

## Colloquium: Research, Writing & Argumentation (MS 9102) W 2022



Meeting time: Wednesdays 5-8pm via Zoom. (Note: after the first couple weeks, the class will be split into two groups of six or seven; each group will then meet for 90 minutes weekly.)

Professor: Daniel Robinson, FNB-4057; tel. ext. 86669; drobin@uwo.ca  
Office hour: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm (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 the IRP. 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 classmates' written submissions; attend regularly; share your ideas; submit three pieces of written work (abstract; rough & revised drafts)

### **Texts:**

Helen Sword, *Stylish Academic Writing* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012) (Optional: In bookstore or buy online)

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

## Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Introductions/Logistics</b>		
<b>Jan 19</b>	<b>“The Horror...The Horror”</b>	<b>Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i>, 1-25, 43-67</b>	
<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>“In sum, ...” Abstracts and Proposals</b>	<b>Sword, <i>Stylish Academic Writing</i>, 3-11, 147-158</b>	<b>Discuss: Submitted Abstracts/proposals</b>
<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Voice and Structure</b>	<b>Sword, 35-47, 122-134</b>	<b>Draft Presenter 1</b>
<b>Feb 9</b>	<b>Stories, Characters, Telling</b>	<b>Sword, 87-111</b>	<b>Draft Presenter 2</b>
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>Lean, Smart Sentences</b>	<b>Sword, 35-47, 112-121</b>	<b>Draft Presenter 3</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Luring Readers</b>	<b>Sword, 63-86</b>	<b>Draft Presenter 4</b>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>Creative Licence</b>	<b>Sword, 159-176</b>	
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Presentations</b>		<b>Revised Draft 1</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Presentations</b>		<b>Revised Draft 2</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Presentations</b>		<b>Revised Draft 3</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Presentations</b>		<b>Revised Draft 4</b>

## **Additional Information**

**Learning Outcomes/Objectives:** Equip you to research, write, and complete your Independent Research Projects on time.

**Enrolment Restrictions:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to M.A. graduate students in Media Studies.

**Health/Wellness Services:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Accessible Education Western (AEW):** Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both **AEW** and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.