

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNG0094 Analytical writing, 5.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2021-01-15

Subjects

Other Social Science/Agricultural History/Rural Development/Landscape Architecture/Landscape Planning/Environmental Communication

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

Registered PhD student whatever the discipline.

Objective, including learning outcomes

The course is expected to develop participant's abilities to:
- develop a structured writing routine;

- clearly express thoughts in writing;
- critically develop an argument through a text;
- recognise and test assumptions and consider counter arguments;
- organise ideas, arguments and evidence into linear progression and systematically test the structure for holes or weaknesses in the analysis or evidence;
- develop the structure and style in which the participants write.

The course will increase participants' understanding of analytical writing as well as strategies and practices for becoming more effective writers. The course will also increase participant's knowledge of the academic publishing process.

Content

Through the course we will address challenging aspects of scholarly writing relevant for the early stage of the PhD. The course will provide opportunities to learn about and develop skills at every stage of academic writing, from first ideas to getting published.

The structure of the course is based on four study blocks which will progressively support the writing process. Each block will include lectures, seminars, group-based and individual workshops, presentations, and critical feedback, follow up writing and preparation.

BLOCK ONE

- Developing a writing strategy, exploring what it means to become an academic writer.
- Interpretation of questions to be addressed, recognising the intended scientific contribution. Principles of critical thinking and self-critical writing will be introduced.
- Analysing texts when reviewing literature, introducing principles of critical reading.

BLOCK TWO

- Planning the article: organisation of ideas, arguments, supporting claims and evidence into a narrative. Testing the line of argument.

BLOCK THREE

- Writing with style, developing the structure and the style of writing.
- Editing text, introducing different practices of revising text.

BLOCK FOUR

- Preparing papers for submission. Focus on the peer review system, reviewing academic texts for academic journals, handling editorial decisions and making revisions and resubmissions.
- Plagiarism.

Requirements for examination

- Students must be active in four blocks of the course, providing feedback and acting as discussants for others work.
- Students will work on a draft of an article or chapter, which is expected to be part of the thesis. The draft will be submitted and discussed during each block.

Additional information

Course responsible:

Andrew Butler: Andrew.butler@slu.se

Harry Fischer: harry.fischer@slu.se

Course timetable:

Two weeks in October (Block one and two)

One week in November (Block three)

One week in December (Block four)

Each week includes two days with the course tutors and three days of individual/peer group work.

This course is organised within the research school Society and Landscape (SL) at the Department of Urban and Rural Development at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

Responsible department

Department of Urban and Rural Development