

Tel Aviv University  
**Writing Proseminar**  
**Syllabus**  
Spring 2020

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. "Foodways 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.

\* Make an effort to keep all of the assignments completed throughout the semester, including in-class assignments, since they may be submitted with the final portfolio.

**Course Schedule – March 8th-June 26th  
(subject to be amended)**

**\* Sunday, March 8th**

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 March 15th)

**\* Wednesday, March 11th**

Topics:

Review prose terms

Review essay structure (introduction, body, conclusion)

Discuss Lahiri

**Pre-draft assigned, due March 29th**

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 March 22nd. *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, March 15th**

Topics:

**Reading quiz**

Discuss “Unaccustomed Earth”

Review motive, research question, thesis statement, textual evidence, summary vs. analysis

Assignments:

- Pre-draft
- Diagnostic Paragraph

**\* Wednesday, March 18th**

Topics:

Outlining

Research question

Workshop of pre-draft (research question/thesis)

Assignments:

- Pre-draft
- Diagnostic Paragraph
- Read Michael Wutz article (Moodle)

**\* Sunday, March 22nd**

Topics:

**Diagnostic paragraph due**

Begin critical article by Michael Wutz

Workshop of pre-draft (research question/thesis)

Assignment: Pre-draft

**\* Wednesday, March 25th**

Topics:

CRAAP Worksheet (Moodle)

Workshop of pre-draft (motive/summary)

Assignment: Pre-draft

**\* Sunday, March 29th**

Topics:

Workshop of pre-draft (motive/summary)

Assignment: Pre-draft

**\* Wednesday, April 1st** (*conference schedule open on Moodle*)

**Pre-draft due (Moodle)**

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Sunday, April 5th (Tuesday Classes on Sunday)**

**- PASSOVER BREAK -**

**\* Sunday, April 19th**

Topics:

Pre-draft conferences

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Wednesday, April 22nd**

Topics:

Pre-draft conferences

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Sunday, April 26th**

Topics:

Pre-draft conferences

Assignment: Review pre-drafts

**\* Wednesday, April 29th**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY – NO CLASS**

**\* Sunday, May 3rd**

Midterm essay assigned, due May 17th

MLA/secondary sources/plagiarism (Harvard Guide)

Discuss article by Wutz/Williams (Moodle)

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Wednesday, May 6th**

Topics:

Essay sections (Williams/Wutz)

Integrating secondary sources (Gaipa)

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Sunday, May 10th**

Topics:

**SOURASKY LIBRARY WORKSHOP**

Assignment: Midterm essay

**\* Wednesday, May 13th**

Topics:

Workshop midterm essays (Gordon Harvey)

Assignment: Midterm essay

\* **Sunday, May 17th** (*conference schedule open on Moodle*)

Topics:

Midterm essay due (Moodle)

Progress report assigned, due June 17th

Final essay assigned, due June 24th

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

\* **Wednesday, May 20th**

Topics:

Independent assignment - TBD

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

\* **Sunday, May 24th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

\* **Wednesday, May 27th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay



**\* Sunday, May 31st**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Wednesday, June 3rd**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Sunday, June 7th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Progress report
- Final essay

**\* Wednesday, June 10th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Final essay
- Final portfolio

**\* Sunday, June 14th**

Topics:

Conferences

Assignments:

- Final essay
- Final portfolio

**\* Wednesday, June 17th**

Topics:

Progress reports in class/written progress reports due in class

Final portfolio assigned, due Tuesday, June 30th

Conclusions

Assignments:

- Final essay
- Final portfolio

**\* Sunday, June 21st**

Topics:

Conclusions, sections, and other

Editing skills

Assignments:

- Final essay
- Final portfolio

**\* Wednesday, June 24th**

Topics:

Course review/editing skills

\* Final essay due by midnight (Moodle)

\* Final portfolio due June 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)