

TEACHERS COLLEGE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC IMMERSION SEMINAR

Course Overview and Sample Syllabus

SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 2.0

GRADING: PASS/FAIL

A&H 4199 Course Description

The Teachers College Immersion Seminar is a six-week course designed for newly admitted students interested in accelerating their introduction to the rigors of graduate studies and academic life at TC. Course participants will have the opportunity to engage in a range of preparatory activities designed to enhance scholarship and build strategies for success.

Considerable attention will be given to academic writing styles, research, oral presentations, and other graduate-level skills. As further support, students completing the summer immersion seminar will be paired with an experienced student mentor to ensure a successful transition during the first fall semester. This course is open to newly admitted students only.

Sample Course Topics

| Week | Day 1 | Day 2 |
|------|--|---|
| 1 | Introduction to TC: • History and influence • Academic structure and community | Interpersonal skills in the academic setting Engaging with faculty: • Office hours • Emails Engaging with students: • In-class • Study groups |
| 2 | Oral classroom skills Active participation Group work: Choosing a research topic | TC Library tour Navigating the library/online databases HW due: Research topic, purpose of study |
| 3 | Academic reading and writing, part 1 Academic reading tips Types of reading/writing assignments Reading responses/reaction papers | Annotated bibliography APA References Literature review HW due: Reading response/reaction paper |
| 4 | Academic reading and writing, part 2 Research paper Making an outline | Academic Misconduct Plagiarism and ownership of knowledge APA style guidelines HW due: Outline of research paper |
| 5 | Academic writing tips Presentation skills Materials/technology for presentations Demo: Informal presentation | Individual informal presentations and feedback HW due: References for research paper Questions for Q&A session |
| 6 | General Q&A session Prep for group presentations | Group presentations and feedback HW due: Research paper |

Prerequisite Courses

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce and prepare new students for academic life and expectations at Teachers College. The aim is to guide students through a range of issues related to academic integrity and to support students in building graduate-level skills for reading, writing, research, and oral presentations.