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 12:00-1:50 in McKenzie 473.

Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:
Office: PLC 246              Email: bovilsky@uoregon.edu
Office hours: Mondays 10-11, Wednesdays 9:30-10:30, Thursdays 10:30-11:30, or by appointment. NB: Please email to schedule an appointment to meet during regular office hours in advance, as they regularly fill up. You may still drop by, but I may not be free.

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 Canvas website: canvas.uoregon.edu.

Requirements

1. Interpretive essay on a Shakespeare sonnet, 3-5 pages, due Mon. Sept. 26
2. Self-evaluations, 2 pages each, due Sept. 26 and Dec. 5
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. 27
6. Presentation version of seminar paper, edited for 10-minute reading at NWMLA conference (Monday-Tuesday, December 5-6)
7. 2 questions about class readings marked with * or responses to a classmate’s question, to be posted on Canvas by 6 p.m., the 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 7. I assume that you will also meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.

Course Schedule

M 9/26 Course Introduction Sonnet analysis (3-5 pp) and self-evaluation (2 pp) due
W 9/28  Library Visit 1
  Faculty Guest: Prof. Jeffrey Staiger
  *Reading: Andy Barrett, “The Information-Seeking Habits of Graduate Student
  Researchers in the Humanities”

M 10/3  Writing Workshop 1: Close reading: Description; Micro-theses

W 10/5  Library Visit 2
  Faculty Guest: Jennifer O’Neal
  *Reading: Michael Warner, “Professionalization and the Rewards of Literature”

M 10/10 Writing Workshop 2: Close reading: Words and Meaning
  *Reading: William Empson, from *Types of Ambiguity
  *Reading: Semenza, Chapters 1-3

W 10/12 Writing Workshop 3: Close reading exercises

M 10/17 *Reading: Barbara Herrnstein-Smith, “Contingencies of Value”
  Reading: Semenza, Chapters 4-6

W 10/19 *Reading: Christopher Newfield, *The Unmaking of the Public University,*
  Introduction, Chapters 9, 13
  Professionalism Q&A 1: Conferencing
  Reading: Semenza, Chapter 9

M 10/24 Writing workshop 4: Introductions

W 10/26 Writing workshop 5: Incorporating and citing criticism
  Professionalism Q&A 2: Publishing
  Reading: Semenza, Chapter 10

Th 10/27 Annotated Bibliography due

M 10/31 Writing workshop 6: Sentences; Abstracts

W 11/2 Writing workshop 7: Paragraphing
  Publishing case studies

Optional Abstract Exercise due

M 11/7 Presentations begin! Readings to be assigned from your bibliographies

Tu 11/8 Final paper abstract due

W 11/9 Presentations

M 11/14 Presentations
W 11/16  Writing Workshop 8: Style/Copia  

M 11/21 Presentations

Tu 11/22  

W 11/23  Thanksgiving Break: no class

M 11/28  Presentation  
  Writing Workshop 9: Close Reading for your papers

W 11/30  Writing Workshop 10: Diction/Grammar/Sentences Redux

M-Tu 12/5-6  NWMLA, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Tu 12/6  Final paper due 5 pm  
  Self-evaluation (2 pp.) due