

Academic Writing for 3rd Year Students

Fall Semester, 2021-2022

Sagi Felendler
Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Tuesdays 16:15-17:45
sagif@post.bgu.ac.il

Course Description:

This course is devoted to the widening and deepening of the scope of your academic writing. Writing, as you have had a chance to discover, is not mere textual analysis. It likewise includes complex argumentation, the use of sources from different fields, and the need to coherently imbed and outline of all of these. We will thus focus on these aspects of writing and delve into the reasons for choosing and using the options available to us in the production of larger research projects. Together, we will learn to utilize the resources at our disposal to distinguish our voices from and within the vast reaches of academic discourse.

Requirements:

Attendance (up to 2 absences allowed for the semester)
Active participation – 10%
Weekly tasks/assignments (1-2 paragraphs) – 20%
Midterm paper (~3 pages) – 20%
Final paper (~6 pages) – 50%

You must attend class, read the assigned texts based on the syllabus, and actively participate in class discussions. You are also required to submit a short task or writing assignment (1-2 paragraphs) on a weekly basis. These are meant for you to practice your analysis and writing skills, and are not graded, but if they do not reflect satisfactory application of the techniques studied in class, credit will be conditioned on rewriting.

****Assignments must be submitted by Sunday at midnight each week! Rewrites, no later than on the Sunday following the original submission date!****

I do not have office hours for this course, but you are most welcome to raise, in class, any issues pertaining to your other courses. We can benefit greatly from exposure to the variety of issues that arise during writing, as well as to the extent to which the problems we face are often shared.

Course Syllabusⁱ:

19/10 **Course Introduction**
Introduction, requirements, your interests

Unit 1 – Primary Sources

26/10 Annotation I – approaching intricate texts
Pride and Prejudice/ Jane Austen

2/11 Focus I – complex argumentation
Pride and Prejudice (cont.)

9/11 Focus II – thematic reading/writing
Pride and Prejudice (cont.)

Unit 2 – Secondary Sourcesⁱⁱ

16/11 Research I – finding academic sources
Pride and Prejudice (cont.)

23/11 Annotation II – approaching intricate sources
Pride and Prejudice (cont.)

30/11 Focus III – establishing your voice
Pride and Prejudice (cont.)

Midterm paper – due 16/12

Unit 3 – Specifics

7/12 Review – approaching intricate texts
The Great Gatsby/ Scott Fitzgerald

14/12 Using biographical information
The Great Gatsby (cont.)

21/12 Using cultural/historical information
The Great Gatsby (cont.)

28/12 Using theory
The Great Gatsby (cont.)

4/1 The Outline

11/1 Course Conclusion + Final paper Instructions

Final paper – due 11/2

ⁱ The syllabus is open to changes, and will be finalized toward the start of the semester.

ⁱⁱ Secondary material will be posted later on, and will be based partially on student research interests.