

ENGLISH 370
JUNIOR HONORS CONFERENCE
SPRING 2019
SELECTED WEDNESDAYS 3:30-5:00PM, TWS 3132

Professor Jason Rudy
jrrudy@umd.edu
3207 Tawes Hall
MW 1-2:00pm, and by appt.

This course is designed to provide you with the skills you need to write a scholarly or creative honors thesis. Course readings and discussions will focus on how to plan, research, draft, and revise at an advanced level. By the end of the semester, students will define their research problem or creative focus, locate an advisor, and complete an honors proposal.

Textbooks

REQUIRED

- *The Craft of Research, Third Edition* by Booth et al. (ISBN 9780226065663)

RECOMMENDED

- *Writing with Style* by John Trimble (ISBN 9780205028801)

RESERVES

- Additional course material will be made available via Canvas

Course-Related Policies

I will adhere to University of Maryland policies with regard to excused absences, registered disabilities, incidents of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, and student conduct. [Please refer to this website](#) for more detailed information: *really, please do click over and review the university's guidelines*. Our course policies will rigorously follow those outlined on the linked page.

Communication

Please use our ELMS/Canvas messaging to contact me (rather than email). Consider all communication directed to me – or any professor – as a *professional correspondence*. Compose them accordingly:

- ▶▶ They should not look like text messages or informal emails to friends (substitute “Hey!” for a more professional greeting, and avoid abbreviations like “ttyl”).
- ▶▶ Write in full sentences.
- ▶▶ Proofread, checking both spelling and punctuation.
- ▶▶ Remember that tone can be a real problem with emails. They almost always come across as brusquer than the writer intended. Adjust your writing to allow for this.

Submitting Your Work

Unless otherwise noted, papers are to be submitted via Canvas. On the assignment page, look for the place to upload your Word doc or docx file. Late papers will be downgraded by 25% for each 24-hour period following the deadline. Unless otherwise noted, all papers are due by the start of class on the due date. For students unable to turn in papers because of illness or dire emergency, a written note is required, and essays must be turned in as soon as possible.

Other Details

Class etiquette: use of mobile phones and computers is not permitted during class, with the exception of during peer-review sessions (when computers will be allowed). Please silence your phones and place them out of sight so our class has your full attention.

Meetings with Professor Rudy: you will sign up for two meetings, one during the week of Feb. 13 and a second following spring break (you are welcome to meet more regularly, during office hours or at arranged times, but only two meetings are required). You will locate the signup page for these meetings under “Pages” on Canvas. When you come to your meeting, please bring a means of taking notes (you should do this when you meet with any professor: it shows you value the conversation you’re having, and that you recognize it’s unlikely you’ll remember everything discussed).

Peer reviews: the two peer reviews are worth 15% of your class grade. 5% is for the quality of the reviews. The remaining 10% is earned by turning the work in on time. If you do not finish your peer reviews by the deadline (the start of class for each peer-review day), then you will not earn any of that credit (5% for each assignment).

Assignments (details to be found on Canvas)

- Syllabus quiz: 5%
- Scholarly or creative brainstorm: 5%
- Research question or creative précis: 5%
- Preliminary bibliography: 10%
- Reader reports: 15%
- Draft proposal: 20%
- Revised proposal: 30%
- Annotated bibliography: 10%

Course Schedule

- Jan. 30 ALL STUDENTS
Course Introduction
- Feb. 6 SCHOLARS
Class meeting: read “Prologue,” “Thinking in Print” & “Connecting with Your Reader” (Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2)
- Due: Scholarly/creative brainstorm (all students)** – *Scholars please also bring one copy of your brainstorm to class with you*
Due: you must take the Syllabus quiz by the start of class today (3:30pm)
- Feb. 13 ALL STUDENTS
Meet Honors director this week (sign up for meetings in advance)
- Feb. 20 SCHOLARS
Class meeting: read “From Topics to Questions” (Chapter 3)
- Feb. 27 CREATIVE WRITERS
Class meeting: read Anna Keeseey, “Making a Scene” (setting and context)
- Mar. 6 SCHOLARS
Class meeting: read “From Questions to a Problem” (Chapter 4)
- Mar. 13 **Due: Research question or creative précis (all students)**
- SPRING BREAK
- Mar. 27 SCHOLARS
Class meeting: “From Problems to Sources” and “Using Sources” (Chapters 5 and 6)
- Due: Preliminary bibliography (20 sources/all students)**
Due: Reader reports on research question / creative précis (all students)

- Apr. 3 CREATIVE WRITERS
Class meeting: read E. M. Forster, from *Aspects of the Novel* (characterization)
- SCHOLARS: Meet with Honors director this week
- Due: Annotated bibliography (10 sources/all students)**
- April 10 & 17 No class these two weeks: work on your thesis proposals!
- Apr. 24 SCHOLARS
Class meeting: read “Making Good Arguments: An Overview” (Chapter 7)
- CREATIVE WRITERS: Meet with advisors and Honors director this week
- May 1 **Due: Draft thesis proposal (all students)**
- May 8 ALL STUDENTS
Class meeting: proposal workshop
- Due: Reader reports on thesis proposal (all students)**
- May 11 **Due by midnight today:
Revised thesis proposal (all students)**

A Chronological Overview of the Honors Program

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|----------------|---|
| November 2018 | Apply to Honors program and gain admission |
| January 2019 | Begin Junior Honors Conference |
| February 2019 | Narrow research problem or creative focus |
| March 2019 | Develop argument or creative focus and write annotated bibliography
Find faculty advisor |
| April 2019 | Draft and revise proposal |
| May 2019 | Submit approved proposal |
| Summer 2019 | Research, plan, and begin drafting honors thesis |
| September 2019 | Submit 7-page draft of honors thesis |
| November 2019 | If you have not yet already, find a second reader for your thesis |
| December 2019 | Submit 20-page draft (20-25 scholarly pages, 35-40 creative pages) |
| February 2020 | Finish revised draft of honors thesis: to be submitted by March 1st
(25-30 scholarly pages, roughly 45 creative pages) |
| March 2020 | Submit final draft of honors thesis |
| April 2020 | Defend honors thesis |
| May 2020 | Graduate with Honors! |