

ENGLISH 690--INTRO TO GRADUATE STUDIES (Fall 2018)

Professor Mary Wood
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445 PLC, 346-3010
Office Hrs: M 1-3, T 12-2

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. In addition, the course serves as an introduction to graduate studies in English at UO and to career paths and professional lives and work that follow graduation.

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 Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00-1:50 p.m. in PLC 448.

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.

Recommended Resources: 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. Another great resource is Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL), which provides access to MLA and other bibliographic reference formatting systems: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html.

Requirements

1. Interpretive essay, 3-5 pages, due Wed. 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 Monday., Oct. 29.
6. Presentation version of seminar paper, edited for 10-minute reading at NWMLA conference (Monday-Tuesday, December 3-4)
7. 2 questions about class readings marked with *, to be posted on Canvas by 6 p.m., night before class and 1 question about a classmate's article (see #3).
8. 2 or 3 short written assignments (related to workshop topics)

Additional Requirements

Punctual, regular attendance and participation in discussion are required.

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 on article	15%
Seminar paper:	
Abstract	5%
Draft	10%
Final version	30%
Bibliography	15%
NWMLA Presentation	15%
Class Participation, including other writing	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, September 28. You should also meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.

Course Schedule

Week One: Close Reading: Theory and Practice

W 9/26 Course Introduction **Text analysis (3-5 pp) and self-evaluation (2 pp) due**

F 9/28 Writing workshop 1: Close reading: Description; Micro-theses

*Reading: Editors of *SubStance*, “Close Reading: A Preface.”

Week Two: The “Culture” of Graduate School, Close Reading Continued

W 10/3 Library Visit 1

Meet at Knight Library, Rm TBA

Faculty Guest: Prof. Jeffrey Staiger

*Reading: Andy Barrett, “The Information-Seeking Habits of Graduate Student Researchers in the Humanities”

F 10/5 Writing Workshop 2: Close reading: Words and Meaning

*Reading: Rachel Conrad, “Children Coming Home: The Anticipatory Present in Gwendolyn Brooks’s Poems of Childhood.”

*Reading: Semenza, Chapters 1-3

Week Three: Situated Knowledge, Situated Learning

W 10/10 Writing Workshop 3: Close reading continued

*Readings: Martina Vasil and Joyce McCall, “The Perspectives of Two First-Generation Graduate Students Pursuing Doctoral Degrees in Music Education”; Kirsten Edwards and Denise Taliaferro Baszile, “Scholarly Rearing in Three Acts: Black Women’s Testimonial Scholarship and the Cultivation of Radical Black Female Inter-Subjectivity.”

Friday 10/12: Discussion Q and A: Publishing—Guest speakers Gina Filo and Angela Rovak
Readings by Filo and Rovak on Canvas

Week Four: English Departments and Literary Scholarship—History, Methods, Ideology

W 10/17 Writing Workshop 4: Style/Audience/Copia

Copia Exercise due

*Reading: Semenza, Chapters 4-6

*Reading: Michael Warner, “Professionalization and the Rewards of Literature”

F 10/19 *Readings: Barbara Hernstein-Smith, “Contingencies of Value,” Semenza, Ch. 9.

Sample annotated bibliography entry due

Week Five: English Departments in Social, Economic, and Political Contexts

W 10/24 Writing workshop 5: Introductions

*Reading: Christopher Newfield, *The Unmaking of the Public University*,
Introduction, Chapters 9, 13.

Discussion/Q&A 1: Conferencing

F 10/26 Writing workshop 6: Incorporating and citing criticism
*Reading: Semenza, Chapter 10
Library Visit 2

Special Collections visit 1-2 p.m.
Guest speaker: Archivist Linda Long

Week Six: Thinking About Writing and Publishing (Print and Digital)

M 10/29

Annotated Bibliography due by noon

W 10/31 Writing workshop 7: Sentences; Abstracts, Paragraphing
Publishing case studies

F 11/2 Digital Humanities—Guests Heidi Kaufman and Courtney Floyd

Meet at Viz Lab in Science Library

Week Seven: Bibliography as Conversation

M 11/5

Final paper abstract due

W 11/7 Presentations begin! Readings from your bibliographies

F 11/9 Presentations.

Week Eight: Collaboration and Social Media in the Humanities

W 11/14 Presentations.

*Reading: Jennie M. Burroughs, “No Uniform Culture: Patterns of Collaborative Research in the Humanities.”

F 11/16 Social Media in Academia

*Readings: Mark Carrigan, Chapters 2 and 9

Week Nine: Bibliography as Conversation Continued

W 11/21 Presentations

Final paper draft due.

F 11/23 **Thanksgiving**—no class.

Week Ten: Revision, Revision, Revision

W 11/28 Presentations

Writing Workshop: Close Reading for your papers

F 11/30 Presentations

Writing Workshop: Diction/Grammer/Sentences

Finals Week: Conference!

M-Tu 12/3-4 Northwest MLA, 10 am – 1 pm

W 12/5 **Final paper due 6 pm**

Self-evaluation (2 pp.) due