Advanced Academic Writing Workshop  
Spring Semester, 2022

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Tuesdays 16:15-17:45  
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Course Description:  
This is a course about the *how* and *why* of academic writing on literature. We will focus on the small-scale aspects of writing – the various parts of the academic paper, the use of evidence and analysis within specific contexts, and effective phrasing – and delve into the reasons behind the choice and use of the tactics studied here. The course focuses on prose fiction and is accompanied by short weekly assignments, offering both practice and revision when necessary. Together, we will do more than learn to write well; we will turn writing into a central tool for the creation of meaning, for you and for your readers.

Requirements:  
Attendance (up to 2 absences allowed for the semester)  
Active participation – 10%  
Weekly writing/rewriting assignment on Moodle (1-2 paragraphs) – 40%  
Final paper (~5 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, each week, a short (1-2 paragraphs) writing assignment on Moodle. The assignments are meant for you to practice your writing and are not graded, but if these do not reflect adequate 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 Syllabus:

1/3 Start with Why? (or what, or who, or where, etc....)
Introduction, requirements, on asking the right questions
“The Earl King”/ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Unit 1 – Structure

8/3 The structure and functions of the argument
“Lady with a Little Dog”/ Anton Chekhov

15/3 The structure of the paragraph
“Lady with a Little Dog” (cont.)

22/3 Textual analysis I – choosing and integrating evidence
“Adieu”/ Honoré de Balzac

29/3 Textual analysis II – explaining the evidence
“Adieu” (cont.)

5/4 Concession and sensitivity to nuance
“Adieu” (cont.)

12/4 The structure and functions of the conclusion
“Adieu” (cont.)

Unit 2 – Specifics

26/4 Discussing and analyzing fictional characters
“A Painful Case”/ James Joyce

3/5 Discussing and analyzing narrative structure
“A Painful Case” (cont.)

10/5 Discussing and analyzing prose style I
“The Secret Miracle”/ Jorge Luis Borges

17/5 Discussing and analyzing prose style II
“The Secret Miracle” (cont.)

Unit 3 – Rhetoric

24/5 Grammar – sentences, fragments, punctuation

31/5 Coherence and cohesion I – clarity

7/6 Coherence and cohesion II – hierarchy and logic

14/6 What to avoid! – verbosity, negation, hedging

21/6 Course conclusion + Final paper instructions

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