###### Fall 2017

###### EN 537: Introduction to Graduate Studies

# Dr. Michelle M. Dowd

Thursdays 9:30AM-12:00PM

208 Garland Hall

# Office: 237 Morgan Hall Office Phone: (205) 348-6538

Office Hours: T 1:30-3:30, and by appointment email: mmdowd1@ua.edu

# 

**Library Liaison:** Sara Whitver, Librarian Liaison to English (email: [smwhitver@ua.edu](mailto:smwhitver@ua.edu); Office: Gorgas 105).  Professor Whitver is available as a resource to all students in the class, so I encourage you to make an appointment with her during the semester if you would like her assistance.

**Course Description and Objectives**:

This course is a study of selected bibliographical resources and of some of the important methodological approaches employed in literary study, including an introduction to critical approaches, scholarly writing, and issues in the profession. Intended as an introductory course for new graduate students, EN 537 takes a broad focus in order to facilitate engagement with the material, theoretical, and practical aspects of literary studies. Along the way, we will consider topics related to the current state of the field and the profession.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Demonstrate familiarity with the terms and techniques of bibliography, including how to analyze the materials from which print books are made, to interpret the conditions of their production, and to compare and evaluate various editions
* Analyze various critical and theoretical approaches to literary texts
* Develop research skills central to literary analysis
* Demonstrate an enhanced understanding of the disciplinary study of English and its institutional structures
* Develop and hone the skills of academic writing, oral presentation and discussion, and collaboration

**Required Texts:**

* Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, ed. *The Craft of Research*. 4th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016. (ISBN: 9780226239736)
* Parker, Robert Dale. *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. (ISBN: 9780199331161)
* Additional readings on Blackboard (**BB**)

**Recommended Texts:**

* Joseph M. Williams. Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace. 11th ed. New York, Longman, 2013.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**: (Subject to change)

**Aug. 24:** Introductions and Course Overview

Graff, “Disliking Books at an Early Age” **(BB)**

**Unit 1: What are You Reading? Textual Scholarship & the Book as Material Object**

**Aug. 31:** What is an Author?

Barthes, “The Death of the Author” **(BB)**

Foucault, “What is an Author?” **(BB)**

Professionalization Discussion: Structure of the English Department

**Sept. 7:** What is a text?

Gaskell, *A New Introduction to Bibliography*: Gaskell, “Introduction” (1-2), “The Hand-printed Book” (5-8), “Patterns of Production” (160-70), “The English Book Trade to 1800” (171-85), “Introduction” (189-90), “Printing Practice in the Machine Press Period” (289-96), “The Book Trade in Britain and America since 1800” (297-310) **(BB)**

Chartier and Stallybrass, “What is a Book?” (**BB)**

**Sept. 14: Library day.** **We will meet in Gorgas 104 with Sara Whitver, who will give us an overview of advanced literary research techniques and resources.**

**Sept. 21:** Bibliography and Textual Scholarship

Gaskell, “Textual Bibliography” **(BB)**

Marcus, “Textual Scholarship” **(BB)**

Professionalization Discussion: Tenure and Promotion

**Sept. 28:** Editorial Theory

Eggert, “Apparatus, Text, Interface” **(BB)**

Greetham, “Editing the Text: Scholarly Editing” and “Appendix II: Some Types of Scholarly Edition,” in *Textual Scholarship* **(BB)**

McGann, “Coda: Why Digital Scholarship Matters” **(BB)**

**Unit 2: Interpreting Literature: An Introduction to Critical Methodologies**

**Oct. 5:** Parker, Ch. 1, Ch. 2, Ch. 3, and Ch. 4

Edmund Spenser, Sonnet 67 from *Amoretti* **(BB)**

**Assignment Due: Reception History**

**Oct. 12:** Parker, Ch. 5, Ch. 6, and Ch. 7

Professionalization Discussion: Conference Presentations

**Oct. 19:** Parker, Ch. 8, Ch. 9, and Ch. 10

**Oct. 26:** **Mid-term study break. No class.**

**Nov. 2:** Parker, Ch. 11 and Ch. 12

Huff, Ch. 6, “Title and Abstract,” in Writing for Scholarly Publication **(BB)**

**Unit 3: Literary Research: Entering the Scholarly Conversation**

**Nov. 9:** Formulating a Research Project

Booth et al., Ch. 3, “From Topics to Questions”

Booth et al., Ch. 4, “From Questions to Problems”

**Assignment Due: Abstract in Response to CFP**

**Nov. 16:** Investigating and Assessing Research Sources and Publication Venues

Booth et al., Ch. 5, “From Problems to Sources”

Booth et al., Ch. 6, “Engaging Sources”

Professionalization Discussion: Writing and Publishing Scholarly Articles

**Assignment Due: Textual Analysis**

**Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day. No class.**

**Nov. 30:** Developing a Research Project: Entering a Scholarly Conversation

Booth et al., Ch. 7, “Making Good Arguments: An Overview”

Booth et al., Ch. 8, “Making Claims”

Booth et al., Ch. 10, “Acknowledgments and Responses”

**Dec. 7:** Brief presentations of research proposals

**Monday, December 11, 5PM: Research Proposals Due**

**Course Requirements and Grading**:

Reception History 25%

Textual Analysis 25%

Research Proposal 25%

Class Participation 15%

Abstract in Response to CFP 5%

Final Presentation 5%

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to abide by UA’s Code of Academic Conduct and the Academic Honor Code. When you use sources such as books, web pages, articles, or primary documents in your writing, you must identify them to your reader. If you quote a source directly, you must put the borrowed material in quotation marks and include a proper citation. If you take an idea from another source but put it in your own words (i.e. paraphrase it), you must still give proper credit to the source. Please use MLA or Chicago style documentation to document any sources used in written work. All assignments turned in for this class must be original work (that means work original both to you and to this class; you cannot submit the same work for credit in this seminar and for credit in another graduate seminar without explicit permission from both instructors in advance and in writing).

**NOTE:** Please consult the OIRA Syllabus (link provided on Blackboard) for additional UA policies relevant to this class, including the Statement on Disability Accommodations and the Severe Weather Protocol.

**Additional Ground Rules:**

* Excellent attendance is expected in a graduate seminar and is essential to your success in this course. I expect you to attend every class meeting, arrive on time, and participate actively in our discussions. Please inform me if you will be unable to attend class because you are participating in a conference or if you have a serious illness or emergency.
* All work is due in class on the dates assigned. Extensions to assignment deadlines will only be considered in extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.
* Please bring to class either electronic or hard copies of readings for the day. You may bring laptops or tablets to class if you want to avoid printing out the reading and/or if you want to take notes electronically, as long as your primary focus remains on interactive class discussion and active participation. No social networking, emailing, etc.!
* Cellphones must be switched off.