

Introduction to Graduate Studies and the Profession of English

English 60113 | Fall 2020

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Course Overview

English departments do a lot—rhetoric and composition, literature, creative writing, critical race and ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, digital humanities, cultural studies. And graduate students do it all and more. This seminar is an introduction to the profession of English and the career before the career that is graduate school. Through histories of the profession, conversations about theoretical and methodological shifts and trends, and a cross section of English studies research, including some from scholars in our own department, we will situate ourselves and our discipline at TCU and in an evolving profession.

Good research takes time and forethought, so this seminar will also offer an overview of some skills and time-management strategies to help you make the most of your first year of graduate school and build toward your professional goals. We will consider campus resources, graduate seminars, conferencing, article writing, and the job market, and we will discuss some of the exciting research happening at TCU and how you can get involved and get writing.

Required Texts

Belcher, Wendy Laura. *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*. 2nd ed., U of Chicago P, 2019.

Hayot, Eric. *The Elements of Academic Style: Writing for the Humanities*. Columbia UP, 2014.

Semenza, Gregory Colón. *Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century: How to Build an Academic Career in the Humanities*. 2nd ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Readings on Course Website

Balizet, Ariane M. “A Girls’ Studies Approach to Shakespeare and Adaptation.” Introduction. *Shakespeare and Girls’ Studies*, Routledge, 2019, pp. 1–23.

Bennett, Eric. Introduction. *Workshops of Empire: Stegner, Engle, and American Creative Writing during the Cold War*. U of Iowa P, 2015, pp. 1–15.

Bost, Darius, La Marr Jurelle Bruce, and Brandon J. Manning. Introduction. “Black Masculinities and the Matter of Vulnerability,” edited by Bost, Bruce, and Manning, *Black Scholar*, vol. 49, no. 2 (2019): 1–10.

- Clune, Michael. "The Bizarro World of Literary Studies." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 26 Oct. 2018, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Bizarro-World-of-Literary/244938>.
- Connors, Robert J. Introduction. *Composition—Rhetoric: Backgrounds, Theory, and Pedagogy*, U of Pittsburgh P, 1997, pp. 1–22.
- Frey, Anne. "Literature and the State in Post-Napoleonic Britain." Introduction. *British State Romanticism: Authorship, Agency, and Bureaucratic Nationalism*, Stanford UP, 2010, pp. 1–19.
- George, Ann. "A Reshaping of the Terms." Introduction. *Kenneth Burke's Permanence and Change: A Critical Companion*, U of South Carolina P, 2018, pp. 1–25.
- Graff, Gerald. "History versus Criticism: 1940–1960." *Professing Literature: An Institutional History*, 20th anniversary ed., U of Chicago P, 2007, pp. 183–94.
- . "The Humanist Myth." Introduction. *Professing Literature: An Institutional History*, 20th anniversary ed., U of Chicago P, 2007, pp. 1–15.
- Helms, Jason. "Making Rhizcomics: Methodologies for Digital Monographs." *Kairos*, vol. 23, no. 1 (2018), <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/23.1/inventio/helms/index.html>.
- . Introduction. *Rhizcomics: Rhetoric, Composition, and New Media Composition*, Sweetland Digital Rhetoric Collaborative / U of Michigan P, 2017, <http://www.digitalrhetoriccollaborative.org/rhizcomics/index.html>.
- Kirilloff, Gabi, Peter J. Capuano, Julius Fredrick, and Matthew L. Jockers. "From a Distance 'You Might Mistake Her for a Man': A Closer Reading of Gender and Character Action in *Jane Eyre*, *The Law and the Lady*, and *A Brilliant Woman*." *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, vol. 33, no. 4 (2018): 821–44.
- Kynard, Carmen. "Runnin with the Rabbits, but Huntin with the Dogs: On the Makings of an Intellectual Autobiography." Introduction. *Vernacular Insurrections: Race, Black Protest, and the New Century in Composition-Literacies Studies*, State U of New York P, 2013, pp. 1–19.
- Looser, Devoney. "The Hows and Whys of Public Humanities." *Profession*, Spring 2019, <https://profession.mla.org/the-hows-and-whys-of-public-humanities/>.
- Man on Fire*. Directed by Joel Fendelman. Produced by Fendelman and James Chase Sanchez. New Day Films, 2018.
- Manning, Brandon J. "Adam Mansbach's Postracial Imaginary in *Angry Black White Boy*." *Neo-Passing: Performing Identity after Jim Crow*, edited by Mollie Godfrey and Vershawn Ashanti Young, U of Illinois P, 2018, pp. 84–95.
- McCormick, Stacie Selmon. "A Body without a Nation." *Staging Fugitivity*, Ohio State UP, 2019, pp. 1–20.
- Newfield, Christopher. "English's Market Retreat." *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty-Year Assault on the Middle Class*, Harvard UP, 2008, pp. 142–58.
- . "Hiding Culture's Contribution." *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty-Year Assault on the Middle Class*, Harvard UP, 2008, pp. 208–19.
- . Introduction. *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty-Year Assault on the Middle Class*, Harvard UP, 2008, pp. 1–15.
- North, Joseph. "The Historical/Contextualist Paradigm." *Literary Criticism: A Concise Political History*, Harvard UP, 2017, pp. 81–123.

- Parry, Marc. "The New Ph.D." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 16 Feb. 2020, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-New-PhD/248038>.
- Schoenbach, Lisi. "Enough with the Crisis Talk!" *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 16 May 2018, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Enough-With-the-Crisis-Talk-/243423>.
- Seltzer, Beth. "One Hundred Job Ads from the Humanities Ecosystem." *Profession*, Fall 2018, <https://profession.mla.org/one-hundred-job-ads-from-the-humanities-ecosystem/>.
- Stenberg, Shari J., and Charlotte Hogg. "Gathering Women's Rhetorics for the Twenty-First Century." Introduction. *Persuasive Acts: Women's Rhetorics in the Twenty-First Century*, U of Pittsburgh P, 2020, pp. 3–21.
- Underwood, Ted. "Digital Humanities and the Future of Literary History." *Why Literary Periods Mattered: Historical Contrast and the Prestige of Literary Studies*, Stanford UP, 2013, pp. 157–76.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments:

Participation and Preparedness	20%
Discussion Lead	10%
Faculty Interview	10%
Journal Review	30%
Book Review	30%

Grading Scale:

A	93–100%	C	73–76%
A-	90–92%	C-	70–72%
B+	87–89%	D+	67–69%
B	83–86%	D	63–66%
B-	80–82%	D-	60–62%
C+	77–79%	F	0–59%

Reading Schedule and Deadlines

Date	Readings	Deadlines
Week 1	The English Department: An Overview and a History	
Monday, August 17	Syllabus	Discussion lead assigned Faculty interview assigned
Week 2		
Monday, August 24	Semenza, <i>Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century</i> (introduction, chapter 1)	

	Graff, “The Humanist Myth” and “History versus Criticism”	
Week 3		
Monday, August 31	Semenza, <i>Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century</i> (chapters 2 and 3) Connors, Introduction to <i>Composition–Rhetoric</i> Kynard, “Runnin with the Rabbits, but Huntin with the Dogs”	
Week 4		
Monday, September 7	North, “The Historical/Contextualist Paradigm” Underwood, “Digital Humanities and the Future of Literary History” Clune, “The Bizarro World of Literary Studies”	Journal review assigned
Week 5	Research and Writing	
Monday, September 14	Hayot, <i>Elements of Academic Style</i> (“Why Read This Book?,” part 1) Frey, “Literature and the State in Post-Napoleonic Britain”	
Week 6		
Monday, September 21	Hayot, <i>Elements of Academic Style</i> (part 2) McCormick, “A Body without a Nation”	
Week 7		
Monday, September 28	Hayot, <i>Elements of Academic Style</i> (part 3) Stenberg and Hogg, “Gathering Women’s Rhetorics for the Twenty-First Century”	Faculty interview due
Week 8		
Monday, October 5	Hayot, <i>Elements of Academic Style</i> (part 4) Kirilloff, Capuano, Fredrick, and Jockers, “From a Distance ‘You Might Mistake Her for a Man’” Visit from Professor Kirilloff	
Week 9	Conferencing and Publishing	

Monday, October 12	Semenza, <i>Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century</i> (chapters 4 and 5) Manning, “Adam Mansbach’s Postracial Imaginary in <i>Angry Black White Boy</i> ” Bost, Bruce, and Manning, Introduction to <i>Black Masculinities and the Matter of Vulnerability</i> Visit from Professor Manning	Journal review due
Week 10		
Monday, October 19	Semenza, <i>Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century</i> (chapters 9 and 10) George, “A Reshaping of the Terms”	Book review assigned
Week 11		
Monday, October 26	Belcher, <i>Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks</i> (introduction, “Week 1”) Balizet, “A Girls’ Studies Approach to Shakespeare and Adaptation”	
Week 12		
Monday, November 2	Belcher, <i>Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks</i> (“Week 2,” “Week 3”) Helms, Introduction to <i>Rhizcomics</i> and “Making <i>Rhizcomics</i> ”	
Week 13	Trends and Crises	
Monday, November 9	Semenza, <i>Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century</i> (chapter 12, appendix) Seltzer, “One Hundred Job Ads from the Humanities Ecosystem”	
Week 14		
Monday, November 16	Newfield, Introduction to <i>Unmaking the Public University</i> , “English’s Market Retreat,” and “Hiding Culture’s Contribution” Schoenbach, “Enough with the Crisis Talk!” Bennett, Introduction to <i>Workshops of Empire</i>	
Week 15		
Monday, November 23	Looser, “The Hows and Whys of Public Humanities”	Book review due on Sunday, December 6 at 5 p.m.

	<p>Parry, "The New Ph.D." <i>Man on Fire</i> Visit from Professor Chase Sanchez (Middlebury College; TCU PhD 2017) SPOTs</p>	
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