**LIBERAL ARTS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

**WRITING DEPARTMENT**

**Course:** AP/WRIT 1703, 6.0 - Writing Process: Invention, Originality, Ethics

**Term:** Y 2020/2021

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Stephanie Bell, stepbell@yorku.ca

**Time and Location:** Asynchronous online course

**Course Website:** <https://sites.google.com/view/yorku-writ1703/home>

**Expanded Course Description**

Writing is commonly conceptualized as a process of “writing up,” the act of documenting fully formed ideas, arguments, and conclusions. However, scholarship in writing studies shows that writing is a recursive process of knowledge production. Writers inevitably find themselves “writing through” ideas and issues and landing somewhere unexpected. Writing is also a process of knowledge production in a larger sense. As writers engage with what others have said before them, they contribute to social constructions of knowledge. Underestimating the complexity and power of the writing process can cause writers to become frustrated and even defeated by the exercise. In this course, students develop a critical understanding of writing processes and the roles writing process plays in the production of knowledge.

*Are ideas originated, developed, found, borrowed?*

*What principles, beliefs, and motivations govern the ways ideas come into being, circulate, and develop?*

Students develop social science research, critical thinking, and writing skills through course subject matter and assignments. In particular, this course helps students grapple with what it means to “write in your own words,” as university-level assignments invite them to move beyond imitation and repetition to contribution and “originality.”

What has been will be again,

what has been done will be done again;

there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

**Course Learning Objectives**

Successful learning is marked by developmental progress, not mastery. What you learn in one course will deepen and develop over the course of your studies and beyond graduation.The best way to stop learning is to take the attitude that you have nothing more to learn.

Attentive and effortful student engagement in this course will result in enhanced ability to:

* produce written texts that make “original” authorial contributions
* use rhetorical strategies to underscore and highlight your authorial contributions
* demarcate between your own and others’ speech, ideas, and arguments in written texts
* use effective writing processes that result in your best work
* decode assignment expectations

Attentive and effortful student engagement in this course will result in enhanced understanding of:

* the role(s) writing plays in the social construction of knowledge
* theories of writing process and writing as a mode of learning
* Western individualism and fetishization of originality
* theories of invention or where ideas come from and how they are shaped (epistemology)
* the role of colonization and appropriation at play in the ownership of cultural property
* plagiarism, academic integrity, copyright, and fair use policies

**Course Organization**

Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, this course has become fully online and asynchronous.

There will be no scheduled class meetings. Instead, we will work through material and activities together at the same pace, primarily using discussion forums. We are a community of learners, making sense of a few key questions together.

Students may be called upon to submit audio recordings featuring their voice to discussion forums at specific points during the course. Students will not be required to post photos or videos of themselves.

Course content will be delivered in multiple modalities (e.g., close-captioned slide show video lectures with written transcripts) in order to be as accessible as possible.

Please inform the course instructor of the best ways to meet your learning needs.

**Course Community Guidelines**

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that all students' learning needs be addressed, and that the diversity that all members of the course bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit.

Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups. Anonymous feedback can be submitted using the Anonymous Course Feedback Form on Moodle.

While productive debate and discussion are actively encouraged in this course, disrespectful comments or hateful speech will not be permitted. Disrespectful comments will be hidden or deleted from Moodle discussion boards, and commenters will be contacted about the issue.

Please be aware that in online communication, tone and style are important for expressing intent.

I encourage students to use GIFs and emojis where doing so aids expression. Please review the information on Moodle about the use of GIFs and other images in this course.

I also encourage students to be careful when choosing to use CAPS LOCKS and italics and other emphasis markers because they can indicate rudeness and AGGRESSION.

**Course Materials**

All course materials are open-access or available through the York University library system to keep your costs low. Students can expect to be engaging with a diversity of text types throughout the course, including peer-reviewed scholarly articles, online lectures, documentary films, news stories and investigative reporting.

Expected reading time/week: 3 hours

Materials assigned to each of the course modules will be listed within the module itself.

**Course Schedule**

Fall Term

Week 1 Course introduction

Weeks 2-4 Unit 1: Rethinking Writing

Weeks 5-8 Unit 2: Invention pt. 1, Inventio

Weeks 9-12 Unit 3: Originality vs. Social Constructionism

Fall reading week: Oct. 10-16

Winter Term:

Week 1 Term 2 Overview

Weeks 2-5 Unit 4: Invention pt. 2, Remix

Weeks 6-8 Unit 5: Appropriation & Colonization

Weeks 9-12 Unit 6: Plagiarism & Intellectual Property

Winter reading week: Feb. 13-19

*Note:*

*Schedule adjustments may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.*

**Course Evaluation**

Reading mark-up exercises (x5) 10%

Unit 1 Critical Reflection 5%

Unit 2 Descriptive Essay 15%

Unit 3 Lit Review Diagram 5%

Unit 3 Solitary Genius Essay 15%

Unit 4 Patchwritten Debate Collage 15%

Unit 5 Power & Property Essay 20%

Unit 6 Document Analysis 15%

Optional take-home final 30%

*Notes:*

*Coursework also involves ungraded weekly activites connected to graded assignments.*

*No additional coursework will be made available.*

**Assignment Submission**

All assignments will be submitted electronically using the course Moodle platform. See complete assignment details for instructions.

*Lateness:*

* Assignments submitted within 12 hours of an assignment deadline will not be penalized for lateness.
* Assignments submitted beyond 12 hours after an assignment deadline will be penalized one letter grade per day.
* Assignments more than 5 days late will not be accepted for grading.
* Corrupt or incorrect files will result in assignments being subject to the lateness policy.

*Extensions:*

* Submit the extension request form 24 hours ahead of the assignment deadline.
* The form will ask you for a proposed timeframe and detailed plan for completing the assignment.
* Complete requests submitted 24 hours ahead of the assignment deadline that ask for an additional 2 days or less will be automatically accepted.

*Optional Take-home Final:*

The optional take-home final is completed in addition to coursework, not in lieu of it.

Should you choose to complete this assignment, your course letter grade will be calculated out of 130 total points.

For example, if your total course points after completing the take-home exam is 85, your final grade will be: (85/130)\*100=65% C+

No additional coursework will be made available.

*Grading:*

York University grading scale is available <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2012-2013/academic/grades/>

Each assignment will be given a percentage grade.

Requests for discussions about completed work can be made through the Course Progress Discussion form on Moodle.

*Pass/Fail Option:*

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Liberal Arts & Professional Studies’ section of the Undergraduate Calendar.

*Important Dates:*

<https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw20>

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| Fall classes start | Sept. 9 |
| Fall reading week | Oct. 10-16 |
| Last date to submit fall term work | Dec. 9 |
| Winter classes start | Jan. 11 |
| Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade | Feb. 5 |
| Winter reading week | Feb. 13-19 |
| Last date to submit winter term work | April 13 |

*Additional Information:*

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents).

* Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
* Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
* Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
* Student Conduct Standards