

The Thinking Writer's Guide to AI Writing Academic Text in the Age of ChatGPT WS 2024/25

Prof. Dr. Theresa Veer
N.N.

Seminar: Wednesday, 09:30-12:30 pm, zoom

Course Content:

Academic writing is an increasingly important skill that often is not part of standard curricula. In this seminar, we will learn the most important tools for effective and elegant writing in the context of emerging AI technologies.

Each session will cover two to three distinct topics which we will discuss in the plenum and analyze example papers. Additionally, this seminar will feature AI tools such as ChatGPT4 (<https://chat.openai.com/>; with the new models GPT o1-preview and o1-mini) and Claude Sonnet 3.5 (<https://claude.ai/>) as potential supports in writing academic texts. We will look at their advantages and drawbacks, including their ability to quickly generate ideas and provide suggestions for improvement, as well as their tendency to generate generic or formulaic text, or hallucinate information.

After the plenary session, we will have a breakout session in which we will analyze our own texts in small groups and enter a round of peer feedback.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Write effectively and elegantly in an academic context
2. Understand the advantages and drawbacks of using AI in writing
3. Apply peer feedback to improve writing
4. Deepen understanding of academic writing principles and techniques
5. Gain experience with innovative writing tools
6. Develop strategies for maintaining a unique voice while leveraging AI assistance

Course Structure and Requirements

- Format: Online via Zoom
- Weekly time allocation: 3-7 hours per week, including:
 - a. Reading assigned chapters (16-29 pages per session)
 - b. Reviewing example papers (1 full short paper, 3 paper introductions)
 - c. Applying writing techniques to your own text
 - d. Preparing peer feedback (shuffled groups for diverse feedback)

Preparation & Participation

- Come prepared to each session
- **Bring a piece of your own writing for the first (!!!) session** – without it, you will not participate:
 - This could be an extended abstract of a research paper, an introduction to a seminar paper, and introduction to a term paper, an introduction to your thesis, or a proposal for your thesis.
 - Bring a **raw piece, nothing polished**. The idea is that you learn to polish in the seminar.
 - Don't bring more than 800 words max (roughly 2.5 pages double-spaced).
- Read and analyze the provided example papers.
- Allocate weekly time for reading chapters, applying writing techniques, and preparing peer feedback.

Examination

- ▮ Peer group participation: 20%
- ▮ Improvement between first and final text versions: 80%

Course Schedule

Date	Content	Compulsory readings
Oct 16 09:30-12:30	Intro	Syllabus
Oct 30 09:30-12:30	Science Writing as Storytelling Making a Story Sticky	pp. 1-25
Nov 6 09:30-12:30	Story Structure The Opening	pp. 26-49
Nov 13 09:30-12:30	The Funnel: Connecting O and C The Challenge	pp. 50-66
Nov 20 09:30-12:30	Action The Resolution	pp. 67-94
Nov 27 09:30-12:30	Internal Structure Paragraphs Sentences	pp. 95-123
Dec 4 09:30-12:30	Flow Energizing Writing	pp. 124-144
Dec 11 09:30-12:30	Words Condensing	pp. 145-173

Course Materials

- ▮ Mandatory textbook: "Writing Science" by Joshua Schimel (Oxford University Press; ISBN: 978-0-19-976024-4)
- ▮ Additional reading: "Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI" by Ethan Mollick (ISBN 9780593716717)
- ▮ Alternative to Ethan's book, check out his substack: <https://www.oneusefulthing.org/>
- ▮ Course materials can be accessed via GRIPS
- ▮ We will use GRIPS for exchanging files.

Students will be added to GRIPS course by the instructor.

Registration period: 04.10. to 14.10.2024.

Interested students contact Suzanne Weinberger at suzanne.weinberger@ur.de and will get the Zoom

- Link via e-mail Surname, first name
- Student number
- Home university
- Bachelor or Master (semester)
- Course of study
- permanent email address

Number of participants: 10 (first come first serve)

Contact Information

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