

**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 PLC 448.**

**Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:****Office: PLC 246****Email: [bovilsky@uoregon.edu](mailto:bovilsky@uoregon.edu)**

**Office hours: Mondays 10-11, Fridays 10:45-12:45, or by appointment. NB: Please email to schedule an appointment to meet during regular office hours in advance, as they regularly fill up. Please feel welcome to 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](http://canvas.uoregon.edu).

**Recommended Resources:** MLA, *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, 8th ed.; The Forest of Rhetoric: [rhetoric.byu.edu](http://rhetoric.byu.edu) [help with rhetorical structures and figures]; Purdue Owl: [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl) [help with grammar, usage, and style]; Alex Preminger and T. V. F. Brogan, eds., *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*; Roland Greene, ed. *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics, 4th Edition* [reference for forms, movements, poetics, history – Greene's is newer and different, and both versions are worth consulting]

## Requirements

1. Interpretive essay on a Shakespeare or Shockley poem, 3-4 pages, due Mon. Sept. 25
2. Self-evaluations, 2 pages each, due Sept. 25 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. 26
6. Presentation version of seminar paper, edited for 10-minute reading at NWMLA conference (Monday, December 4)
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 6. I assume that you will also meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.

## Course Schedule

M 9/25 Course Introduction

**Poem analysis (3-4 pp) and self-evaluation (2 pp) due**

- W 9/27 Library Visit 1 **Meet in Knight 144**  
 Faculty Guest: Subject Librarian Dr. Jeffrey Staiger  
 \*Readings: Andy Barrett, “The Information-Seeking Habits of Graduate Student Researchers in the Humanities”; Gibbs et al, “Assessing the Research Needs of Graduate Students at Georgetown University”
- M 10/2 Writing Workshop 1: Close reading: Description; Micro-theses
- W 10/4 Hour 1: Writing Workshop 2: Close reading: Words and Meaning  
 \*Reading: William Empson, from *7 Types of Ambiguity*  
 Hour 2: Discussion: the graduate experience, time management, and strategies for learning and achievement with minimal stress  
 \*Reading: Semenza, Chapters 1-3 **tell them about monday specs**
- M 10/9 Library Visit 2 **Meet in SCUA**  
 Faculty Guest: Bruce Tabb
- W 10/11 Writing Workshop 3: Close reading exercises **[hand out biblio prompt]**
- M 10/16 Hour 1: History of the modern profession and its values  
 \*Reading: Michael Warner, “Professionalization and the Rewards of Literature”  
 Hour 2: Discussion: writing and teaching – time management and helpful strategies, pt. 2  
 Reading: Semenza, Chapters 4-6  
**Sample annotated bibliography entry due**
- W 10/18 Hour 1: Rigorous understanding of methodological ideology  
 \*Reading: Barbara Herrnstein-Smith, “Contingencies of Value”  
 Hour 2: Discussion/Q&A: conferencing  
 Reading: Semenza, Chapter 9
- M 10/23 Hour 1: Writing workshop 4: Introductions  
 Hour 2: Economic and social trends in higher education  
 \*Reading: Christopher Newfield, *The Unmaking of the Public University*, Introduction, Chapters 9, 13
- W 10/25 Hour 1: Writing workshop 5: Incorporating and citing criticism  
 Hour 2: Discussion/Q&A: Publishing  
 Reading: Semenza, Chapter 10
- Th 10/26 **Annotated Bibliography due**
- M 10/30 Writing workshop 6: Sentences; Abstracts; more on Citation as needed
- W 11/1 Hour 1: Writing workshop 7: Paragraphing **Optional Abstract Exercise due**  
 Hour 2: Publishing case studies

M 11/6 Presentations begin! Readings to be assigned from your bibliographies

Tu 11/7

**Final paper abstract due**

W 11/8 Presentations

M 11/13 Presentations

W 11/15 Writing Workshop 8: Style/Copia

**Copia Exercise due**

M 11/20 Presentations

Tu 11/21

**Final paper draft due**

W 11/22 **Thanksgiving Break: no class**

M 11/27 Presentation

Writing Workshop 9: Close Reading for your papers

W 11/29 Writing Workshop 10: Diction/Grammar/Sentences Redux

M 12/4 NWMLA, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

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

**Self-evaluation (2 pp.) due**