

Tel Aviv University  
Department of English and American Studies  
**Basic Writing Course**  
**Fall 2019-2020**

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Sunday 14:15-15:45

Wednesday 14:15-15:45

Room: Rosenberg 209

Office Hours: Mon. 13:00-15:00 or by appointment

Office: Web 504

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## Syllabus

### Course Description

In this four-hour weekly tutorial, students will be introduced to fundamentals of academic writing, reading, and research. Topics include: English mechanics and rhetoric; close reading; essay structure; thesis statements; strategies for argumentation; supporting a thesis with evidence; research skills; evaluating and incorporating secondary sources; MLA citation; and technical elements of research essays.

### Course Objectives

- Write academic papers clearly and coherently using standard English.
- Formulate thesis statements and support them using textual evidence.
- Read primary sources closely and critically.
- Read secondary sources closely and critically, including identifying main claims and textual evidence.
- Demonstrate research skills, including gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing secondary sources.
- Employ correct MLA style citation.

### Attendance and Participation

Success in this class depends on regular, punctual attendance. More than three absences can be grounds for dismissal from the course. Written assignments are accepted only when a student has been attending class consistently. Students are responsible for making up all missed work. If circumstances arise where you know you will have to miss class, please let me know in advance. In addition to attendance, students are expected to participate in class discussion and in all in-class exercises, such as weekly presentations and the peer review workshops.

**\*Students must receive a grade of at least 70** in the Writing Tutorial before they can register for Writing Proseminar.

## **Assignment Format**

All assignments are to be submitted via Moodle. Please include your name and type of assignment in the file's name. Assignments should be submitted as doc. or docx. files only. If you expect to have a problem submitting your work as a Microsoft Word file, you must contact me least two days before the assignment is due. Use Times New Roman, font size 12, double-spaced. All assignments must follow MLA style for all aspects, including formatting, in-text citations, and the works cited page.

## **Late Assignments**

In general late assignments will not be accepted unless an extension is agreed upon in advance, nor are extensions granted after a deadline has passed. If a student does not contact me requesting an extension due to extenuating circumstances, the grade for that assignment can be marked down.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writings as your own. This includes copying from websites and utilizing uncited sources in your work. Academic integrity violations can result in a failing grade on the assignment and/or the course. Plagiarized papers will automatically receive a failing grade. Cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Department of English and American Studies and documented in the student's personal record.

For a comprehensive website on using sources, citation, and plagiarism refer to:  
<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

## **Classroom Etiquette**

Please respect your classmates and conduct yourself in the classroom as you would in a professional setting. It is acceptable to bring a laptop to class. You may bring class material on any device (laptop, tablet) except a phone. Emailing, Facebook, tweeting, texting, etc., are not allowed. Any of these activities will be considered extremely disrespectful to the class. If they are pursued, the student may be asked to leave class, and will receive an absence for the day. In addition, the student's participation grade will be affected negatively.

## **Course Material**

All course materials will be available on the Moodle.

### **Primary Sources:**

Henry, O. "A Ramble in Aphasia", *Metropolitan Magazine*, February 1905. Pp 552-559.  
(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph139345/>: accessed August 25, 2019),

Kerouac, Jack. "New York Nite Club", *New York Stories*. Random House, 2011. Pp. 9-15.

### **Secondary Sources:**

Kimmel, Michael. "Playing for Keeps", *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. Free Press, 1996. Pp 87-114.

Meyer, Stephen. *Manhood on the Line : Working-Class Masculinities in the American Heartland*. University of Illinois Press, 2016. Pp 1-11. [EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1100904&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1100904&site=ehost-live)

Rollins, Hyder E. "O. Henry.", *The Sewanee Review*, vol. 22, no. 2, 1914, pp. 213–232.  
[www.jstor.org/stable/27532711](http://www.jstor.org/stable/27532711).

### **Grading:**

- Final Paper 30% (5-6 pages).
- Midterm essay 20% (3-4 pages)
- Library/MLA citation assignment 10%
- Final portfolio assignment 10%
- Critical article summary 10%
- Grammar proficiency quizzes 10% (one quiz during the semester and one at the end)
- Attendance, preparedness, participation 10%

\*The different assignments during the semester are all crucial for the progress and attainment of the course goals and are mandatory for all students. Failure to complete any of the ungraded assignments in the course will lead to a 5-point penalty in the final grade.

\*It is necessary to receive a passing grade (70 and above) on the final paper in order to pass the course.

## Course Schedule (liable to change):

### **Lesson 1– Sunday 27.10.19– Introduction, Structure of an academic paper**

- Introduction to the conventions of academic writing, primary and secondary sources.
- Begin close reading of Kerouac’s “New York Nite Club” while highlighting potential textual evidence to support arguments.

**Assignments:** Finish reading Kerouac’s story: highlight difficult/interesting passages, make notes and formulate questions. Then write a response (one paragraph) in which you relate to some issue you found interesting in the text. Due by Tuesday 29.10.19 by 12:00.

### **Lesson 2 – Wednesday 30.10.19 – Thesis statements**

- Locating a thesis statement and formulating a thesis statement.
- Discussion about the attributes of a strong thesis statement.
- Review of student responses.

**Assignment:** Write an introductory paragraph (with a thesis statement) about Kerouac’s story, due by Saturday 2.11.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 3 – Sunday 3.11.19 – Argument Structure**

- Review students’ introductory paragraphs and thesis statements.
- Formulating and structuring arguments.
- Incorporating textual evidence from primary source.

**Assignment:** Read Stephen Meyer’s introduction to his book (*Manhood on the Line: Working - Class Masculinities in the American Heartland*) and highlight sections relevant to Kerouac’s story. Bring to class on Wednesday 6.11.19.

### **Lesson 4 – Wednesday 6.11.19 – Secondary Sources**

- Discussion of academic paper register.
- Discussion of the secondary source with emphasis on locating the main argument(s) and structure.
- Incorporating secondary sources.

**Assignment:** Write a paragraph incorporating both Meyer’s introduction and a direct quote from the primary text. Due by Saturday 9.11.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 5 – Sunday 10.11.19 – Paragraph structure**

- Review students’ paragraphs.
- Review instructions for paper on Kerouac’s story. **Due by 20.11.19 (by the end of the day).**
- Paragraph structure, including topic/supporting sentences, proper formatting/indentation.

### **Lesson 6 – Wednesday 13.11.19 – Outline and Punctuation**

- Outlining workshop using sample outline.
- Punctuation review.
- Grammar review.

**Assignment:** Write one paragraph summarizing the plot of Kerouac’s story, pay attention to proper tenses. Due by Saturday 16.11.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 7 – Sunday 17.11.19 – Grammar Quiz 1**

- Review students’ paragraphs.
- Start reading second primary source – O Henry’s “A Ramble in Aphasia”.
- Review of thesis statements.
- **Grammar quiz 1.**

**\* Reminder: Kerouac paper due Wednesday 20.11.19.**

### **Lesson 8 – Wednesday 20.11.19 – Thesis Statements**

- Review of grammar quiz.
- Finish reading O Henry story. Discussion of possible thesis statements for the story.
- Review instructions for **midterm paper– due by Sunday 15.12.19.**

**\*Kerouac paper due by the end of the day.**

**Assignment:** Write an introductory paragraph for O Henry’s story incorporating one of the thesis statements raised in class today. Due by Saturday 23.11.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 9 – Sunday 24.11.19 – Citation practices and editing**

- Review students’ introductory paragraphs.
- Discussion of techniques for gathering and incorporating evidence from primary and secondary sources, including discussion of different interaction techniques with secondary sources.
- Guidelines and tips for summarizing.

**\*Reminder – Library Workshop next lesson, meeting at the entrance to Sourasky Library.**

**Assignment:** Summarize Michael Kimmel’s chapter 4 “Playing for Keeps” (from his book, *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*). Due by Saturday 30.11.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 10 – Wednesday 27.11.19 – Library Workshop**

- Meeting at the entrance to the main library – Sourasky Library Building – and not in class.
- Secondary sources assignment.

**Assignment:** In pairs find an article relevant for O Henry’s story. Find the article’s thesis statement and at least one idea/claim made in the article which could be useful for your paper.

Prepare a simple PPT quoting and introducing both, to be presented and discussed in class next lesson.

### **Lesson 11 – Sunday 1.12.19 – Incorporating and Interacting with Secondary Sources**

- Presentation and discussion of students' secondary sources.
- Analysis of paragraphs incorporating secondary sources.

**Assignment:** Hand in one paragraph from your future paper, incorporating a secondary source (either the two secondary sources provided in the syllabus – Kimmel's chapter 4 or Rollin's article – or one of the secondary sources introduced by students in class). Due by Tuesday 3.12.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 12 – Wednesday 4.12.19 – MLA Citations**

- Review of students' paragraphs incorporating secondary sources.
- Review of MLA Citation rules.

**Assignment:** MLA citation assignment. Due by Saturday 7.12.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 13 – Sunday 8.12.19 – Outline Workshop**

- Extricating evidence in support of the thesis statement from the primary source.
- Review of outlining techniques and different graphic organizers.

**\*Reminder – Midterm essay due next Sunday 15.12.19.**

**Assignment:** Hand in an outline of your paper using any of the formats available, include in it at least **5 specific** references to the **primary text** and **one** reference to a **secondary text**. Include your thesis statement. The outline has to provide enough evidence to prove the thesis statement. Due by Tuesday 10.12.19 (by the end of the day).

### **Lesson 14 – Wednesday 11.12.19 – Editing and Revisions**

- Review of students' outlines.
- Reviewing and Editing techniques.

### **Lesson 15 – Sunday 15.12.19 – Hand in of Midterm Paper**

- Peer review workshop.

**\*Midterm due by the end of the day.**

\*Midterms will be returned and feedback provided in personal conferences in the following 3-4 lessons. There will be no frontal classes during these lessons, only conferences.

### **Lessons 16-19 – 18.12.19, 22.12.19, 1.1.20, 5.1.20 – Conferences**

**Lesson 20 – Wednesday 8.1.19 – Revision Strategies**

- Revision Checklist.
- Examples of revised paragraphs.

**\*Final paper draft due next Wednesday 15.1.20.**

**Lesson 21 – Sunday 12.1.20 – Editing and Outlining Review**

- Sources for editing and revising.
- Outlining of final essay as a tool for editing.

**Lesson 22 – Wednesday 15.1.20 – Hand in Final Paper Draft**

- Grammar review.
- Reviewing and editing of sample papers in class.

**Lesson 23 – Sunday 19.1.20 – Revision and Editing**

- Review of portfolio requirements and progress report.
- Reviewing and editing of sample papers in class.

**Lesson 24 – Wednesday 22.1.20 – Grammar Quiz 2 and Peer Review Workshop**

**Lesson 25 – Sunday 26.1.20 -Final Lesson**

- Review of Grammar quiz.
- Discussion of personal progress reports.

**\*Hand in portfolio in class (hard copy).**

**\*The final paper is due by the end of the day (midnight).**