

The Art of Writing

Course 2024

Responsible teacher:
Tiina Pusa

Course schedule

1. Common gatherings, Tuesdays 9.15–12 (weeks 9–11)

- Feb 27, Mar 5, Mar 12

2. Short workshops, Tuesdays 9.15–12 (weeks 12–14)

- Mar 19, Mar 26, (no teaching Apr 2), Apr 9

(Week 16: Evaluation week between periods)

3. Long workshops, Tuesdays 9.15–12 (weeks 17–21)

- Apr 23, Apr 30, May 7, May 14, May 21

4. After-writing day 28.5.2023 9.15–12

5. Deadline for text portfolios 4.6.2023 (includes learning dairy, see template)

Course plan: Common sessions

Week 9, Tuesday 27.2. 9.15–12 (160a R1 Rakentajanaukio 4)

Course introduction (Tiina)

- Workshop teachers, approaches, workshops (slides)
- Choosing the workshops

Break and filling the poll

11–12 Perttu Hämäläinen: Writing and co-creating with AI

Course plan: Common sessions

Week 10, Tuesday 5.3. 9.15–12 (160a R1 Rakentajanaukio 4)

9.15–10.00 Juuso Tervo: Article as a source of knowledge

10.15–11.00 María Villa Largacha: Argumentation and expression

11.15–12.00 Additional workshop information by Tiina and course assistant Jane, Q&A

Course plan: Common sessions

Week 11, Tuesday 12.3. 9.15–12 (160a R1 Rakentajanaukio 4 / remote)

Parallel sessions EN/FI: Referencing

- Introduction to the Language Centre services and teaching
- Referencing in general and introduction to two systems (APA & Chicago)
- Styleguides, their availability and accessibility

Finnish: teacher Tapani Möttönen (on campus, 160a R1 Rakentajanaukio 4), Host: Hanna T.

English: teacher Susan Gamache (remote, zoom, link in MC frontpage), Host: Tiina

Course plan: Workshops

You choose **one argumentative text** workshop and **one essay text** workshop.

- You may choose a long (5-week) essay workshop & a short (3-week) argumentative text workshop or vice versa, according to your interests.
- You may choose also the workshop language according to your interests (think about your thesis language).
- You may choose remote or on-campus mode.

We will collect your choices and wishes today and assign you to workshops accordingly. Priority is language, when we assign you to workshops.

Course plan: Workshops

- Short workshops, 3 sessions, 19.3.–9.4. (2.4. no teaching)
- Long workshops, 5 sessions, 23.4.–21.5.
- Groups of 8–15 students in each, teachers from different fields.
- After the workshops, you submit your text portfolio (deadline 4.6.).

Short workshops, 8 parallels

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Elham Rahmati | Essay EN | Campus, R113 |
| Arja Karhumaa | Essee FI | Campus, Q102 |
| Gregoire Rousseau | Essay EN | Remote |
| Tiina Pusa | Essee FI | Remote |
| Markku Reunanen | Argumentative text EN | Campus, P104 |
| María Villa | Argumentative text EN | Campus, R107 |
| Hanna Timonen | Tieteellinen teksti FI | Remote |
| Max Rynnänen | Argumentative text EN | Remote |

Long workshops, 8 parallels

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Elham Rahmati | Essay EN | Campus, R113 |
| María Villa | Essay EN | Campus, P104 |
| Hanna Timonen | Essee FI | Campus, O112 |
| Hanan Mahbouba | Essay EN | Remote |
| Tiina Pusa | Tieteellinen teksti FI | Remote |
| Verna Kuutti | Tieteellinen teksti FI | Campus, Q102 |
| Gregoire Rousseau | Argumentative text EN | Campus, R107 |
| Solip Park | Argumentative text EN | Remote |

Text portfolio in practice

- After the after-writing day, you have a week's time to make your personal text portfolio.
- In the portfolio, include the learning diary sheet (you will find it on MyCourses).
- In the learning diary, you elaborate why you chose the specific text examples and reflect your learning during the course. Also include the guidelines for the assignments (your own description how the workshop teacher gave the assignment, reasoning/goal).
- Total pages max 20 (any number of assignments)
- PDF format (otherwise: be free, NO LINKS)
- Return on MyCourses by June 4
- The text portfolio will be assessed and the course graded by the long workshop teachers (if no other information delivered)

Assessment (0–5)

1. 80 % participation (template of learning diary included in the text portfolio)
2. Text portfolio & learning diary:
 - You choose examples of your workshop assignments, max. 20 pages. (Visual essay or visual poetry may include pictures/visuals.)
 - Text portfolio includes also a learning diary.

Assessment

Grading

5: The text portfolio is

1) interesting and coherent.

It gives an overview of a 2) brave and

3) skilful writer who is

4) able to use a variety of text modes and

5) reflect their work.

4: 4 of the 5

3: 3 of the 5

2: 2 of the 5

1: 1 of the 5

0: no portfolio submission

Course description

The course introduces different genres of professional writing.

The student gets acquainted with the textual practices that will support them in both their MA thesis process as well as their professional artistic and scientific practice.

The course provides the student with an opportunity to forage in the context of various reading audiences in order to discern a writing voice of their own.

The course is taught in two languages, Finnish and English.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students

- have gained an understanding of the most common genres of text and writing in the context of art and media as well as their specific features and audiences.
- have the knowledge and skills to both utilize feedback and deepen their textual expertise independently e.g. in the context of their thesis process and further artistic and scientific work.
- know the forms of professional communication in their field and can express themselves textually in accordance with their professional goals and aspirations.

Student workload, 6 ECTS = 162 h

1 cr = Orientation lectures (9 h) + After-writing day 28.5. (3 h) + Reflection (15 h)

1 cr = Short workshop (9 h workshops + 12 h homework + 6 h reflection)

2 cr = Long workshop (15 h workshops + 29 h homework + 10 h reflection)

2 cr = Text portfolio & learning diary (reflection, editing, design...)

Teachers, Introduction slides

Tiina Pusa

Tiina Pusa kirjoittaa ilokseen, työkseen ja ymmärtääkseen. Hänen alansa on taidekasvatus. Pusan teksteissä puhutaan esimerkiksi taidekasvatuksesta, taiteesta, yhteiskunnasta ja solidaarisuudesta. Toislajiset änkeävät aktiivisesti Pusan teksteihin ja hän löytää usein itsensä kirjoittamasta muiden kanssa.

For Tiina Pusa writing is a joy, a work and way of thinking. Her field is art education and topics includes art, society and solidarity. Other species push her texts and she often finds herself writing with others.

SHORT WORKSHOP//ESSAY//ONLINE//FI

LONG WORKSHOP//ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT//ONLINE//FI

Avainsanat lähestymistavasta: yhteiskirjoittaminen, kanssa-kirjoittaminen, luova kirjoittaminen, kävely ja kirjoittaminen

Keywords on the approach: co-writing, collaborative writing, writing-with, walking & writing, creative writing



Hanna Timonen

I am a visual artist working with photography and am currently writing my doctoral thesis on serial photography and how it relates to the experience of the everyday. I have been teaching, in addition to Aalto photography, at the University of the Arts Helsinki Academy of Fine Art, and Pekka Halosen akatemia.

SHORT WORKSHOP//TIETEELLINEN TEKSTI // ONLINE// FI

LONG WORKSHOP//ESSEE//campus//FI

Tekemisestä tekstiksi / From Doing to Writing

Aloitamme kirjoittamalla ja kuvailemalla omaa työskentelyä ja pohtimalla, miten taiteellinen työ kääntyy tekstiksi. Tämän pohjalta syntynyttä tekstiä sijoitamme omaan viitekehysteeseensä, laadimme tutkimuskysymyksiä ja tutustumme viittaamiseen. Editointi ja tekstin viimeistely ovat osa työskentelyä. Työpajassa alustetaan teemoihin, luetaan aiheeseen liittyviä tekstejä, tehdään lyhyitä kirjoitusharjoituksia yhdessä ja työstetään omaa tekstiä vaihteittain. Tavoitteena on synnyttää tutkimuksellista tekstiä, joka pohjautuu praktiikasta nouseviin kysymyksiin ja kokemuksiin.

We start by writing and describing our own practice and thinking about how artistic work is transcribed into text. Based on this, we will contextualise the text, prepare research questions and familiarize ourselves with referencing. Editing and finishing the text will be part of the course. In the workshops we read texts related to the topic, do short writing exercises together, and work on our own text. The aim is to create research text that is based on questions and experiences arising from practical artistic work.

Markku Reunanen

Markku is a computer scientist turned into a humanist (except that he never stopped being a computer scientist). Most of his publications are from the field of humanities, especially digital culture and media studies, but he has published some papers on technology and design as well. In addition to academic writing, he is an active blogger and writes for the Finnish Skrolli computer magazine. Markku runs the New Media and Sound specific MA Thesis Seminar group.

SHORT WORKSHOP//ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT//ON CAMPUS//EN

We're going to practise at least abstract writing, paraphrasing, working with references and blogging. You can also propose themes that you'd find useful.



Arja Karhumaa

I am a graphic designer and text artist, or text designer and graphic artist, and Associate Professor in Visual Communication Design. My work spans across typography, design and experimental writing, and across both poetry and academia. I'm interested in publishing as art/design practice, and redefining communication design in the context of new materiality.

I am co-founder of the publishing collective Multipöly:
@multipoly_publishing

SHORT WORKSHOP//ESSAY//ON CAMPUS & ONLINE//FI **Graphic devices in writing**

This workshop offers a visual and experimental approach to the essay form. Special attention is paid to text design and text-image relations. We examine how graphic devices such as typography, photography, illustrative elements, diagrams and ephemera might not only push the essay boundaries towards visual argumentation, but also work as productive and generative prompts for writing itself.

NOTE! The first session of this short workshop is independent working. Arja will send you an assignment(s).



Max Rynnänen

Max Rynnänen's writing history is a mix of art writing, critique, fine literature (novel, essays), and research - written in many ways. For more, see <http://maxryynanen.net>



SHORT WORKSHOP//ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT// ONLINE//EN/FI

From Author to Editor (of your own text)

The workshop will, though, be on basic scholarly writing - e.g. how to write text for a book for an high standard international publisher or a scientific journal. I will teach you my way of doing it, which begins with emancipated writing, and turns then, step by step into a reflection of the text, also critical.

I will teach my own writing method, which I use when writing research. As I don't do interviews or spend time in archives but mostly just watch, read and write, this method might work best for students who aim at reflective, (at least relatively) philosophical writing.

My workshop aims to emancipate and to streamline the writing process. It focuses on three different sides of writing - and being someone who writes and edits text.

Welcome!

NOTE! The first or the last session of this short workshop will be independent. Max will send you an assignment(s)

Elham Rahmati

(b. 1989, Tehran) is a visual artist and independent curator based in Helsinki. She is the co-founder and co-editor of **NO NIIN**, an independent online monthly magazine at the cusp of art, criticality, and love. In 2019 and 2020, she worked as the curator and producer of the **Academy of Moving People & Images (AMPI)**, a film school in Helsinki for mobile people—those who have arrived in Finland for different reasons, be they immigrants, asylum seekers, students, or employees. AMPI aimed to provide a free learning platform where people from different backgrounds can acquire tools and methods with which they can tell the stories they find important. Prior to that, she worked as one of the curators of **Third Space**, an artist-run gallery emerging as a response to the lack of inclusivity and diversity in the art scene in Finland. Elham holds an MA in Visual Arts from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze and an MA in Visual Culture, Curating, and Contemporary Art from Aalto University.

SHORT WORKSHOP // ESSAY // CAMPUS // ENG

Grant Writing Workshop for Art-workers

Grants make up a large portion of income for creative professionals and non-profit organizations. However, even though it is very important and one of the most challenging forms of writing grant writing, it's often neglected in art school curriculums. In addition, professional artists often struggle to write accurate proposals and realistic budgets – major components of the grant application.

In this introductory course, Elham will address the elements of grant applications applicable to artists, writers, and other creative professionals. You will learn and have an opportunity to apply planning methods, writing and revising proposals through peer and instructor feedback, and in-class practice. Workshop topics include types of grant proposals, recognizing the requirements of the funder/application, finding funding sources, budgets and scheduling. You will have the opportunity to prepare a grant application based on your interests or start an application from the beginning during the workshop.



Elham Rahmati

LONG WORKSHOP//ESSAY//CAMPUS//ENG

Rooted in curiosity and the desire to grasp the nuanced and multidimensional art scenes, the essays will be reflective of the theoretical and poetic impact of art on human thought and society, and vice versa. In these sessions, we work on writing a personal essay together. Students will receive a reading pack ahead of the first session. Then we go over the reading material and analyze them in terms of learning what it means to write short personal essays, and then find possible ways to structure essays. It is best to come to the class with a sense of the topic you're going to work on, that way you can ask specific questions. Students get to share their writings in progress in small groups and get individual time with the lecturer to discuss questions and concerns, what worked and what didn't during the writing process.



Gregoire Rousseau

Gregoire Rousseau's writing operates at the convergence of radical technology and critical thinking, focusing on the concept of "Commons" within the digital space.

His research investigates the possibilities of reappropriation of technology within public space, and asks how the relations between common practices and expanded artistic practices can find form.

LONG WORKSHOP//ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT// ON CAMPUS//EN

The art of writing within the digital condition

The workshop title directly refers to Felix Stalder's book "The Digital condition", where the author states that society faces two alternatives; the post-democracy and the commons. The first one would favor private companies and very narrow interests distant from social and societal needs. The other one, Commons, would allow the development of new and comprehensive institutions that not only directly combine participation and decision-making but also integrate economic, political, social, and ethical spheres.

The workshop includes readings from e.g. media theorist Felix Stalder, cyberfeminism authors Cornelia Sollfrank or Donna Haraway, architecture scholar Stavros Stavrides, philosopher Jeremy Gilbert, curating practices scholar Nora Sternfeld... The articles will be discussed in the class. The workshop participants will then write their own texts to reflect on the topics approached, and how this material may relate to their own practice.



María Villa

is a curator, editor, educator and researcher. She works between radical pedagogy, creative writing, and performance. Her teaching practice explores varied media from voice and movement, to text and cartographies. She has a BA & MA in Philosophy, and a VICCA MA from Aalto. Find her latest publications [here](#) and [here](#).



SHORT WORKSHOP// ESSAY// ON CAMPUS// ENG

LONG WORKSHOP// ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT// ON CAMPUS// ENG

Text as Medium

Texts are all about dialogue (in time and space) with other authors, specialists, friends, the audience of your work, or with yourself. That's what makes writing fun.

Using text as medium means finding a voice, an angle to tell a story or say something unique. You experiment but also engage with contexts and others in the world.

In my workshops, you'll try textual strategies to find the tools that work best for you, get comfortable building an argument or a narrative, or delving into interesting theories. We will play around with visual structures, how to organize ideas, and narrow down what is relevant. We'll use digital collaboration as well as analogue formats.

Verna Kuutti
(TaM & YTM)

ei ole koskaan osannut päättää, kumpaa rakastaa enemmän: kuvaa vai tekstiä. Niinpä hän on päättänyt usein työskentelemään kahden rakkauden rajapinnassa. Tällä hetkellä hän opettaa suomen kieltä ja kirjallisuutta Jätkäsaaren peruskoulussa, mutta on aiemmin seikkaillut mm. journalismin, taidekasvatuksen, sarjakuvan, akateemisen kirjoittamisen ja taidekriittikin maailmoissa.

(MA & MSc) has never been able to decide whether she loves text or image more. That may be the reason why she has ended working in areas where the two overlap. At the moment she is teaching Finnish and literature at the primary school of Jätkäsaari, but she has had some great adventures in the fields of journalism, art education, comics, academic writing and art criticism.



Long workshop // Argumentative text // On campus // FI

Työpaja lähestyy kirjoittamista prosessina, jonka vaiheita tutkitaan luovasti. Tavoitteena on vahvistaa uskoa itseen kirjoittajana ja akateemisen tiedon tuottajana sekä pääsemään irti kirjoittamiseen liittyvistä estoista tai ennakkoluuloista. Keskeisenä kysymyksenä on, miten voidaan välittää tekstin avulla taiteen tekemisestä syntyvää kokemuksellista tietoa.

Hanan Mahboub

For Hanan Mahboub reading and writing are essential tools for building and navigating her understanding of the world. As a writer and filmmaker she considers storytelling, in its myriad forms, to be the foundation of all communication. Writing can be pleasurable, clarifying, boring, vulnerable and a million other things, but Hanan truly believes that everyone can write and the path to doing it well is through very rough drafts and practice.



LONG WORKSHOP//ESSAY//ONLINE//ENG

- Beginnings, middles, and ends: How is an essay built?
- Clarity: What is most essential about the information you are trying to relate and what techniques will you employ to share it?
- Context: Who are you writing for and why?

Solip Park

is a doctoral researcher in the Department of Arts and Media, with her current research interest focused on immigrants and expatriates in the video game industry and cultural diversity in game productions. She is also the author and artist of the "Game Expats Story" comic series and works as a co-host and teacher at the "Games Now!" cross-cultural jam at Aalto University. <http://www.parksolip.com/>



Long workshop//Argumentative text//Remote //EN

This remote long workshop will take a pragmatic approach, helping students articulate their creative ideas into formal texts (e.g., research plans, funding applications, postmortem). In each workshop, the teacher will overview with some examples where students can freely comment and share thoughts. Students will also practice writing on their own in the workshop so that they will have draft text ready for them to use in the future.

- Digital content (incl. games) project or research plan writing – abstract to description, how to convince your idea
- Short but impactful writing – using everyday terms and images to explain complex ideas (e.g., pitching scripts, research comics)
- Constructive feedback writing – how to write constructive feedback (e.g., demo, review)
- Postmortem writing – how to convince about your finished work

Choosing the workshops: please go to MC front page (NOW)

PAUSE

11–12 Perttu Hämäläinen: Writing and co-creating with AI