

INTRO TO GRADUATE STUDIES

PROF. BOVILSKY

Description

This course provides a rigorous introduction to scholarly writing and speaking through the process of conceiving, researching, writing, and revising one long paper and presenting this work as a conference paper at the end of the term. We will also analyze, discuss, and workshop components of scholarly writing.

Learning Outcomes

English 690 will (1) offer strategies for success in graduate study in the English Department; (2) build familiarity with professional tasks and institutions, through explanation, discussion, and assignments/experiential learning; (3) facilitate each student's progress toward the goals of (a) writing clearly, persuasively, and in accordance with conventions of formal writing in field and (b) producing substantial research projects with faculty guidance, including the basics of close reading, graduate-level argumentation, and the development of theses and bibliographies; (4) familiarize students with the resources of Knight Library and its staff; and (5) acquaint students with some of the history and philosophy/methodology of the discipline of modern literary study.

The course meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00-11:50 in PLC 253.

Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:

Office: PLC 246

Email: bovilsky@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Mondays 1-3, Wednesdays, 1-2, or by appointment

Required Readings:

Gregory Colon Semenza, *Graduate Study for the 21st Century*

Additional essays for workshops or discussions will be made available as pdfs on the course Blackboard website: blackboard.uoregon.edu.

Recommended Readings: James L. Harner, *Literary Research Guide*, 5th ed.; MLA, *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, 3rd ed.; Ross Murfin and Supriya M. Ray, *Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*, 2nd ed.

Requirements

1. Interpretive essay on a Shakespeare sonnet, 3-5 pages, due Mon. Sept. 29
2. Self-evaluations, 2 pages each, due Sept. 29 and Dec. 8
3. Oral Presentation on one of the texts from your own seminar paper's bibliography
4. 12 –15 page seminar paper, submitted in stages: abstract, draft, final paper, presentation (see syllabus for deadlines)
5. 12 - item annotated bibliography pertaining to seminar paper, due Thurs., Oct. 30
6. Presentation version of seminar paper, edited for 10-minute reading at NWMLA conference (Monday-Tuesday, December 8-9)
7. 2 questions about class readings marked with *, to be posted on Blackboard by 6 p.m., night before class
8. 2 or 3 short written assignments (related to workshop topics)

Additional Requirements

Punctual, regular attendance and participation in discussion are required.

All written work should be typed, single sided, double spaced.
Incompletes will be given only for a documented emergency.

Grades

Interpretive essay, self-evaluations	comments, grade, 0% of final grade
Questions on readings	(part of class participation grade)
Oral presentation	15%
Seminar paper:	
Abstract	5%
Draft	10%
Final version	30%
Bibliography	15%
NWMLA Presentation	15%
Class Participation	10%

Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, you must meet with me by Friday, October 10. I assume that you will also meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.

Course Schedule

(**please note – a visit to Knight Library Special Collections will be scheduled soon**)

M 9/29 Course Introduction

Sonnet analysis (3-5 pp) and self-evaluation (2 pp) due

- W 10/1 Library Visit 1 **Meet in Knight 144**
 Faculty Guest: Prof. Jeffrey Staiger
 *Reading: Andy Barrett, “The Information-Seeking Habits of Graduate Student Researchers in the Humanities”
- M 10/6 Writing Workshop 1: Close reading: Description; Micro-theses
- W 10/8 Writing Workshop 2: Close reading: Words and Meaning
 *Reading: William Empson, from *7 Types of Ambiguity*
 *Reading: Semenza, Chapters 1-3 **Meet in Knight 122**
- M 10/13 Writing Workshop 3: Close reading exercises
- W 10/15 Reading: Semenza, Chapters 4-6 **Meet in Knight 122**
 *Reading: Michael Warner, “Professionalization and the Rewards of Literature”
- M 10/20 Library Visit 2 **Meet in Knight Foyer**
 Faculty Guest: Prof. James Fox
 *Reading: Barbara Herrnstein-Smith, “Contingencies of Value”
Sample annotated bibliography entry due
- W 10/22 *Reading: Christopher Newfield, *The Unmaking of the Public University*,
 Introduction, Chapters 9, 13
 Professionalism Q&A 1: Conferencing **Meet in Knight 42**
 Reading: Semenza, Chapter 9
- M 10/27 Writing workshop 4: Introductions
- W 10/29 Writing workshop 5: Incorporating and citing criticism **Meet in Knight 122**
 Professionalism Q&A 2: Publishing
 Reading: Semenza, Chapter 10
- Th 10/30 **Annotated Bibliography due**
- M 11/3 Writing workshop 6: Sentences; Abstracts
- W 11/5 Writing workshop 7: Paragraphing **Abstract Exercise due**
 Publishing case studies
- M 11/10 Presentations begin! Readings from your bibliographies
- Tu 11/11 **Final paper abstract due**
- W 11/12 Presentations

M 11/17 Presentations

W 11/19 Writing Workshop 8: Style/Copia

Copia Exercise due

M 11/24 Presentations

Tu 11/25

Final paper draft due

W 11/26 **Thanksgiving Break: no class**

M 12/1 Presentation

Writing Workshop 9: Close Reading for your papers

W 12/3 Writing Workshop 10: Diction/Grammar/Sentences Redux

M-Tu 12/8-9 NWMLA, 10 am – 1 pm

Tu 12/9 **Final paper due 5 pm**

Self-evaluation (2 pp.) due