

Research, Writing & Argumentation (MS 9102) Winter 2021



Meeting time: Wednesdays 4:30-7:00PM, **online via Zoom**

Professor: Daniel Robinson, FNB-4057; drobin@uwo.ca (cell. 416.829.2919)

Office hour: Wed., 1:00-3:00PM (and by appointment)

Colloquium participants will discuss and produce examples of good scholarly prose. Scholarly writing embodies both social practice and individual labour. Too often, writing problems (e.g., writer's block) are "privatized" and dealt with in isolation, when in fact many writers experience them. Consequently, this colloquium aims to operate reflexively as a scholarly community, providing support and critical feedback to members.

Each colloquium participant will present: 1) an abstract and 2) two drafts (rough and revised) of a piece of academic writing related to your Independent Research Project (or IRCP). Along the way, we will explore topics like author's voice, creative approaches, structure and organization, abstracts and summaries, jargon, effective sentences, and re-writing and copy editing.

Expectations:

There are four: read the readings and classmates' written submissions; attend regularly; share your ideas; submit three pieces of written work (abstract; rough & revised IRP/IRCP drafts)

Required texts:

Helen Sword, *Stylish Academic Writing* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012). Best to buy online <https://www.amazon.ca/Stylish-Academic-Writing-Helen-Sword/dp/0674064488>

Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*, 2nd ed. (University of Chicago Press, 2007). **(I will email you a PDF of two chapters)**

Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Presentations
Jan 13	Introductions/Logistics		
Jan 20	“The Horror...The Horror”	Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i>, 1-25, 43-67	
Jan 27	“In sum, ...” Abstracts and Proposals	Sword, <i>Stylish Academic Writing</i>, 3-11, 147-158	Discuss: submitted abstracts
Feb 3	Voice and Structure	Sword, 35-47, 122-134	Draft Presenter 1
Feb 10	Stories, Characters, Telling	Sword, 87-111	Draft Presenter 2
Feb 24	Lean, Smart Sentences	Sword, 35-47, 112-121	Draft Presenter 3
March 3	Luring Readers	Sword, 63-86	Draft Presenter 4
March 10	Creative Licence	Sword, 159-176	Draft Presenter 5
March 17	Presentations		Revised Draft 1
March 24	Presentations		Revised Draft 2
March 31	Presentations		Revised Draft 3
April 7	Presentations		Revised Draft 4 & 5