INTRO TO GRADUATE STUDIES

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.

Required Readings
Gregory Colon Semenza, Graduate Study for the 21st Century, 2nd ed. (Palgrave, 2010)
Cristina Vischer Bruns, Why Literature? The Value of Literary Reading and What it Means for Teaching (Continuum, 2011)
Additional readings and materials will be posted as pdfs on the course Canvas website: canvas.uoregon.edu.

Requirements
1. Interpretive Essay: close reading of a Shakespeare sonnet, 3-5 pages, due Mon. Sept. 26
2. Self-evaluations, 2 pages each: one due Sept. 26, and one due 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, and presentation (see syllabus for deadlines)
5. 12-item annotated bibliography pertaining to your seminar paper, due Thurs., Oct. 27th
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*, to be posted on Canvas by 6 p.m., the night before class in which we will be discussing the readings
8. 2-4 short, written assignments (related to workshop topics/readings) as assigned
9. Careful and thoughtful preparation of assigned readings throughout the term

Additional Requirements
1. Punctual, regular attendance and participation in discussion are required.
2. All written work should be typed, single-sided and double-spaced.
3. Incompletes will be given only for a documented emergency and in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

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%

Accessibility 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. You will also need to meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide, and/or arrange needed accommodations.

Religious Observances
Please see me in office hours should religious observance conflict with class sessions or activities. See https://registrar.uoregon.edu/calendars/religious-observances for more information.
Course Schedule (NB: Some of our meetings will occur with Bovilsky’s section of this course when both 690s will share a speaker, presentation, or a discussion. Please check the syllabus and Canvas diligently so you know where to meet on those days during the term so you arrive on time.

**Week One**
M 9/26  Course Introduction  Meet in PLC 448  
Sonnet analysis (3-5 pp) and self-evaluation (2 pp) due in class

W 9/28  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” together

**Week Two**
M 10/3  Writing Workshop 1: Close reading: Description; Micro-theses  Meet in PLC 448

W 10/5  Library Visit 2  Meet in Knight Foyer  
Faculty Guest: Jennifer O’Neal  
*Reading: Michael Warner, “Professionalization and the Rewards of Literature” PLC 448

**Week Three**
M 10/10  Writing Workshop 2: Close reading: Words and Meaning  Meet in PLC 448  
*Reading: William Empson, from *7 Types of Ambiguity*  
*Reading: Semenza, Chapters 1-3  Meet in Knight 122

W 10/12  Writing Workshop 3: Close reading exercises  Meet in PLC 448

**Week Four**
M 10/17  *Reading: Barbara Herrnstein-Smith, “Contingencies of Value”  Meet in PLC 448  
*Reading: Semenza, Chapters 4-6  Meet in Knight 122  
Sample annotated bibliography entry due

W 10/19  *Reading: Christopher Newfield, *The Unmaking of the Public University*, Introduction, Chapters 9, 13  Meet in PLC 448  
Professionalism Q&A 1: Conferencing  Meet in Knight 122  
Reading: Semenza, Chapter 9

**Week Five**
M 10/24  Writing workshop 4: Shaping Introductions  Meet in PLC 448  
***Reading: Bruns, *Why Literature? The Value of Literary Reading and What it Means for Teaching*; 1-2 page typed response AND 1 key question.

W 10/26  Writing workshop 5: Incorporating and citing criticism  Meet in PLC 448  
Professionalism Q&A 2: Publishing  Meet in Knight 122  
Reading: Semenza, Chapter 10 together

Th 10/27  Annotated Bibliography due
**Week Six**

M 10/31  Writing workshop 6: Sentences, Abstracts  
Meet in PLC 448

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

**Week Seven**

M 11/7  Presentations begin! (3)  
Meet in PLC 448

Tu 11/8  
Final paper abstract due

W 11/9  Presentations from bibliographies cont. (3)  
Meet in PLC 448

**Week Eight**

M 11/14  Presentations (3)  
Meet in PLC 448

W 11/16  Writing Workshop 8: Style/Copia  
Copia Exercise due

**Week Nine**

M 11/21 Presentations (2)  
Meet in PLC 448

Tu 11/22  
Final paper draft due

W 11/23  Thankgiving Break: no class

**Week Ten**

M 11/28  Writing Workshop 9: Close Reading for your papers  
Discussion: Preparing for the NWMLA presentation  
Meet in PLC 448

W 11/30  Writing Workshop 10: Diction/Grammar/Sentences Redux  
Meet in PLC 448

**Finals Week**

M 12/5 and Tu 12/6  NWMLA, 9:30 am –2:30 pm; Alder bldg.  
ALL TOGETHER

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