

Graduate School for Social Research, GSSR

Article Finishing Course (AFC), Philosophy and Social Theory

SEMINAR

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INSTRUCTORS	Prof. Randall Auxier (personalist61@gmail.com), Southern Illinois University Carbondale Dr Mikołaj Ratajczak (mikolaj.ratajczak@gmail.com), Institute of Philosophy and Sociology PAS
HOURS	SPRING Semester – 30 h
MEETINGS	Online classes (4-6 meetings) on Mondays 15:00-16:30, starting from March 4. The exact number of online classes will depend on the number of participants. Workshops: Mondays and Tuesdays from Monday, May 6, until Tuesday, June 18, two hours and a half, 14:00-16:30 (including tutorial hours).
PLACE	Staszic Palace, Nowy Świat 72, 00-330 Warsaw, room 268, and zoom

THE COURSE CORRESPONDS TO TOPICS: Article Finishing and Publishing in English, International Academic Publishing, Philosophy, Social and Political Theory, Digital Humanities

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

- The course is available to all students (general course open to all students)
- The course language is English
- Requirements: general 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 a revised, polished, original essay for publication at the end of the seminar are necessary for the credit. You can miss one class in a semester.
- Time of classes: online: 15:00-16:30 (selected days), workshops: 14:00-16:30 (selected days).
- Tutorial hours (during workshops + Mondays after the workshop).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Article Finishing Course (AFC) – **Philosophy and Social Theory**, provides a classroom environment to complete an English-language article for submission to an international peer-reviewed journals. This course, designed for GSSR PhD students in Year 2 and higher, is mandatory for NAWA STER Scholarship recipients pursuing a PhD in Philosophy and it is optional for other students.

The AFC is not a course to begin articles – it is a course to finish articles so that you can submit them for peer review in an appropriate journal. At the start, the student must have in hand an English-language first-author paper that is well-developed, i.e. minimum 4000 words, preferably in consultation (but not necessarily co-authored) with your supervisor or presented at an international academic conference. This draft will be overseen and checked during our meetings in March and April. We will review your draft paper and 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. You will learn about the world of English-language publishing in Philosophy, Social and Political Theory, including journals, book chapters, books, and on-line outlets. The aim is to help you build a plan for publishing that facilitates your research programme.

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

During the course, you will systematically revise your article for publishing it in English. 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 seeking to publish in academic journals on philosophical and theoretical issues, who have a draft paper at the beginning of the course.

A draft paper in this case means a body of text of 4000 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.

Students who register for the course must submit electronically their paper draft to the instructors by **March 3**.

Course requirements

Successful completion of the course requires active class participation and a preparation of an article that, by the end of the course, can be submitted for publication considerations to an academic publishing outlet, ideally, a peer-reviewed journal (including documents like e.g. cover

letter to the editors). The writing assignments are due ahead of the class period they are assigned for. Specific deadlines 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 draft, prepare a revised version of the draft together with a response to the reviewer.

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

Grading

Your grade will be based: 25% on Class participation; and 75% on the Paper you submit 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 is expected to be in place before the class on May 6. The greatest weight will be given to assessing the suitability of the finished paper for the three “target” publishing outlets it has been designed for. Other aspects of the text will be weighted based on the type of the text you submit. The grading of the paper will be the joint responsibility of the lecturers.

Learning outcomes

Students will train the skills of editing an original article and preparing it for publishing in an organ suitable for the type of research it is. You will undergo the process choosing three likely publishing outlets, and a mock-process of submitting an article (to the instructors and invited reviewers). Students will receive responses of the sort that may be expected from the chosen publication. This includes, 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 use proper terminology in a clear and concise manner that will allow the student to elaborate their rationale.
- Capacity to correspond with editors, respond to editors and reviewers, revise, and re-submit a piece of writing that incorporates criticisms and identified gaps and weaknesses in one’s presentation of an argument or review.

Communication skills

- Ability to present a prepared philosophical argument to a group of readers.

- Skills in constructively participating in a theoretical exchange of ideas (academic debate), in written form.
- Ability to communicate with editors and reviewers of academic articles.

Readings

This course requires you to read the draft papers of your 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 your discretion. These are among the sources that will be consulted during the course:

Dreyer, Benjamin. *Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style* (New York: Random House, 2019).

Germano, William. *On Revision: The Only Writing that Counts* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021).

Rabiner, Susan, and Fortunato, Alfred. *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Serious Nonfiction—and Get It Published* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2002).

Style Manuals:

Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017).

MLA Handbook, 9th ed. (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2021).

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed. (Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2020).