ANG-1103: Composition: Critical Writing

Fall 2018, Fridays 8:30-11:30,
B-4240, Pav. 3200 J.-Brillant
Instructor: Safa Kouki
Office: C-8119
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description

This course is designed to improve students’ ability to read and write critically through the examination of a variety of literary texts. We work from the premise that to write well one must also read well; to this effect, we will study texts from the main literary genres. You will learn to read and interpret these texts thoroughly, to develop and organize ideas, to formulate pointed thesis statements, to write coherent paragraphs, to revise and edit productively, to integrate quotations, to master the rules of MLA formatting, and – finally – to produce a coherent, lucid, and persuasive essay. Class time will be divided between lectures, group discussions, and in-class assignments (including writing sessions and peer review workshops). Because this course serves as the foundation of your success in future English courses, your reading and writing skills should improve significantly over the course of the semester. To meet this objective, the course is writing-intensive.

Required Materials:

Readings will be available on StudiUM. Please check prior to each 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:

Participation: 10%
Journal Entries (5 x 1-2 Pages): 15% (3% each)
Short Essay (4-6 Pages): 15%
Long Essay (8-10 Pages): 25%
Final Exam: 35%
**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 7)**
Course Introduction

**Week 2 (Sep 14)**

*Active Reading (Previewing, highlighting, and annotating)*

Mark Twain: “Whenever I am to publish a book”

Vladimir Nabokov: “Good Readers and Good Writers”

**Week 3 (Sep 21)**

*Planning to Write (Brainstorming, Researching and Outlining)*

Edouard Said: *The World, the Text and the Critic* (Excerpts)

**Week 4 (Sep 28)**

*Types of Essay*

George Orwell: “A Nice Cup of Tea”

Andrew Marvell: “To His Coy Mistress”

William Shakespeare: *Hamlet* (Excerpts)

Achille Mbembe: “Of Commandement”

**Week 5 (Oct 5)**

*Using Quotations Effectively + MLA Format*

MLA Handbook + Microsoft Word
Week 6 (Oct 12)

Literary Genres and Figures of Speech I


Sophocles: Antigone

Haruki Murakami: “The Wind Cave” (Killing Commendatore)

Week 7 (Oct 19)

Literary Genres and Figures of Speech II

Wilson Harris: The Palace of the Peacock

James Joyce: The Portrait of an Artist As a Young Man

T.S. Eliot: The Waste Land

Reading Week (Oct 26)

Week 8 (Nov 2)

Using Library Resources

Week 9 (Nov 9)

Style: Finding Your Academic Voice

G. Douglas Atkins: “Finding a voice”

For Whom the Bell Tolls (the poem (Donne), the novel (Hemingway) and the movie (Dir.Wood)

Week 10 (Nov 16)

Creative Writing

Oscar Wilde: “The Critic as Artist: With Some Remarks Upon the Importance of Doing Nothing”

Week 11 (Nov 23)

Critical Writing

Week 12 (Nov 30)

Peer Review
Week 13 (Dec 8)

Overview and Questions

Week 14 (Dec 15)

Final Exam