

Welcome
to academic rehab.

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- Where we detox from jargon addiction,
- learn to write without inducing narcolepsy,
- transform from footnote fiends to storytelling superstars.

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Our Mission

Break free from the ivory tower.

Bring Middle East insights to the "masses".

Turn "Um, actually..." into "Wow, tell me more!"

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From Campus To Cafés

Writing the Middle East For
Your Daily Read

Session 1: course introduction

Course structure, philosophy, requirements

The first task

Deadlines ... oh no!

Introducing ourselves, our fields of expertise and interest

Learning goals

By the end of this course, we'll be able to:

1. Spot engaging Middle East writings in the wild.
2. Craft narratives that make people go "Tell me more!"
3. Transform academic jargon into human language.
4. Give feedback that doesn't crush souls.
5. Revise like a pro (your future self will thank you).

Course requirements

1. Regular participation (it's a journey, not a destination!)
2. 7 tasks/writing exercises (deadlines are crucial)
3. Active engagement in peer reviews (be kind, be helpful)
- [4. Blog participation (share your thoughts, question everything)]
5. Final paper (your masterpiece)

From Campus To Cafés

Writing the Middle East For Your Daily Read

The blog – your digital soapbox

Share insights, reflections, and views

Engage in respectful dialogue

200-500 words per post (quality over quantity)

Anonymous or named posts (your choice)

Be critical, be questioning, be awesome

From Campus To Cafés

Writing the Middle East For Your Daily Read

Course structure

15 sessions

3 1/2 weeks of independent writing

Peer review sessions (1 with the instructor, 3 student-led) alternating with input sessions:

- identifying readers
- constructing problems
- gaps and errors
- beyond background and definitions
- literature review
- reading vs. writing
- interdisciplinary challenges

Input sessions from 1-2 PM! Student-led peer review sessions 12-2!

First task (mandatory): the "porcupine" paper

Write a 7-15 page scholarly text

Deadline: Thu Nov 8, 2 PM

Email as PDF to victoria.mummelthei@fu-berlin.de

Subject line: "porcupine" (because why not?)

Include: cover page, chosen topic area

See the call for papers on the blog.

The 5 porcupine paper topics

1. Exhibiting the Middle East
2. Archiving Middle Eastern Pasts
3. Memorializing Middle Eastern Trauma
4. Constructing Middle East Knowledge
5. Teaching and Programming the Middle East

(Each explores Berlin's cultural institutions and scholarly spaces)

From Campus To Cafés

Writing the Middle East For Your Daily Read

Next session(s)

2 – Tue Oct 22 12–2 PM – independent writing time

3 – Tue Oct 29 12–2 PM – independent writing time

4 – Tue Nov 5 12–2 PM – independent writing time

(Deadline for the "porcupine" paper: Thu Nov 8, 2 PM!)

5 – Tue Nov 12 12–2 PM – **reviewing your texts**

From Campus To Cafés

Writing the Middle East For Your Daily Read

Deadlines... oh no!

Tuesday, October 1 – registration period in the campus management starts

Tuesday, October 15 – course introduction

Thursday, October 30, 23:50 – registration period in the campus management ends; **no examination without registration!**

Thursday, November 8, 2pm – deadline for task #1 (submit 7-15 page scholarly text, see call for papers)

Thursday, November 21, 6pm – deadline for task #2 (identify reader communities)

Thursday, December 5, 6pm – deadline for task #4 (peer feedback on problems)

Thursday, December 12, 6pm – deadline for task #5 (confirm final paper topics)

Thursday, December 19, 6pm – deadline for task #6 (peer feedback on gaps vs errors)

Thursday, January 30, 6pm – deadline for task #7 (peer feedback on vertical writing)

Tuesday, February 11, 2pm – early bird deadline to submit final 15–18 page paper

Tuesday, February 25, 2pm – final deadline to submit final 15–18 page paper

From Campus To Cafés

Writing the Middle East For Your Daily Read

Course philosophy

Reader-first, ego second

Clarity over complexity

If your grandma can't understand it, rewrite it.

Knowledge speed-dating

1. Solo brainstorm (5 mins):

Your Middle East expertise

Writing experiences

Course learning goals

*// Outcome: A
magnificent map of our
collective genius!*

2. Group share (rest of the session): name, expertise,
interests, goals, ...

Find your knowledge soulmates

Discover complementary skills

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