

PROSEMINAR Spring 2017

Anna Kissin Shechter
Office: Webb 502,
Mon Thu 4-5 by appointment
03-7025038
0544-701549
annakis@post.tau.ac.il

“It is the mind that makes the body rich.” *The Taming of the Shrew*, IV. iii.
“there is nothing/ Either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” *Hamlet II.ii*.

Proseminar is an academic writing workshop designed to prepare you for writing academic papers, such as seminar papers. You will be required to produce a research paper of about 2500 words analyzing a literary work assigned in class. In the process of working on this project, you will practice and rehearse specific skills, such as close analysis of a literary text, problematizing, defining, contextualizing, organizing; you will practice argumentative skills and learn to perfect your control of rhetoric, vocabulary and style. You will hand in written assignments twice a week, hand in a partial first draft midway through the semester and then keep revising and expanding that draft until it is complete.* Your final paper, as well as your course portfolio of assignments, is due at the end of the semester.

*Important: this intensive writing seminar places a high demand on your time and energy – an average of 6-8 hours per week for your reading, writing, and library research in addition to class time. The key to success in proseminar is to make it your high priority for the semester.

Text: Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw* (1898).

Course requirements:

- A midterm draft, approximately 1000 words long (graded: **20%**).
- Two or more drafts of the proseminar paper, revised and expanded through discussions with the instructor and through input from fellow students.
- A 10-page final draft of your research paper (about 2500 words), due at the end of the semester, based on the cumulative revision, see above. (graded: **50%**)
- 4 summaries of secondary sources of substantial length and complexity (published papers that are *no less* than 5 pages in length) One of the summaries is going to be the basis for an oral report. **10%** altogether.
- A correct bibliography in MLA format **10%**
- 5 reports, up to a page long, on a writing tip or a grammar rule relevant to your current stage of writing or thinking. **5%**
- 3 samples of critical comments on a classmate's draft. Collaborative work, which includes exchanging drafts with fellow students and making responsible critical comments on their work in progress, is integral to the course. **5%**.

Further requirements:

- Class attendance (should you miss more than 3 classes, you are liable to be dismissed from the course; remember: only serious, documented illness is sufficient reason to miss a class, **and** you are responsible for making up the missed material and assignments.)¹
- Contribution to class discussion.
- Bi-weekly reading and/or writing assignments, to be handed in and/or discussed in class
- One or two unscheduled in-class writing assignments/ quizzes.
- Participation in conferences with instructor and one or more fellow students.
- Keeping a journal where you engage the text, its critics, and any ideas that occur to you in the process of working on your paper. The journal carries no grade weight, but failure to keep one, or a lack of serious investment in it will result in a grade penalty of up to 5 points.
- Keeping a list of errors – based on feedback and comments from your readers and your own growing competence. Submit the list at the end in your portfolio.

You will submit your assignments through our Moodle site, where you will find all our class materials, useful links, handouts, and much more. **Your responsibility is to check the site or your TAU mailbox** every day for announcements, assignments, and updates.²

GRADING:

Here is the proseminar grade breakdown:

Final essay : **50%**

The midterm draft: **20%**

Summary #3: **5%**

Summary #4: **5%**

Reader comments (draft exchange, 3 sets of comments at least): **5%**

MLA bibliography list of 15 items in correct format: **10%**

Five reports on writing guides: **5%**

¹ Even documented illness, however, does not exempt you from covering the material on your own and keeping up with the class.

² You are responsible for checking both the site and your TAU mailbox at least once a day, especially the evening before class (Sunday and Wednesday late evening) or Monday/ Thursday early morning.

The following are not assigned a grade; however, failure to complete **either** of these assignments will cost you **5 points**.

- Journal
- Oral report

Late work submission – up to **5 points off** your final grade

Repeated grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation or format errors - i.e., if errors I have pointed out and requested you to attend to by reading appropriate sections of grammar guide appear again to a significant extent - **3 points off** for each draft in which the errors reappear. Besides serious grammatical errors, this includes errors in punctuation, in Works Cited, and everything listed in the format Checklist.

On the plus side: Attendance, active and pertinent class participation, commitment to excellence in revision - might earn up to **5 bonus points**.

Course schedule in detail:

	<p>All materials can be downloaded from our Moodle website.</p> <p>Unless specified otherwise, all assignments must be uploaded before 8^{am} on the day of class.</p> <p>Late or inadequate assignments hamper your progress in the course.</p>
1. Mon March 13	Introduction; expectations and requirements. Syllabus.
2. Thu March 16	Read <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> first 8 Chapters. Discussion based on your “bugs” – what you find unclear, interesting, intriguing, etc. Start your journal; you might list the bugs there, but also please upload them so I can read them before next class.
3. Mon March 20	Continue reading up to end of Ch. 16. More bugs in the journal; 10 words in the <i>OED</i> ; upload. In class: close reading and discussion.
4. Thu March 23	Finish reading <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> . Discussion based on your “bugs.” 10 more words in the <i>OED</i> . Discuss possible topics.

	For Monday: problem formulation using Richard Young 's heuristic model, upload on Moodle by Sunday morning.
5. Mon March 27	1) Discussion of the text cont'd. 2) Going over problem formulations. For next class: go over Summary guidelines ; read and summarize Goddard in up to 150 words, upload on Moodle by Thursday morning; include bibliographical documentation.
6. Thu March 30	1) Goddard summary due, 150 words. Discussion of Goddard. For next class: a summary of Heilman, 150 words. Upload by Monday morning.
7. Mon April 3	1) Due: Heilman summary, 150 words. 2) Revised problem formulation, bring 6-7 printouts. In class: 3) Discussion of Heilman. 4) write a paragraph of 200-250 words which contextualizes your paper and includes the formulation of your issue ; to hand in.
Passover Vacation	Happy Passover! In preparation for the first meeting after Passover vacation: compile a 15-item working bibliography on <i>TS</i> using MLA (8 th edition) documentation guidelines; include only books and articles that are available at / through our university library. At the end of the list, add a list of three sources you are considering for your class presentation, marking them 1, 2, 3 in descending order of preference – upload on Moodle. Eventually, you will be assigned one of them. Continue reading secondary sources and engaging them in your journal ; make sure to note authors' names and titles and copy any statements that sound interesting, with page references. Upload your bibliographies any time before Thursday 8 am.
8. Thu April 20	Due: 1) 15-item working bibliography, see above. Bring a printout to make notes on in class. In class: discussion of MLA rules Assignment for Monday: read Todorov, the Fantastic - the two chapters on our site; you may skip the examples from French Lit.
9. Mon Apr 24	Discussion of Todorov on the Fantastic.
10. Thu Apr 27	Hand in your first draft: 2 pages , clearly defining your concern, its context and what makes it problematic, and containing your hypothesis that proposes to resolve or explore the problematic issue. This assignment should comply with the guidelines on the Format Checklist. The first draft is not graded! Please print out two copies, one to hand in and one to exchange in class. In addition , please upload the papers on Moodle. Assignment for next week: Summarize critical article of your choice in 300 words to submit as summary #3 and prepare an oral report with a Power Point presentation about it.
Mon May 1: Yom	

Hazikaron	
11. Thu May 4	<p>Individual conferences in Webb 502.</p> <p>Due: 1) For your conference, please prepare and bring (hard copy): a topic outline of the paper (see Moodle Handouts); an outline is a hierarchical breakdown of your argument into main ideas, supporting ideas and further down. It should be as detailed as you can imagine now, but you do not have to be limited to it if your argument develops differently. More in class.</p> <p>2) Summary #3, 300 words, due by uploading to Moodle: the article you chose for your oral report. This summary is to be graded. Please consult the appropriate handouts on Moodle.</p>
12. Mon May 8	Individual conferences in Webb 502. Bring outlines; see above.
13. Thu May 11	<p>First session of oral reports on critical articles.</p> <p>1) During the reports everyone is taking notes – you should come out of class with a list of short summaries of the articles presented.</p> <p>1) You are presenting a summary of the article you read to those who have not read it; thus, be as clear and informative as you can; sum up the main point/s; avoid getting into detailed examples of works other than <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>. Reading from your summary is acceptable, but make sure you read clearly and not too fast.</p> <p>2) Your visual presentation should include at least the name of the article’s author, the title and the year of publication (check for typos!) and the main points and terms. At the end, include the bibliographical data.</p> <p>If time allows, we shall also discuss introductions.</p>
14. Mon May 15	<p>1) Oral reports, cont’d;</p> <p>2) going over the forms and checklists to use when submitting your midterm draft and during draft exchange.</p>
15. Thu May 18	<p>1) Read and be prepared to discuss: Shoshana Felman, “A Child is Killed.” Bring a list of 5 questions to ask about the article.</p> <p>2) Conferences/ remaining oral presentations.</p>
16. Mon May 22	<p>MIDTERM DRAFT: Your second draft is due (the Midterm draft). It contains a title page, the first 5 pages of your argument, and a page of Works Cited (you may attach works consulted, as well, in a separate list). See the Guidelines to Submitting your Midterm Paper in Handouts on Moodle.</p> <p>Please attach with your draft: a Writer-to-Reader sheet, and your outline, where you’ll mark the point that you have reached in your current draft. Bring along a copy of the draft-exchange form to fill out during peer exchange and a copy of the format checklist to go over the draft you are reading. All these forms are available on our website in Handouts.</p> <p>The draft exchange form and/or any comments on a friend’s paper should</p>

	<p>first be given to the writer to read at home, and then returned to the reader to place in the reader's portfolio. Your portfolio must contain 3 sets of reader comments on other writers' papers (either 3 different writers or consecutive versions of the same writer's paper or any combination).</p> <p>The draft should be both uploaded on Moodle and printed out in two copies.</p>
Thu May 25	Yom HaStudent – no class!
17. Mon May 29	Individual conferences in Webb 502. Due: Writing guide/ grammar guide report # 1ⁱ
18. Thu June 1	Conferences. Summary #4 of a critical article of your choice due , 300 words.
19. Mon June 5	A screening of <i>The Innocents</i> (1961). Please come at 12:00 and at 14:00, respectively. Due: Writing guide/ grammar guide report # 2.
20. Thu June 8	(Conferences.) Revised draft – Draft #3 due from those who had conferences on May 29.
21. Mon June 12	(Conferences.) Writing guide/ grammar guide report # 3 Revised draft - Draft #3 – due from those who had conferences on June 1.
22. Thu June 15	Writing guide/ grammar guide report # 4. Conferences.
23. Mon June 19	Conferences. Content-function outline due – everyone.
24. Thu June 22	Writing guide/ grammar guide report # 5. Conferences.
25. Mon June 26	Workshop or conferences – tba. Abstracts due from everyone.
26. Thu June 29	Final paper due ; a mini-conference at which students will be reading abstracts of their papers. Portfolio submission.

ⁱ A writing guide report requires you to go over the writing guides and grammar guides on the site and write a report on something useful that you have learned and that you recommend others to use. It may be grammar rule or a writing tip. The report should be in your own language (please do not copy-paste!) and include an example or two from the site. You should give a clear reference to the site from which your information is taken; make sure your link is to the original site and not to Moodle. The report should be about one page long and uploaded by the due date.