

Tel Aviv University
Department of English and American Studies
Writing Tutorial (2016-2017)

Anat Karolin
Monday 16:00-18:00
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Syllabus

Course Description

In this two-hour weekly tutorial, students will be introduced to fundamentals of academic writing, reading, and research. Topics include: English mechanics and rhetoric; close reading; essay structure; thesis statements; strategies for argumentation; supporting a thesis with evidence; research skills; evaluating and incorporating secondary sources; MLA citation; and technical elements of research essays.

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.

Attendance and Participation

Success in this class depends on regular, punctual attendance. More than two absences can be grounds for dismissal from the course. Written assignments are accepted only when a student has been attending class consistently. Students are responsible for making up all missed work. If circumstances arise where you know you will have to miss class, please let me know in advance.

In addition to attendance, students are expected to participate in class discussion and in all in-class exercises, such as the peer review workshop.

Assignment Format

All assignments are to be submitted by email. Please include your name and type of assignment in the subject line of the email. Assignments should be submitted as doc. or docx. files only. If you expect to have a problem submitting your work as a Microsoft Word file, you must contact me at least two days before the assignment is due. Use Times New Roman, font size 12, double-spaced. All assignments must follow MLA style for all aspects, including formatting, in-text citations, and the works cited page.

Late Assignments

In general late assignments will not be accepted unless an extension is agreed upon in advance, 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 can be marked down.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writings as your own. This includes copying from websites and utilizing uncited sources in your work. Academic integrity violations can result in a failing grade on the assignment and/or the course. Cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Department of English and American Studies.

For a comprehensive website on using sources, citation, and plagiarism refer to:
<http://usingources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

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. You may bring class material on any device (laptop, tablet) except a phone. Emailing, Facebook, tweeting, texting, etc., are not allowed. Any of these activities will be considered extremely disrespectful to the class. If they are pursued, the student may be asked to leave class, and will receive an absence for the day. In addition, the student's participation grade will be affected negatively.

Course Material

All course materials will be available on the moodle.

Primary Source:

Moore, C. L. "No Woman Born." *The Best of C. L. Moore*, edited by Lester Del Ray, Ballantine Books, 1975. 236-288.

Secondary Sources:

Gubar, Susan. "C.L. Moore and the Conventions of Women's Science Fiction." *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 7, no. 1, March 1980, pp. 16-27.

Baccolini, Raffaella. "In-Between Subjects: C. L. Moore's 'No Woman Born'". *Science Fiction: Critical Frontiers*, edited by Karen Sayer and John Moore, Palgrave Macmillan, 2000. 140-153.

Grading

- Midterm essay 20% (three pages, no secondary sources)
- Final essay 30% (revision of midterm essay, four-five pages incorporating two secondary sources provided by the instructor)
- Summaries of first secondary source 10%
- Summary of 2nd secondary source **or** revised paragraph (to be decided) 15%
- MLA citation exercise 10%
- Final reflective questions 5%
- 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%.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – 13/3/2017

- Introduction to the conventions of academic writing, primary and secondary sources.
- Begin close reading of C. L. Moore's "No Woman Born".

Assignments: Finish reading the primary source: highlight difficult/interesting passages, make notes, formulate questions and come prepared to continue the discussion of the story. You must email me at least one issue for discussion before the next class (by 19/3).

Week 2 – 20/3/2017

- Continue close reading and discussion of the primary source.
- Locating a thesis statement and formulating a thesis statement.

Assignment: Write a general response (one paragraph) about “No Woman Born”, to be submitted during the week before next class – no later than 27/3/17 10:00.

Week 3 – 27/3/2017

- Discussion about the attributes of a strong thesis statement.
- Review of student responses.
- Discussion about essay structure (introduction, body, and conclusion).

Midterm essay assigned: The guidelines for the assignment will be posted on the moodle. The research question will be provided. Due date: 9/5/2017 by midnight.

Write a thesis statement about the primary source, to be submitted next week (3/4) before class. You must email me the assignment no later than 10:00.

Week 4 – 3/4/2017

- Review student thesis statements.
- Paragraph structure, including topic/supporting sentences, proper formatting/indentation.
- Supporting evidence/textual evidence in the body of the essay.
- Outlining.

Assignments: Write a draft of the first paragraph of the midterm essay, to be submitted by 12/3 for comments (not a grade). Prepare for the outlining workshop during the rest of the break.

Week 5 – 24/4/2017

- Discussion of the first paragraph of midterm essay.
- Outlining workshop using sample outline.

Assignment: Prepare for week 6 peer review: finish writing your midterms so that next week you can bring a complete draft to class.

Week 6 – 8/5/2017

- Peer review workshop of midterm essay (the students will read each other’s drafts and respond to five questions given by the instructor).
- Review MLA style citation using Perdue OWL.

*** Reminder: Midterm essay due tomorrow by midnight.**

Assignment: MLA citation exercise, due next week (15/5) by email.

Week 7 – 15/5/2017

- Discussion about the first secondary source, bibliographical details, as well as structure and content.
- Review of methods of incorporating sources.

Assignment: Read the first secondary source. Highlight the passage(s) which you think contain(s) the main argument. Highlight any difficult/interesting/important passages.

Week 8 – 22/5/2017

- Review of research databases (JSTOR, MLA, Project MUSE, and others).
- Discussion of the first secondary source.
- Guidelines and tips for summarising.

Assignment: Re-read and summarize the first secondary source (around 250 words), due next week (29/5).

Week 9 – 29/5/2017

- Discussion about the first secondary source, bibliographical details, as well as structure and content.
- Review of methods of incorporating sources.
- Midterm essays will be returned and feedback will be provided regarding strengths/weaknesses, including structure, grammar, syntax, punctuation, formatting, and other areas.

Final essay assigned: Guidelines for the final essay will be provided. **Due date:** 23/1/2016 (week 13).

Assignment: Revise one paragraph from the midterm essay incorporating one quote by a secondary source, due next week (5/6).

Week 10 – 5/6/2017

- Continue discussion of the first secondary source.

- Introduction of the second secondary source.

Assignment: Read and summarize the second secondary source, due next week (12/6).

Week 11 – 12/6/2017

- Discussion about the final essay, strategies for revision, use of secondary sources.
- Outlining of final essay.

Assignment: Work on final essay in preparation for week 12 peer review workshop.

Week 12 – 19/6/2017

- Peer review workshop for final essay (the students will read each other's drafts and respond to five questions given by the instructor).

Assignment: Answer the final reflective questions and finish the final essay – due next week (26/6)

Week 13 – 26/6/2017

General course overview.

The final essay and reflective questions are due.