COMS9001: Communication Skills for RHD Candidates
Semester 1 2016

Topic Information:
COMS9001 is a topic developed to assist RHD candidates improve their written and oral skills for use in higher degree research. The topic will develop candidates' general and academic communication skills within the specific context of their course of study. The subjects covered include English grammar, syntax and idiom; academic and scientific writing; structure and argument; literature reviews; academic publishing; research proposals; editing and peer review. Students will work on their own literature reviews and research proposals and will be expected to learn how to edit their own and their peers' work.

This topic is most suitable for candidates in their first year of candidature. More information about the topic can be found on the COMS9001 Topic Information Page. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the candidates for undertaking this topic.

Timetable:
The topic is offered as a 12 week semester topic in Semester 1. Once enrolled, candidates can choose to register in one of the following classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>01 Mar - 05 Apr</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>09:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Social Sciences Nth, 235 Tutorial Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 Apr - 07 Jun</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>09:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Social Sciences Nth, 235 Tutorial Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>01 Mar - 05 Apr</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Humanities, 121 Seminar Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 Apr - 07 Jun</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Humanities, 121 Seminar Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>29 Feb - 04 Apr</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Humanities, 121 Seminar Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 Apr - 06 Jun</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Humanities, 121 Seminar Room</td>
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Topic requirements:
For the first class and all subsequent classes you will need to bring the following:
- a few pages of your writing in draft form (see below) printed out and on USB;
- any outlines or notes that will assist in the preparation of your final assignment;
- a laptop or tablet (laptops can be provided upon request); and
- a willingness to share your work.
There are two options for your final assessment for this class. The first option is a written research proposal for your thesis. This is recommended for students who are in their first year of study and who have not submitted a research proposal. The second option is a short academic paper in your field. This paper may be an extract from a chapter or from a longer paper, or a publication you are working on.

The class will involve workshopping this final assessment piece. Therefore, you are required to bring a few pages of draft work to every class and to show this work to other students during class. Also bring any plans, notes or outlines that may assist you. Students who do not bring work to class will be unable to participate in many of the activities. We will send you further details on the final assessment and on the required readings as soon as they are available. These readings will also have to be studied before class.

**How to enrol:**

Enrolment in COMS9001 is now available, by application, if you are admitted to a Research Higher Degree (RHD); i.e. Masters by Research or PhD. Candidates who are enrolled in a PhD (Clinical Psychology), Doctor of Education and Doctor of Public Health are **unable** to undertake the topic as it does not fit with their course rules.

After discussing the topic with your Principal Supervisor to ensure it fits within your study plan, you can apply to enrol in COMS9001 by following the steps below.

- Submit an online support request via Ask Flinders by selecting **Request Support** from the menu at the top of the page and signing in as a current student.
- When returned to the Ask Flinders home page, select **Request Support** again, then **Submit a Request**.
- Fill out the form, including as much detail as you can about yourself and your request to assist with a quick response (attach copies of any relevant information, such as a confirmation email from your Principal Supervisor). In particular:
  - Enter your Student ID
  - Enter **COMS9001 Enrolment** in the Summary field
  - Select **Enrolment** from the Area list
  - Choose **Research Higher Degree Enrolment** from the Enrolment Request list
  - Select your course
  - Select your faculty
  - Provide the following information in the Details section: “I, [insert your name], would like to enrol in COMS9001 and have discussed this with my Principal Supervisor, [insert name].”

A copy of your application request will be emailed to your University account as confirmation that your request has been received.

Your application will be reviewed by the Faculty Office and you will be advised of the outcome via your Flinders email account. If approved you will be enrolled in the topic by the Faculty Office and advised by email of the confirmation of enrolment. You must do this before the **last day to enrol**.

For any further information about the topic, please contact Dr Sky Marsen, Topic Coordinator COMS9001 on **sky.marsen@flinders.edu.au**.