

Tel Aviv University
Department of English and American Studies
Proseminar
Spring 2017

Dr. Dara Barnat
Sunday/Wednesday 12:00-2:00
Room: Webb 101/Dan David 210

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Office Hours: Sunday 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Course Description

Proseminar is a course in research writing, which focuses on works of literature, as well as criticism. Students engage in close reading, analysis, reading secondary sources, and integrating them into a well-formulated argument. Students read a primary text, and practice responding to them in class, and writing about them both informally and formally. Students also produce a research paper related to themes or questions evoked by the literature. This course is comprised of in class work, conferences, collaborative learning activities, and peer review.

Course Objectives

- Read, listen, and think critically about texts, including identifying an argument's assumptions and assertions and evaluating its supporting evidence
- Write clearly and coherently in an academic format, using correct English and appropriate technology to critique and improve one's own and others' texts
- Demonstrate research skills using appropriate technology, including gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing primary and secondary sources
- Support a thesis with well-reasoned arguments, and communicate persuasively across a variety of contexts, purposes, audiences, and media
- Formulate original ideas and relate them to the ideas of others by employing the conventions of ethical attribution and citation

Required Texts (Moodle)

Primary Sources

Tan, Amy. "The Joy Luck Club." *The Joy Luck Club*. 25th anniversary ed., Penguin Books, 2006, pp. 19-41.

---. "A Pair of Tickets." *The Joy Luck Club*. 25th anniversary ed., Penguin Books, 2006, pp. 267-88.

Secondary Sources

Wang, Qun. "'Double Consciousness,' Sociological Imagination, and the Asian American Experience." *Race, Gender and Class*, vol. 4, no. 3, 1997, pp. 88-94.

Xu, Ben. "Memory and the Ethnic Self: Reading Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*." *MELUS*, vol. 19, no. 1, 1994, pp. 3-18.

* Additional required reading may be assigned during the semester

* It is your **responsibility to check the Moodle site** every day for announcements, assignments, updates, and material

Grading

1. Summary of a secondary source 10%
2. Midterm essay (pre-draft with one secondary source 5%;
midterm essay four-five pages with secondary sources 20%)
3. MLA List of Works Cited 5%
4. Oral and written progress report on final essay 10%
5. Final essay (8-10 pages with secondary sources) 25%
6. Final portfolio with reflective questions 10%
7. In-class assignments such as reading quizzes 5%
8. 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.