

Tel Aviv University
Department of English and American Studies
Writing Proseminar
פרוסמינר בכתיבה - 0626206403

Spring 2020

Dr. Robin Shochat Bagon

Sunday and Wednesday 14.00-16.00

Webb 105/101

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Course Description

In Writing Proseminar, students study the conventions of research writing, focusing mainly on literature and literary scholarship. These conventions include: close reading of primary sources, textual analysis, formulating a research question and thesis, supporting a thesis with textual evidence, locating and incorporating secondary sources, style and rhetoric, and citation (MLA style). Throughout the semester, students will be writing at least two drafts of an essay, leading up to a 10-12-page research essay. The course is meant to provide students with the foundations for producing academic-level essays. Students will be required to complete regular reading, research, and writing assignments. In addition, there are in-class activities, collaborative tasks, and individual conferences. Please note that regular attendance is not only mandatory, but critically important for success in this course.

Course Procedures

Attendance

Success in this class depends on regular attendance. Each student may be absent three times without penalty to the grade. Five absences **for any reason** will lead to dismissal from the course. Written assignments are accepted only when a student has been attending class consistently. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as half an absence for the day. Students are responsible for making up all missed work. This involves turning in assignments and keeping up with the Moodle site for announcements. Other than keeping up with the Moodle, your resource for notes, information, and “catching up” should be your peers. If special circumstances arise regarding your attendance then please speak to me. In addition to attendance, students are expected to:

- Participate in class discussions
- Give oral and written presentations and reports
- Collaborate with other students, including exchanging drafts and making constructive comments on their work in progress
- Attend conferences with the instructor (at least three during the semester) when such conferences are scheduled after the submission of the midterm draft

Because this is an intensive writing course, please take into account that you will need to set aside between six and eight hours per week for your reading, writing and library research in addition to the four hours of class time.

Assignment Format

There will be guidelines for each assignment as to how it should be submitted – by email, on Moodle, as a typed document, or otherwise. When submitting assignments by email your name and the assignment should always appear in the subject. Papers must follow MLA style for all aspects, including formatting, in-text citations, and the works cited page. Emailed assignments are accepted as **.doc or .docx files only**. Assignments submitted as PDF, .rtf and other types of files, will not be accepted or graded. 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.

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 such as army service or illness, the grade for that assignment will 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. Cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Department of English and American Studies. All work

must be prepared and proofread by you personally. While you are permitted to show your work to others and receive editorial suggestions, you may not have someone else proofread your paper for you. In other words, while you may work with a tutor, classmates, or others to help you identify problems in your writing, you are responsible for correcting these problems yourself. 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 recommended to bring a laptop to class, however, **emailing, facebooking, tweeting, texting, etc.**, are not allowed. Any of these activities will be considered extremely disrespectful to the class. If they are pursued, the student will be asked to leave class, and will receive an absence for the day. In addition, the student's participation grade will be affected negatively.

Required texts

Primary source

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. Edited by Beth Newman, Broadview Press, 2007.

Secondary sources

Miller, J. Hillis. "Wuthering Heights: Repetition and the 'Uncanny.'" *Wuthering Heights: The 1847 Text, Backgrounds and Contexts, Criticism*, edited by Richard J. Dunn, 4th ed, Norton, 2003, pp. 361–79.

Eagleton, Terry. "Wuthering Heights." *Myths of Power: A Marxist Study of the Brontës*, Anniversary ed, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, pp. 97–121.

Assessed Work

1. In-class reading quizzes	5%	15.3.20 22.3.20
2. Pre-draft	15%	1.4.20
3. MLA Works Cited page	5%	10.5.20
4. Midterm essay.	25%	17.5.20
5. Final essay ¹ (10-12 pages with secondary sources)	30%	26.6.20
6. Portfolio	10%	28.6.20
7. Participation in class, individual conferences	10%	

- Instructions for each assignment will be posted on the Moodle site, as well as discussed in class.
- You should keep all of the assignments completed throughout the semester, including in-class assignments, since these will be submitted with your final portfolio.

Course Schedule

	In-class	Independent preparation
Week One		
S. 8.3.20	Overview of an academic essay In-class reading of extract from <i>Wuthering Heights</i> How to formulate a research question	Find definitions for list of prose terms and course keywords Read “How to Write” by Bennett and Royle. Start reading <i>Wuthering Heights</i>. Chapters 1-16 by 15.3.20 Chapters 17-end by 22.3.20
W. 11.3.20	Review of “How to Write” Review of prose terms and keywords The gothic genre Paragraph structure and topic sentences	Ongoing: reading of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , Diagnostic paragraph.

¹ Students must receive a passing grade on the final essay in order to pass the course.

Week Two

S. 15.3.20	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> reading quiz. Chapters 1-16. (2.5%) Themes in <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Academic register Writing thesis statements	Ongoing: reading of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , diagnostic paragraph
W. 18.3.20	Extracts from <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Reading example student paragraphs on <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Ongoing reading of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , diagnostic paragraph

Week Three

S. 22.3.20	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> reading quiz. Chapter 17-end. (2.5%) Paragraph structure Outlines	Read and annotate critical article 1. Submit diagnostic paragraph
W. 25.3.20	Review of critical article I Thesis statements and introductions	Pre-draft

Week Four

S. 29.3.20	Peer-review of pre-draft essays	Ongoing: pre-draft
W. 1.4.20	Workshop – body paragraphs and outlines	Pre-draft of midterm essay. Submitted via Moodle on 1.4.20.

Spring break**Week Five**

S. 19.4.20	Pre-draft conferences	Begin work on midterm essay
W. 21.4.20	Pre-draft conferences	Ongoing: Midterm essay

Week Six

S. 26.4.20	Pre-draft conferences	Ongoing: Midterm essay
W. 29.4.20	No class independence day	

Week Seven

S. 3.5.20	MLA citation and formatting conventions Plagiarism	Ongoing: Midterm essay Begin work on MLA works cited page
W. 6.5.20	Library tutorial on research skills	Ongoing: Midterm essay, MLA works cited page

Week Eight

S. 10.5.20	Review of critical article II	MLA Works cited page due Ongoing: Midterm essay
W. 13.5.20	Workshop – summarizing and paraphrasing	Ongoing: Midterm essay

Week Nine

S. 17.5.20	Workshop – conclusions	Midterm due 17.5.20
W. 20.5.20	Take-home assignment instead of class	Begin work on final essay

Week Ten

S. 24.5.20	Conferences – working on final essays	Ongoing: Final essay
W. 27.5.20	Conferences – working on final essays	Ongoing: Final essay

Week Eleven

S. 31.5.20	Conferences – working on final essays	Ongoing: Final essay
W. 3.6.20	Conferences – working on final essays	Ongoing: Final essay

Week Twelve

S. 7.6.20	Conferences – working on final essays	Ongoing: Final essay
W. 10.6.20	Conferences – working on final essays	Ongoing: Final essay

Week Thirteen

S. 14.6.20	Proofreading and editing Progress report	Ongoing: Final essay
W. 17.6.20	Peer review of essays	Ongoing: Final essay

Week

Fourteen

S. 21.6.20 Peer review of paragraphs

W. 24.6.20 Course review

Final essay due 24.6.20

Final portfolio due

28.6.20

Note: This schedule is tentative and may change as the course progresses.

Online Writing Resources

Harvard Guide to Using Sources

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

MLA Style Center

<https://style.mla.org/>

Norton Field Guide to Writing

<https://wnorton.com/college/english/write/fieldguide/index.asp>

Purdue Online Writing Lab

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>