

Fall 8-15-2007

ENG 3002-001: Research Writing for Literary Studies

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Recommended Citation

McGregor, Francine, "ENG 3002-001: Research Writing for Literary Studies" (2007). *Fall 2007*. 96.
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English 3002-001
Research Writing for Literary Studies
Fall 2007

Dr. Francine McGregor
Coleman Hall 3355
581-6305

Office Hours: M/W/F 10-10:50, M/W 1-2:00, and by appointment

About the Course

This course will offer you an opportunity to engage with genres of writing central to Literary Studies—in particular, proposals, abstracts, reviews and criticism—and to learn to produce such documents through discipline-specific critical thinking and library research. You will read models of scholarly writing in literary studies, as well as draft and revise your own proposals, reviews, and articles, and master MLA style

Required Texts

Cook, Claire Kehrwald. *MLA's Line by Line: How to Edit Your Own Writing*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1986.

Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2003.

Graff, Gerald, et. al. *They Say/I Say*. New York: Norton, 2006.

Harner, James L. *Literary Research Guide*. 4th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2002.

Wharton, Edith. *The House of Mirth*. ed. Shari Benstock. Boston: Bedford, 1994.

Course Requirements/ Evaluation

Writing two reviews: 30%

Writing a proposal: 10%

Writing a research paper: 35%

Writing an abstract: 5%

Active preparation and class participation: 15%

Presentation of research paper: 5%

Note: You may choose to submit an essay from this course to your Electronic Writing Portfolio. For more information, see me and/or the assessment website (www.eiu.edu/~assess)

Policies

- 1) The reading/writing/research load for this course is heavy, so make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete assignments. Much of what you will learn in this course will come from collaborative work in class so your presence in (and engagement with) the class are essential. Coming to class unprepared will lower your participation grade. It will also lower your grade on any project we are working on in class.
- 2) Assignments must be typed and must be handed in on the day they are due unless we have worked out a prior arrangement. Work handed in after that time will lose half a letter grade for each calendar day it is late. No work will be accepted a week after the deadline. If you must miss a class, you are still responsible for preparing all work required for the next meeting.
- 3) You must complete all work for the course in order to receive a passing grade.

Plagiarism Policy

The following is the English department's statement concerning plagiarism:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of 'F' for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

While I assume I'll have no need to impose penalties for plagiarism, the ones I consider appropriate are that the student fail the course and be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office. If at any point in your writing for this course (or for another, if you like) you're uncertain about whether you're using sources appropriately, please come to talk to me.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know and please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Syllabus

Week 1: (Aug 20-24)

For Wed: Wharton, *House of Mirth* (25-56)

For Fri: Wharton (56-133)

Week 2: (Aug 27-31)

For Mon: Wharton (133-178)

For Wed: Wharton (178-246)

For Fri: Wharton (246-305)

Week 3: (Sept 3-7; no class Mon for Labor Day)

In Wharton, "A Critical History of *The House of Mirth*" (309-325); "Introduction: Biographical and Historical Contexts" (3-23)

Week 4: (Sept 10-14)

In Wharton, Lillian S. Robinson, "The Traffic in Women: A Cultural Critique of *The House of Mirth*" (340-358); Wai-Chee Dimock, "Debasing Exchange: Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*"

Week 5: (Sept 17-21)

In Wharton, Frances L. Restuccia, "The Name of the Lily: Edith Wharton's Feminism(s)"

In Graff, *They Say/I Say*, Part 1 (28-47)

Workshops on writing a review of a single article

Week 6: (Sept 24-28)

Handout, Cynthia Griffin Wolff, "Lily Bart and the Beautiful Death"

First Review is Due

Week 7: (Oct 1-5)

Workshops on writing a comparative review and synthesis of articles

Week 8: (Oct 8-12; no class Fri 12 for Fall Break)

Begin discussion of MLA Documentation

Comparative Review is Due

Week 9: (Oct 15-19)

Continued discussion of MLA Documentation

Discussion of and workshops on research methodologies

Discussion of and workshops on proposal writing

Week 10: (Oct 22-26)

Research for Proposal

Week 11: (Oct 29-Nov 2)

Conferences to discuss research projects

Proposals Due at Conference

Week 12: (Nov 5-9)

Graff, Part 2 (51-97)

Workshops on research projects

Week 13: (Nov 12-16)

Graff, Part 3 (101-135)

Cook, *Line by Line* (1-17)

Workshops on writing abstracts

Week 14: (Nov 19-23)

No classes: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: (Nov 26-30)

Cook, *Line by Line* (18-53)

Conferences and workshops on research projects; polish abstracts

Week 16: (Dec 3-7)

Project presentations

Research Projects and Abstracts are Due