

University of Cyprus
Department of English Studies

ENG 103: Academic Essay Writing

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ECTS: 5

Office Hours: T 12.00-2.00; T 6.00-7.00; F 6.00-7.00

Spring 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to be a gateway to the English major. It reviews the areas students can focus on within current-day English studies and examines the way such basics of academic argument as thesis, evidence, and structure are applied to various types of academic essays. It then turns their attention to three such focus areas: (a) writing critically about Linguistics, (b) writing critically about Literature and (c) writing critically about Translation. Throughout the course, students will get hands-on practice with planning out, researching, and (re)writing intellectually sophisticated essays of the kind that they will be expected to write in upper-level courses within the major.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker, Mona. *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2012.

Barnet, Sylvan and Cain, William E. *A Short Guide to Writing about Literature 12th ed.* New York: Pearson, 2012.

Daniels, Peter. ““Strange Fruit””: the story of a song;” retrieve from <http://www/wsws/org/articles/2002/feb2002/frut-f08.shtml>.

Emmerich, Karen. “The Translator In Between”—Roundtable: The Place of Cultural Translation in *The Brooklyn Quarterly* <http://brooklynquarterly.org/the-translator-in-between/>

Fine Clouse, Barbara. *The Student Writer: Editor and Critic*. New York: MacGraw and Hill, 2000.

Kafka, Franz. *Metamorphosis*. Trans. Stanley Corngold. New York: Modern Library Paperback Edition, 2013. **(required)**.

Maimon, Elaine P., Janice H. Peritz and Kathleen Blake Yancey. *A Writer’s Resource: A Handbook for Writing and Research 5th ed.* New York: McGraw & Hill, 2016 **(required)**

Munday, Jeremy. *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. London: Routledge, 2016.

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. New York: Mariner Books, 1989. **(required)**

Reference Sources

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

<http://tetw.org/Linguistics>

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/175884>

FILMOGRAPHY

Coppola, Sofia. *Lost in Translation* (USA, 2003)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class Preparation and Participation

I expect everyone to come to class fully prepared to discuss the material. Preparation includes reading the material, taking detailed notes, and noting down questions. As you are reading each of the assignments try to think what the main argument of the reading is and how the author arrives at such a conclusion. Engage with the author in such a way that as you read, try, to also respond in your mind, or by taking notes, to what she or he says. Excellent participation involves regular, thoughtful contributions to discussions: expressing your understanding of the material, and developing and thinking critically about your own positions. Some of the material that we will read makes for a lively class discussion; while disagreement is expected disrespect will not be tolerated.

Attendance

Missing any class, coming in late to class, or leaving early will all detract from the final grade; if you do miss a class, you are still completely responsible for knowing what was covered in class that day and for finding out if there were any assignments given. Please call another student in the class to find out what you missed.

Note: *The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class time.* Your phones must be switched off while you are in class unless there is an extremely serious reason for you to keep them on.

Papers

There will be three papers in this course geared towards helping you understand and think critically about the readings and films. Additional information and specific guidelines for each of your assignments will be given to you as the semester progresses.

Late Paper Policy

All papers assigned for this course must be submitted on the dates, times and places indicated on your syllabus and assignments. No email submissions will be accepted unless you have checked with me in advance. Failure to meet deadlines will result in a **reduction** of your overall grade. No exceptions will be made. In cases of illness or other such unforeseeable circumstance please contact me and provide the necessary documentation.

Researcher's/Writer's Journal

You should (continue) keep (ing) a journal (AS A WORD FILE) throughout the semester in which you should note down: (a) ideas that are generated in your mind or critical questions you want to ask as a result of your thoughtful engagement with the readings; (b) sources (books, articles, authors, films, databases, internet sites, manuals etc.) you may want to explore further; (c) important tips about research and writing you need to remember; **but most importantly please provide (d) annotations of all books, articles, poems, plays, short stories, novels etc. that you read and/ films that you view.** Please date each entry and give full bibliographical information for all of your sources. Keeping a journal will help you considerably in developing as a writer, thinker and researcher

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It involves stealing other people's ideas and presenting them as your own. Some examples of plagiarism are: copying another's work, word for word, and presenting it as your own; "borrowing," without properly acknowledging the source, paragraphs, sentences, ideas, or even key concepts; and paraphrasing another's work and claiming it as your own. Additional information about plagiarism and citation rules will be provided during the semester. Exhibiting a lack of academic integrity in any of its varied forms will result in a failing grade.

Grading

Participation/preparation/attendance 10%

Researcher's/Writer's Journal 10%

Linguistics Paper 20%

Translation Paper 20%

Literature Paper 20%

Academic Essay Writing Workshop 20%

SCHEDULE

Introduction: The Nature of Language and Preparing to Write

Week 1: Jan. 15-18: Thinking, Reading and Writing Critically.

Working with Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism; Some basic rules of logic (review): negative and positive criticism; is/ought; irony and sarcasm; the myth of objectivity; inductive and deductive arguments; common logical fallacies and inconsistencies; untested presuppositions; uses and abuses of language.

Reading:

- *A Writer's Resource*, ch. 23, 24

Week 2: Jan. 22-25: The Writer as Reader/ The Reader as Writer: Reading and Responding, Pre-writing

Situating the text and tracing the literary and historical references; Asking Questions; Recording your first Responses; Audience and Purpose; Keeping a journal (review); Focused Free Writing; Annotating a text (review); Brainstorming for Ideas.

Reading:

- *Writer's Resource*, ch. 4
- View:**
- TED Talks on Linguistics

The Writing Process

Week 3: Jan. 30-Feb.1: Different types of Academic Essays: Research Essays, Expository/Essay Examinations and Writing critically about Essays.

Week 4: Feb. 5-8: Outlining, Structuring, Ordering Ideas and Writing the First Draft.

The writing process; Addressing the Writing Situation; Arriving at a Thesis; Writing a Draft; Structuring your Essay.

Reading:

- *A Writer's Resource*, ch. 5, 6

Week 5: Feb. 12-15: Revising, Editing, Re-Writing the Draft, Style and Format and Writing about Linguistics

Reading:

- *A Writer's Resource*, ch.7

Week 6: Feb. 19-22: Writing about Linguistics

Structuring Linguistics papers; Review APA documentation style
<http://tetw.org/Linguistics>

Week 7: Feb. 26-March 1: Writing about Translation

Reading:

- Karen Emmerich, "The Translator In Between"

Optional Reading:

- Maria Jesus Martinez Alvaro, "Intertextuality: Origins and Development of the Concept". *Atlantis*, Vol. 18, No 1-2 (Junio-Diciembre 1986), pp.268-285

*****Linguistics Paper Due on March 2 in class*****

Week 8: March 5-8: Writing about Translation

Review MLA documentation style

View:

- Sophia Coppola's, *Lost in Translation* (USA, 2003)

Week 9: March 12-15: Writing about Literature

Tools for Writing Critically about Literature

Reading:

- Forward to *A Room of One's Own* by Mary Gordon
- Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*

Week 10: March 19-22: Introducing Feminism as a Critical Tool

Reading:

- Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*

Week 11: March 26-29: Introducing Existentialism as a Critical Tool

Reading:

- Stanley Corngold, "Introduction"
- Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*

*******Translation Paper Due on March 29 in class*******

Week 12: April 2-5: Writing about Fiction

Reading:

- Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*
- Selection of Critical Essays on Kafka's *Metamorphosis*

Week 13: April 9-12: Writing about Poetry

Reading:

- Daniels' "'Strange Fruit': the story of a song;" retrieve from <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2002/feb2002/frut-f08.shtml>.
- Listen to *Strange Fruit* performed by Billie Holiday
- Read Abel Meeropol's *Strange Fruit* retrieve from <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/175884>

*******Journal Due on April 9 in class*******

Week 14: April 16-19: Writing about Drama and Final Thoughts