

Course description

Argumentation Theory & Academic Writing

1. Course name, ECTS, quarter/semester, contact hours

Argumentation Theory & Academic Writing, 4 ECTS, 3rd quarter, 44 contact hours

2. Author of the course

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3. Outline

The aim of this course is to improve skills of clear and reasoned thinking and writing. In the first part of the course students will learn some simple logical rules and some common mistakes to avoid in reasoning. We will discuss the main purposes of arguments, learn how to analyze and evaluate arguments. The students will learn how to construct and define original arguments.

During the second part of the course the focus will be on developing original academic arguments, using appropriate textual evidence to support these arguments within their disciplinary frame. Students will learn how to develop well-balanced and sophisticated argumentation threads by writing professional texts in English.

4. Structure and content

The course consists of two modules (parts) and one plenary session.

Module 1

1. Arguments and non-arguments
2. The Language of argument
3. Standards for evaluating arguments
4. Logical fallacies
5. The inference to the best explanations

Module 2

1. From clear thinking towards clear writing
2. Argumentation thread in writing
3. Management reasoning
4. Writing an argumentative essay
5. Feedback in writing: improving argumentation in a text

Plenary session

4. Prerequisites

English competence level - B1.

5. Assessment

Weekly assessment includes class participation mark.

Mid-course assessment is a test and a plenary session. Test is a multiple choice test with 30 questions.

End-of-the-course assessment includes a written examination. This is a 2 hour exam. Students are required to produce an essay.

Final score is calculated as follows:

- class participation mark_{Module 1} (15%) + class participation mark_{Module 2} (15%)
- *test* (30%)
- *plenary session* (10%)
- *written examination* (30%): 2 hour exam