

Colloquium: Research, Writing & Argumentation (MS 9102) 2023



Meeting time: Tuesdays 7-9pm. FNB 4100

Professor: Daniel Robinson, FNB-4057; tel. ext. 86669; drobin@uwo.ca

Office hour: Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm (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). This course is "Pass/Fail." No grades are issued.

Texts:

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

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 10	Introductions/Logistics		
Jan 17	“The Horror...The Horror”	Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i>, 1-25, 43-67	
Jan 24	“In sum, ...” Abstracts and Proposals	Sword, <i>Stylish Academic Writing</i>, 3-11, 147-158	Discuss: Submitted Abstracts/proposals
Jan 31	Voice and Structure	Sword, 35-47, 122-134	Draft Presenter 1
Feb 7	Stories, Characters, Telling	Sword, 87-111	Draft Presenter 2
Feb 14	Lean, Smart Sentences	Sword, 35-47, 112-121	Draft Presenter 3
Feb 28	Luring Readers	Sword, 63-86	Draft Presenter 4
March 7	Creative Licence	Sword, 159-176	
March 14	Presentations		Revised Draft 1
March 21	Presentations		Revised Draft 2
March 28	Presentations		Revised Draft 3
April 4	Presentations		Revised Draft 4

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.