Course title:	**Academic Writing in German** **[„Akademisches Schreiben auf Deutsch"]**
Instructor:	Dr. Anja Rothmann
Email address:	anja.rothmann@fu-berlin.de
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	German
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS credits:	6
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read German at an upper intermediate level (B2) or advanced level (C1) or higher.

Course description

Academic writing is a skill that can be learned! By engaging with selected modern literary texts in our writing lab, we will practice developing research questions, preparing outlines, drafting Exposés, constructing arguments, and commenting on academic positions. The goal of this course is to enable participants to prepare well-structured term papers, bachelor's or master's theses, dissertations, and presentations. We will also address the grammatical and stylistic peculiarities of the German academic language – including intercultural distinctions.

Moreover, we will investigate the promise, perils and limitations of artificial intelligence (AI) – and the extent to which AI can facilitate many areas of academic work but not replace the need for critical and innovative thinking.

By the end of the course, participants will be equipped to successfully stand their ground in German academic discourse. At the same time, they will acquire transferable skills to write clearly structured, concise academic texts in their own language.

Target group

The course is designed for students, doctoral candidates, and other interested individuals who seek to acquire proficiency in German academic writing. Aside from the language requirements, participants do not need to have any further special qualifications.

Course requirements

See Grading.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is German. Language proficiency at an advanced intermediate level (B2) or advanced level (C1) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

Attendance

Each class consists of six teaching modules (45 minutes each). If you miss 6 modules (unexcused), your final course grade will drop by one grade. Coming more than 20 minutes late counts as one missed module (this also applies to excursion days). If you come late to class six times (up to 20 minutes) your entire course grade will also drop by one grade. If you miss 14 modules or more (unexcused), you will fail the class. Excused absences, such as those with medical documentation, do not count toward these totals.

Grading

25%	Class participation
20%	Exposé and outline
20%	Oral presentations and handout
35%	Term paper (approx. 6 pages, including table of contents and bibliography)

Readings

- Schäfer, S., & Heinrich, D. (2021). *Wissenschaftliches Arbeiten an deutschen Universitäten: Eine Arbeitshilfe für ausländische Studierende im geistes- und gesellschaftswissen-schaftlichen Bereich*.
- Turtur, U. (2006). *Übungen zum Wortschatz der deutschen Schriftsprache*.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 21, 2026	**Introduction** • Introduction • Course overview • Characteristics of the German academic style Common elements in academic language: Subjunctive I (indirect speech)
Friday, July 24, 2026	**The Tools of Academic Work** • Research and literature search • Bibliography • Excerpting • Summarizing and paraphrasing • Commenting Common elements in academic language: Textual context (+ exercises) Assignment:

	Summary of an academic text
Tuesday, July 28, 2026	**Writing an Academic Paper I** • Identifying a research topic and formulating a research question • Drafting an Exposé • The outline Common elements in academic language: Nominalization (+ exercises) <u>Assignment:</u> Formulate a strong title and a thorough research question
Friday, July 31, 2026	**Writing an Academic Paper II** • The introduction • The main body • The conclusion Common elements in academic language: Prepositions in academic writing (+ exercises) <u>Assignment:</u> Submission of the Exposé and outline
Tuesday, August 4, 2026	**Citation and Quotation** • Functions of citation/quotation • Correct citation practices • Formatting (the layout) • The bibliography Common elements in academic language: Passive constructions (+ exercises) *Excursion: Staatsbibliothek Berlin [Berlin State Library]*
Friday, August 7, 2026	**Written Discussion Proposals and Oral Presentations** • Thesis paper/handout • PowerPoint presentation • The ideal preparation and delivery of short oral presentations Common elements in academic language: Fixed compounds with prepositions (+ exercises) <u>Assignment:</u> Identifying a topic for a short presentation

Tuesday, August 11, 2026	**Presentations by Participants + Detailed Feedback on Form and Content** Common elements in academic language: Functional verb structures (+ exercises) Assignment: Submission of the thesis paper and short presentation
Friday, August 14, 2026	**Writing Lab and Artificial Intelligence Use Cases** • Promise, perils, and limitations of AI Common elements in academic language: Participial constructions (+ exercises) Assignment: Submission of the term paper, incl. the bibliography (due Monday after the end of the course) FUBiS Farewell Ceremony

*Field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.