ANG-1103: Composition: Critical Writing
Fall 2017, Fridays 8:30-11:30, B-3270 Pav. Lionel-Groulx

Instructor: Gabriel Germain
Office: C-8119
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: gabriel.germain.1@umontreal.ca

Course Description

This course aims at improving your ability to both read and write critically through the study of literary texts corresponding to different genres. To think critically begins with learning the tools to better reading and writing abilities. Therefore, you will learn to interpret and to summarize texts more efficiently, to develop ideas and transfer them to a well-organized essay. While acquiring these skills, you will read short stories, poetry, a novel and a play to be comfortable with all genres. As this course focuses on composition, you will learn to construct an essay paragraph by paragraph, from thesis statement to conclusion and learn how to format it according to the MLA guidelines. To leave you enough time to write, certain classes will focus on peer-review and in-class exercises. Every class will be separated into two parts: the first will be more theoretical, focusing on giving you critical strategies (italicized in the schedule); the second part will require your feedback on weekly readings as its purpose will mainly be to help you apply these techniques.

Required Texts

Our Town – Thornton Wilder
The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath
Other texts will be made available on StudiUM. (You are strongly encouraged to print these texts, but, for eco-friendly reasons, I will allow computers in class)

Suggested Texts

An English Dictionary
A Thesaurus
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th or 8th edition) **online version available at OWL at Purdue owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/ **

Evaluation

Midterm Exam*: 15%
2 Essays (4-6 Pages): 45%
Final Exam: 30%
Participation: 10%

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. It can jeopardize your academic career. If you are caught plagiarizing, know that it could result in a F on either the essay/exam or even the course.
In serious cases, it may lead to a suspension or expulsion from the University. If you do not know what represents a case of plagiarism, please, do not hesitate to ask me or show it to me. You can also find more information on the University’s official stance here: www.integrite.umontreal.ca.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sep 8)
Course Introductions

Week 2 (Sep 15)
Reading with Purpose, Prewriting, Outlining,
Thomas King, “Borders”
Ambrose Bierce, “Chickamauga”

Week 3 (Sep 22)
Thesis Statement, Literary Analysis, Setting, Plot
Alice Munro, “Runaway”

Week 4 (Sep 29)
Imagery, Symbolism, Body Paragraph, Compare and Contrast
William Shakespeare, “Sonnet CXXIX”
Sir Philip Sidney, from *Astrophel and Stella* “106”
Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est” and “The Parable of the Old Man and the Young”
Ted Berrigan, from *The Sonnets* “XV”

Week 5 (Oct 6)
Proof-Reading Strategies and Editing, MLA Format
Peer Review

Week 6 (Oct 13)
Poetic Forms, Blank Verse/Free Verse, Irony, Quotations
Kenneth Koch, “Permanently”
Barbara Guest, “The Location of Things,” “Parachutes, My Love, Could Carry Us Higher”

**First Essay Due (20%)**

Week 7 (Oct 20)
**Midterm Exam (15%)**

*Reading Week (Oct 27)*
Week 8 (Nov 3)

*Patterns of Sound, Elegy, Conclusion*

Michael S. Harper, “Dear John, Dear Coltrane”
Rita Dove, “Canary”
Sonia Sanchez, “For Our Lady,” “Malcolm”

Week 9 (Nov 10)

*Reading the Novel Efficiently*

Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*

Week 10 (Nov 17)

*Context, Essay Title,*

Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*

Week 11 (Nov 24)

*Dramatic Monologue, Audience*

Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*

Week 12 (Dec 1)

Peer Review

Week 13 (Dec 8)

*Overview and Questions*

Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*

**Second Essay Due (25%)**

Week 14 (Dec 15)

**Final Exam (20%)**