the end of the course, you will be encouraged to submit your revised manuscript to a relevant peer-reviewed academic journal.

Eligibility

This course is open to GSSR doctoral students in years 2, 3, and 4 who seek to publish in academic journals on philosophical and theoretical issues and who have a draft paper at the beginning of the course. GSSR students funded through the NCBiR program are especially encouraged to register.

A draft paper in this case means a body of text of 3500 words minimum and 10,000 words maximum (without bibliography). Strong preference is given to developing a paper suitable for publication in an academic journal, but manuscripts (e.g. a report, philosophical essay, book review, or literary review) targeting different publication outlets are also acceptable.

The maximum number of participants in the course is nine students. Students who register for the course must electronically submit their paper draft to the instructors by **February 18, 2022 by 17:00**. If the number of registered students exceeds the course's seat limits, instructors select participants based on how advanced the submitted paper draft is in terms of introducing the subject, presenting the main arguments, and offering at least some conclusions. You will learn about your participation status in the course by February 23, 2022.

Course requirements

Successful completion of the course requires active class participation, preparing a short, written review of your peers' work (ca 500 words) to be submitted to the instructors and course participants, and a preparation of an article that, by the end of the course, can be submitted for publication consideration to an academic publishing outlet, ideally, a peer-reviewed journal (including supporting documents, e.g. cover letter to the editors). Specific due dates for writing assignments will be announced at the beginning of the course. Each participant is required to

collect notes from other course participants and the invited reviewer, and, after a class devoted to their article draft, prepare a revised version of the draft and a response to the reviewer.

The revised draft of your paper is due electronically to the instructors by the due dates specified in class and no later than June 30, 2022.

Grading

Student grades will be based on: 5% on Class participation; 25% on the Review and the feedback given to peers, and 70% on the Paper submitted by the end of the course.

The grading of the paper takes into account the overall structure of the paper, the consistency of the argument, the clarity of style, and the overall relevance of the content in each section of the text. The structure of the text and the consistency of the argumentation would be valued the most in each case. Other aspects of the text will be weighted based on the type of the text submitted. The grading of the paper will be a joint responsibility of the lecturers and the invited reviewer.

Learning outcomes

Students will train in the skills of developing and editing an original article and prepare it for publishing and undergo the process of submitting an article, which would include e.g. understanding the guidelines for authors, formatting the document, writing the cover letter to the editors, responding to a review and more.

Knowledge

- Understanding the importance of different elements in the writing of an academic article.
- Knowledge about the conditions of the review process as an author of a philosophical and/or theoretical paper.

Skills

- Capacity to determine and name the proper field / discipline in which the participant will operate when writing and consequently to select suitable journals for their publications.
- Capacity to consciously use proper terminology in a clear and concise manner that will allow the student to elaborate their rationale.
- Capacity to construct an original essay with a clear hypothesis and an adequate argumentation.

Communication skills

- Ability to present a prepared philosophical argument to a group of listeners.
- Skills in constructively participating in a theoretical exchange of ideas (academic debate).
- Ability to communicate with editors and reviewers of academic articles.

Readings

This course requires students to read the draft papers of their fellow classmates and these drafts' reviews. The instructors will prepare a selection of publications on academic writing and publishing, to be made available throughout the course, to be read at the discretion of the students.