

Academic Writing for 3rd Year Students

Fall Semester, 2023-2024

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Tuesdays 8:30-10:00
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Course Description:

This course is devoted to the widening and deepening of the scope of your academic writing, which comprises more than literary analysis. It also includes working with multiple frames of reference, using secondary sources, and engaging readers. We will thus focus on these facets of analysis and writing, and delve into the reasons for choosing and using the means at our disposal in the production of larger research projects, notably seminar papers.

Commitments:

Attendance (up to 2 absences allowed for the semester)
Contribution – 10%
Weekly assignments – 40%
Final paper (~5 pages) – 50%

I ask that you come to class, read the assigned texts based on the syllabus, contribute your own thoughts, and share your insights and challenges. It is also important that you submit the weekly practice tasks, which are meant for you to sharpen your skills and are not graded. If a piece of writing requires more work, completion will be conditioned on rewriting. The writing tasks are assessments of your learning process, not of your abilities, and may also be used in the paper.

Writing tasks should be submitted weekly **by midnight on Monday**; rewrites, no later than on the Monday following the original submission date. This will help you keep up with the course and receive timely feedback.

You may use a computer/tablet in class. The use of electronics for matters unrelated to class, however, besides being counterproductive and disrespectful, will affect your grade. At times, for purposes of discussion, I will ask that all electronics be put away.

Phones are not allowed in class! If you have pressing matters, please let me know before class and then feel free go outside to text/talk on the phone.

****Students in reserve duty (Milluim) will be offered alternative times and/or evaluations****

In general, these are difficult time, so if you have any problems, please let me know or come talk to me! The sooner difficulties – of whatever kind – are addressed, the easier these are to mitigate.

Course Syllabus:

Introduction: What is a seminar paper?

Part I – Complex Analysis

Close reading far and wide
Henry James – *The Turn of the Screw* (1898)

Fertile questions
The Turn of the Screw (cont.)

Multifaceted argumentation
The Turn of the Screw (cont.)

Part II –Secondary Sources

Finding secondary sources

Analyzing secondary sources
Kiyoon Jang – “Governess as Ghostwriter” (2007)

Using secondary sources
Guy Davidson – “Almost a Sense of Property” (2011)

Preliminary paper draft (ungraded) – due XX/XX

Part III - Technique

Precision and wordiness

Effective and affective phrasing

Connecting paragraphs and ideas

Course conclusion + final paper instructions

Final paper – due XX/X
