NFNF302 Effective Academic Writing, 1.5 credits
Effektivt akademiskt skrivande, 1,5 högskolepoäng
Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation
This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences on 2019-03-13, and was last revised on 2019-12-05 by the Faculty Board of Science. The revised course syllabus is valid from Spring semester 2020.

Responsible Department
Faculty Office for Science, Faculty of Science

Entry requirements
The course is open to all graduate students enrolled in doctoral or licentiate programs at the Faculty of Science. PhD students from other faculties, and senior researchers within the Faculty of Science, are welcome to enroll with the understanding that Faculty of Science PhD students are given first preference.

Participants are welcome from any area of science, mathematical sciences, and conservation.

Learning outcomes
Upon fulfilling course attendance and performance requirements, participants will obtain knowledge regarding how to write academic scientific texts in English with regards to clarity, concision, organization, and overall structure. More specific knowledge domains include:

Knowledge and understanding
Explain in general terms the procedures involved in the academic writing and publication process.
Demonstrate familiarity with academic writing with respect to structuring a research paper, writing an outline of the PhD thesis, and knowledge about why and how references are used.

Competence and skills
Formulate an academic text with scholarly precision and demonstrate ability to review and evaluate such work critically.

Present and discuss research in writing with an authoritative voice.

**Judgement and approach**

Problematicize and make assessments of authorship ethics including academic integrity and plagiarism.

Demonstrate insights into the possibilities and limitations of how research is communicated, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how research is disseminated.

**Course content**

In this two day course, different aspects of academic writing are examined and discussed. The course is highly interactive and consists of both theoretical discussions and practical activities. Much of the sessions will revolve around reflective discussion, writing exercise, and the provision of personalized feedback on the participants’ writing by both peers and course leaders.

Examples of aspects brought up are: the stylistics of scientific/academic writing in English from a local-level perspective (sentence-level) to a global-level perspective (i.e., text structure, paragraphs, logical progression, argumentation, etc.); various contexts that doctoral writers will encounter, e.g. abstract writing, doctoral writing supervision, feedback and peer review; and the processes involved in the publication of doctoral writing. To facilitate these topics, individual, pair and group exercises will be used.

Prior to the course, participants will prepare a text (ideally at least two pages) from their doctoral studies that they wish to revise. This would, ideally, be a manuscript draft or some other thesis-related text of the students’ own writing. During and after the course, participants will revise this text using what they have learned. They will then submit the initial and revised texts plus a short text summarizing their revisionary practices, why they took the steps they did, and whether they feel the revised text represents an improvement over the initial version.

Before the course sessions, participants are furthermore expected to have read and become familiar with the following book text that will be applied and discussed throughout:


**Types of instruction**

The main seminar forms are lectures, textual work based on the participants’ own writing, and peer feedback practices.

The provision of feedback on participant writing is intended as an informative practice, and will not factor into participant assessment in any way.

**Language of instruction**

The course is given in English.

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Grades
The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.
Successful completion of the course requires active participation in both days of the course.

Types of assessment
Performance is assessed through the activities during the sessions, as well as submission of a final reflective text. Attendance is mandatory in all seminars. The assessment comprises:

- Active engagement in the course instruction and materials
- Individual production of texts and providing feedback to others
- Participants’ written reflective summary of revisions made to own text, including the initial and revised thesis texts

Course evaluation
An opportunity for course evaluation in writing will be presented on the last day of the course.

Other information
Before the course meetings, participants are furthermore expected to have read and become familiar with book text that will be applied and discussed throughout: