Andy Lewis
Email: andrewlewis@mail.tau.ac.il
Thursday 12.00-14.00, Rosenberg 205
Reception hour: Wednesday 13.00-14.00, Webb 507

Syllabus

Course Description

In this two-hour weekly tutorial, students will be introduced to the conventions of academic writing, reading, and research. Topics include: close reading; essay structure; strategies for argumentation; research skills; evaluating and incorporating secondary sources; MLA citation; and technical elements of research essays. This course is intensive, and involves weekly writing and reading assignments. Attendance is mandatory.

Course Objectives

- Write academic papers clearly and coherently using standard English
- Formulate thesis statements and support them using textual evidence
- Read primary sources closely and critically
- Read secondary sources closely and critically, including identifying main claims and textual evidence
- Demonstrate research skills, including gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing secondary sources
- Employ correct MLA style citation

Course Material

Primary Source:


Secondary Sources:


**Grading**

- Midterm essay 25% (three pages, no secondary sources)
- Final essay 35% (revision of midterm essay, four-five pages incorporating up to two secondary sources provided by the instructor)
- Summary of one secondary source 10%
- Revision of one paragraph of midterm essay incorporating one quote by a secondary source 10%
- MLA citation exercise 10%
- Attendance, preparedness, participation 10%
- In addition, there will be assignments and in-class activities involving peer-reading, which are not graded. However, failure to participate in any of these activities may incur a grade penalty of up to 5%.

- Students must receive a course grade of at least 70 in Writing Tutorial to advance to Writing Proseminar.

- Students who receive a 70 or above in a Fall-semester Writing Tutorial may register for Writing Proseminar in the Spring semester.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 – 18/10/2018**

Introduce the conventions of academic writing, explaining primary and secondary sources

Begin close reading of E. M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops”

Assignment: Read the primary source and write a general response (one paragraph), to be submitted week 2 in class

**Week 2 – 25/10/2018**

Continue close reading of the primary source
Discuss secondary sources (Harvard Guide to using sources: http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/)

Explore an example of a main argument from a relevant secondary source: “Technology and the Fleshly Interface in Forster’s ‘The Machine Stops’: An Ecocritical Appraisal of a One-Hundred Year Old Future” by Alf Seegert

Assignment: Write a thesis statement about the primary source, to be submitted week 3 in class

Week 3 – 1/11/2018

Discuss attributes of a strong thesis statement

Review student thesis statements

Discuss essay structure (introduction, body, conclusion)

* Midterm essay assigned (research question about the primary source given by the instructor) due week 6

Assignment: Draft the first paragraph of the midterm essay, to be submitted week 4 for comments (not a grade)

Week 4 – 8/11/2018

Review paragraph structure, including topic/supporting sentences, proper formatting/indentation

Discuss supporting evidence/textual evidence in the body of the essay

Assignment: Prepare for week 5 outlining workshop

Week 5 – 15/11/2018

First paragraph of midterm essay returned and discussed

Outlining workshop using sample outline

Assignment: Prepare for week 6 peer review
Week 6 – 22/11/2018

Peer review of midterm essay (students read each other’s drafts and respond to five questions given by the instructor)

Introduce the secondary source (with guidelines for summarizing):
Jonsson, Emilie. “‘Man is the Measure’: Forster’s Evolutionary Conundrum” by Emilie Jonsson

* Midterm essay due

Assignment: Read and summarize the secondary source (around 250 words) due week 7

Week 7 – 29/11/2018

Discuss the secondary source, bibliographical details, as well as structure and content

Review incorporating sources (using Harvard Guide, as well as “8 Strategies for Critically Engaging Sources” by Mark Gaipa)

Assignment: Revise one paragraph from the midterm essay incorporating one quote by a secondary source, due week 8

Week 8 – 6/12/2018

Review of research databases (JSTOR, MLA, Project MUSE, and others)

Review MLA style citation using Purdue OWL

Assignment: MLA Citation exercise due week 9

Week 9 – 13/12/2018

Midterm essay returned – review strengths/weaknesses, including structure, grammar, syntax, punctuation, formatting, and other

Continue discussion of incorporating secondary sources

* Final essay assigned due week 13

Week 10 – 20/12/2018
Discuss citation exercise from week 7

Discuss second secondary source in class

Assignment: Work on final essay

**Week 11 – 27/12/2018**

Discuss final essay, strategies for revision, continue secondary sources

Outlining of final essay

Assignment: Prepare for week 12 peer review workshop

**Week 12 – 3/1/2019**

Peer review workshop for final essay

Assignment: Final reflective questions (questions for the student to reflect on their work throughout the course) due week 13 with final essay

**Week 13 – 10/1/2019**

General course review

* Final essay due

* Final reflective questions due
Online Writing Resources

Harvard Guide to Using Sources
https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/

Norton Field Guide to Writing

Purdue Online Writing Lab
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Writing Committee

Dr. Dara Barnat
darabarnat@post.tau.ac.il

Anna Kissin Shechter
annakis@post.tau.ac.il