



<b>Course Code &amp; Title</b>	<b>LISS351 Academic Writing Workshop</b>		
<b>Convenor(s)</b>	Dr Jessie Speer, Queen Mary University of London <a href="mailto:j.speer@qmul.ac.uk">j.speer@qmul.ac.uk</a>		
<b>Institution</b>	Queen Mary University of London	<b>Department</b>	LISS DTP
<b>Academic Year</b>	2018-19	<b>Term</b>	Summer
<b>Number of sessions</b>	8	<b>Length of Session(s)</b>	2 hours
	<b>Day, Date</b>	<b>Start : End</b>	<b>Room Location</b>
	Thursday 9 May 2019	1400 – 1600	KCL, G/8 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 16 May 2019		KCL, G/8 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 23 May 2019		KCL, G/8 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 30 May 2019		KCL, 2/21 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 06 June 2019		KCL, G/8 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 13 June 2019		KCL, G/8 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 20 June 2019		KCL, 2/21 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
	Thursday 27 June 2019		KCL, 2/19 Waterloo Bridge Wing, SE1 9NH
<b>Enrolment Links:</b>	[ <a href="https://bit.ly/2LleZW6">https://bit.ly/2LleZW6</a> ] You may be prompted to log into SkillsForge You will be prompted to log into SkillsForge		

**Course Description:**

Writing is one of the most important skills for researchers and academics in the social sciences. It is not only a form of communication, but is also a tool to develop and clarify our thinking. This course will help graduate students develop a consistent writing practice and produce strong written material. Through weekly readings, lectures, in-class discussions, and workshops, we will learn the art of building an argument based on evidence, synthesising academic literature, contributing to theory, creating overall structure and organisation, and developing a clear, persuasive, and engaging style of writing. As learning to write must involve practice, by the end of the course you will have drafted, written, and edited a paper or chapter based on research you previously completed. Several smaller assignments each week will break down the process into discrete steps. We will also discuss tools for overcoming some of the challenges of academic writing and develop a writing community to support each other’s work and provide detailed feedback. Attendance and timely completion of readings and assignments is essential.

**Outline:**

**Assignment prior to Week 1:**

- Readings on beginning an academic writing project (*The Imaginative Argument*, Chapters 3-5). All reading materials are available on the course Dropbox.

**Week 1**

**Getting familiar with academic writing.** We discuss how to write for an academic audience, how to find your best personal writing process, and how to overcome some of the challenges we confront as writers. We will discuss how to turn research into a strong thesis statement that will be the foundation of your paper or chapter. Finally, we will discuss the workshopping process and how to provide useful feedback and respond to feedback from others.

- **In-class assignment:** Write your thesis statement and workshop in groups



- **Readings for next week:** *The Imaginative Argument*, Chapters 6-7 and *Stylish Academic Writing*, Chapter 11

### Week 2

**Building structure.** We will discuss the elements of structure in an academic paper or chapter, including paragraph structure, the IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) format, and freewriting practices.

- **In-class assignment:** Create an outline and workshop in groups
- **Readings for next week:** *They Say, I Say*, Chapters 1-3

### Week 3

**Reviewing the literature.** We will discuss the importance of a thorough, accurate and engaging literature review that contextualises a research question within the existing scholarly work on the topic. We will discuss citation practices.

- **In-class assignment:** Choose three academic texts, explain why they are relevant and useful for your research topic, and workshop in groups
- **Readings for next week:** *Stylish Academic Writing*, Chapters 8, 9, and 14

### Week 4

**Writing up your results.** We will discuss the process of writing up your research in your methods and results sections, using concrete examples from your data and tools from creative nonfiction writing such as scene, anecdote, and character.

- **In-class assignment:** Write a one paragraph anecdote for your methods or results section and workshop in groups
- **Readings for next week:** *They Say, I Say*, Chapters 4, 5, and 7

### Week 5

**Discussing your findings.** We will discuss the elements of an academic argument and how to be thorough and persuasive in building an argument, clarifying its theoretical contribution, and highlighting the larger implications of the study.

- **In-Class assignment:** Write a persuasive paragraph in which you support your thesis and workshop in groups
- **Readings for next week:** *Stylish Academic Writing*, Chapter 7, *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 8, and *The Imaginative Argument*, Chapter 8

### Week 6

**Bringing it all together.** We will discuss how to bring all of the elements of your paper together, how to transition between paragraphs and sections, and how to write your introduction and conclusion for your first draft.

- **In-class assignment:** Write your introduction with an opening hook and workshop in groups
- **Readings for next week:** Read *Stylish Academic Writing*, Chapters 5 and 10, *The Imaginative Argument*, Chapter 11

### Week 7



**Revising.** We will discuss the art of revising for jargon and reverse outlining for clarity.

**\*\*\*FINAL PAPER DUE: BRING COPIES FOR EVERY STUDENT IN CLASS\*\*\***

- **In-class assignment:** Select one of the paragraphs written already in previous assignments workshop in groups with the aim of revising each sentence for clarity and style
- **Readings for next week:** Read and revise your classmate's final papers using the reverse outlining strategy and editing for clarity. Write a short response to each classmate.

### **Week 8**

**Final workshop.** We will evaluate each other's final papers in class and provide constructive feedback.

#### **Assignments:**

Each week you will be expected to continue working on the section of your paper we began in class. Short weekly assignments are in the following order: thesis, outline, literature review, methods, results, discussion, introduction, and conclusion. Your final paper will be due in class on Week 7. Bring the pieces you worked on together using transitions and reordering sections where necessary. Print out your paper and edit it carefully to improve overall clarity and flow. Your on-campus writing centre at [Imperial College](#), [King's College](#), or [Queen Mary University](#) can help you with the editing process. Final papers must follow the citation style of the journal or publisher where you intend to submit your article or chapter.

#### **Reading List:**

Frank Cioffi, *The Imaginative Argument: A Practical Manifesto for Writers* (2017).

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, *They say, I say: The Moves That Matters in Academic Writing* (2006).

Helen Sword, *Stylish academic writing* (2012).

#### **Eligibility:**

PhD students based at KCL, Imperial or QMUL using social science methodologies

#### **Pre-course preparation:**

Assignment prior to Week 1:

- Readings on beginning an academic writing project (*The Imaginative Argument*, Chapters 3-5). All reading materials are available on the course Dropbox.

**Number of students:** 20