

Fall 2019
EN 537: Introduction to Graduate Studies
Dr. Michelle M. Dowd
Mondays 10:00AM-12:30PM
119 ten Hoor 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; 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 research methods, 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
- Develop research skills central to literary analysis
- Demonstrate an enhanced understanding of the disciplinary study of English, its professional history, and its institutional structures
- Develop and hone the skills of academic writing, engagement with primary and secondary sources, and group discussion

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)
- Graff, Gerald, *Professing Literature: An Institutional History* (20th Anniversary Edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). (ISBN: 9780226305592)
- Additional readings on Blackboard (**BB**)

Recommended Texts:

- Joseph M. Williams. *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. 12th ed. New York, Longman, 2016.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments: (Subject to change)

Aug. 26: Introductions and Course Overview
Graff, "Disliking Books at an Early Age" (**BB**)
Short Assignment 1 Due: Paper Analysis and Self-Assessment

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

Sept. 2: **Labor Day. No class.**

Sept. 9: 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. 16: 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. 23: **Library day (Meet in 204F Gorgas Library)**
Gaskell, "Identification" (**BB**)
Greetham, "Editing the Text: Scholarly Editing" and "Appendix II: Some Types of Scholarly Edition," in *Textual Scholarship* (**BB**) (NB: we can revisit Greetham on 9/30)

Sept. 30: Bibliography and Textual Scholarship
Gaskell, "Textual Bibliography" (**BB**)
Marcus, "Textual Scholarship" (**BB**)
Suggested Additional Reading: McGann, "Coda: Why Digital Scholarship Matters" (**BB**)
Professionalization Discussion: Tenure and Promotion

Unit 2: Literary Research: Entering the Scholarly Conversation

Oct. 7: Initial Plans and Proposals for Research Projects
Huff, Ch. 6, "Title and Abstract," in *Writing for Scholarly Publication* (**BB**)
Professionalization Discussion: Conference Presentations
Reception History Due: 5PM

Oct. 14: Formulating a Research Project
Booth et al., Ch. 3, "From Topics to Questions"
Booth et al., Ch. 4, "From Questions to Problems"

Short Assignment 2 Due: Abstract in Response to CFP

Oct. 21: 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
Short Assignment 3 Due: Faculty Consultation & Journal Analysis

Oct. 28: 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”
Professionalization Discussion: CVs
Short Assignment 4 Due: Analysis of Selected Sources

Unit 3: Literary Studies as a Profession: Past, Present, Future

Nov. 4: A History of Literary Studies, Part I
Graff, pp. 1-118

Nov. 11: **No class. Work on your revised abstracts and conference papers!**

Nov. 18: A History of Literary Studies, Part II
Graff, pp. 119-263
Short Assignment 5 Due: CV

Nov. 25: Some Reflections on Academic Life
Alex Galarza, “Life as a Graduate Student” (**BB**)
Joseph Fruscione, “Life as an Adjunct” (**BB**)
Natalie M. Houston, “Imposter Phenomenon” (**BB**)
Giuseppina Iacono Lobo, “Academic Guilt” (**BB**)
Short Assignment 6 Due: Revised Abstract

Dec. 2: Mapping the Road Ahead
Paul Jay, “The Humanities Crisis Then and Now” (**BB**)
Kevin J.H. Dettmar, “*Dead Poets Society* is a Terrible Defense of the Humanities” (**BB**)
Scott Newstok, “How to Think Like Shakespeare” (**BB**)
Gregory Jay, “The Engaged Humanities: Principles and Practices of Public Scholarship and Teaching” (**BB**)
Short Assignment 7 Due: Individual Development Plan

Friday, December 6, 5PM: Conference Papers Due

Course Requirements and Grading:

Short Assignments 1-7	35% (5% each)
Reception History	25%
Conference Paper	25%
Class Participation (including discussion prompts)	15%

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to abide by UA's Code of Academic Conduct and the Academic Honor Code. Please use MLA or Chicago style to document your sources in written work.

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 an illness or emergency.
- All work is due in class on the dates assigned. Extensions to assignment deadlines will be considered at the discretion of the instructor; please communicate with me in advance if you anticipate needing an extension.
- 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.