

Tel Aviv University  
**Writing Proseminar**  
**Syllabus**  
Fall 2019-20

Dr. Dara Barnat  
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Sunday/Wednesday 10:00-12:00

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Office Hours: Sunday 2:00-3:00/by appointment  
Webb 301

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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 course depends on regular attendance. Each student may be absent three times without penalty to the grade. Five or more absences for any reason will lead to dismissal from the course, since it will not be possible to produce satisfactory work at that point. Written assignments are accepted only when a student has been attending class consistently. Being more than 15 minutes late for class can count 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 come speak to me.

As part of attendance in class, students are expected to:

- Participate in discussions
- Collaborate with other students
- Attend pre-scheduled conferences with the instructor (at least three during the semester)

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

### **Assignment Format**

Guidelines for assignments will be reviewed in class, as well as posted on Moodle. These guidelines will state how and when assignments should be submitted. Most assignments for this course will be submitted through a folder on Moodle. Unless otherwise stated, papers must follow MLA style for formatting, in-text citations, and works cited lists. When submitting assignments by email, your name and the assignment should appear in the subject. Unless otherwise stated, assignments will be accepted as **.doc or .docx files ONLY**. Assignments submitted as PDF, .rtf, or other types of files, will not be graded. If you expect to have a technical problem submitting your work as a Microsoft Word file, contact me at least two days before the assignment deadline.

### **Late Assignments**

In general, unless an extension is agreed upon in advance, late assignments will not be accepted, 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 will be marked down. Please note that extensions are given on an individual basis only, unless otherwise indicated to the class as a whole.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of falsely presenting ideas, research, or writing from external sources as your own. This includes copying, or otherwise incorporating, material from uncited sources in your research and writing. Academic integrity violations can result in a failing grade on the assignment and/or the course. Cases of plagiarism can be reported to the relevant department or program.

All work must be prepared and proofread by you personally. 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>

### **Emails**

I am available to respond to emails on Sunday-Thursday. Please plan your correspondence accordingly.

**Note: Announcements, instructions, and due dates will be posted regularly on Moodle. Always refer to the Moodle site with questions about these matters, since emails requesting such information cannot be guaranteed a timely response.**

## 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. However, **texting, emailing, Facebooking, Tweeting, Instagramming, Snapchatting**, are not allowed here. Any of these activities will be considered disrespectful to others in the class. If they are pursued, the student will be asked to leave class, and may receive an absence for the day. In addition, the student's participation grade will be affected negatively.

## Required Texts (Moodle)

### Primary Sources

Lahiri, Jhumpa. "Unaccustomed Earth." *Unaccustomed Earth*. Vintage Books, 2009, pp. 3-59.

---. "Mrs. Sen's." *Interpreter of Maladies*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999, pp. 111-135.

---. "When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine." *Interpreter of Maladies*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999, pp. 23-42.

### Secondary Sources

Williams, Laura Anh. "Food and Subjectivity in Jhumpa Lahiri's 'Interpreter of Maladies.'" *MELUS*, vol. 32, no. 4, 2007, pp. 69-79.

Wutz, Michael. "The Archaeology of the Colonial – Un-earthing Jhumpa Lahiri's *Unaccustomed Earth*." *Studies in American Fiction*, vol. 42, no. 2, 2015, pp. 243-268.

- \* Additional required reading may be assigned during the semester.
- \* It is each student's responsibility to check the Moodle site every day for announcements, assignments, and material.

## Grading

1. Pre-draft 15%
2. Midterm essay 25%
3. Final essay 35%
4. Oral and written progress report on final essay (credit for participation)
5. Final portfolio with reflective questions 10%
6. In-class assignments, such as reading quizzes 5%
7. In-class participation, individual conferences 10%

- \* Instructions for each assignment will be posted on the Moodle site, as well as discussed in class.
- \* Students must receive a passing grade on the final essay in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

\* 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 – October 27th-January 26th  
(subject to be amended)**

**\* Sunday, October 27th**

Topics:

*Introduction to the Conventions of Academic Writing*

Excerpt from Jhumpa Lahiri's "Unaccustomed Earth" (handout/Moodle)

Review close/active reading

Assignments:

- Find definitions for the list of prose terms (on Moodle)
- Read "Unaccustomed Earth" (reading quiz November 3rd)

**\* Wednesday, October 30th**

Topics:

Review prose terms

Review essay structure (introduction, body, conclusion)

Discuss Lahiri

Pre-draft assigned, due November 17th

Assignments:

- Diagnostic paragraph: Write a paragraph that presents one main theme in "Unaccustomed Earth." Submit a printed copy of this paragraph in class no later than November 10th. *Note: This assignment will receive a hypothetical grade, which will serve as a benchmark for the student's standing that will not be factored into the course grade.*
- Pre-draft

**\* Sunday, November 3rd**

Topics:

**\* Reading quiz**

Discuss “Unaccustomed Earth”

Review thesis statement, textual evidence, summary vs. analysis

Assignments:

- Pre-draft
- Diagnostic Paragraph

**\* Wednesday, November 6th**

Topics:

Workshop of pre-draft (research question)

Assignments:

- Pre-draft
- Diagnostic Paragraph

**\* Sunday, November 10th**

Topics:

**Diagnostic paragraph due**

Workshop of pre-draft (research question/outlining)

Assignment: Pre-draft

**\* Wednesday, November 13th**

Topics:

Begin critical article by Michael Wutz

Workshop of pre-draft (outlining)

Assignment: Pre-draft

**\* Sunday, November 17th**

Topics:

**Pre-draft due (Moodle)**

Workshop of pre-draft (general)

Assignment: Pre-draft

**\* Wednesday, November 20th**

Pre-draft conferences

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Sunday, November 24th**

Topics:

Pre-draft conferences

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Wednesday, November 27th**

Topics:

Pre-draft conferences

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Sunday, December 1st**

Topics:

**Midterm essay assigned, due December 22nd**

MLA/secondary sources/plagiarism (Harvard Guide)

Discuss article by Michael Wutz/CRAAP worksheet (Moodle)

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Wednesday, December 4th**

**SOURASKY LIBRARY WORKSHOP – TBD**

**\* Sunday, December 8th**

Topics:

Cont. Wutz/CRAAP worksheet

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Wednesday, December 11th**

Topics:

Workshop midterm essays (Gordon Harvey)

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Sunday, December 15th**

Topics:

Workshop midterm essays (Gordon Harvey)

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Wednesday, December 18th**

Topics:

Workshop midterm essays (Gordon Harvey)

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Sunday, December 22nd**

Topics:

**\* Midterm essay due (Moodle)**

**Progress report assigned, due January 19th**

**Final essay assigned, due January 26th**

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Wednesday, December 25th**

Topics:

**Independent assignment - TBD**

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH – HANNUKAH VACATION**

**\* Wednesday, January 1st**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Sunday, January 5th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Wednesday, January 8th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Sunday, January 12th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Wednesday, January 15th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Sunday, January 19th**

Topics:

Progress reports in class/written progress reports due in class

Final portfolio assigned, due Thursday, January 30th

Conclusions, essay sections, other

Assignments:

- Final essay
- Final portfolio

**\* Wednesday, January 22nd**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Final essay
- Final portfolio

**\* Sunday, January 26th**

Topics:

Course review/Editing skills

\* Final essay due by midnight (Moodle)

\* Final portfolio due January 30th

**Online Writing Resources**

Harvard Guide to Using Sources

<https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/>

Purdue Online Writing Lab

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)