Instructor: Julia Romberger Office phone: 683-4012

Office: 5024 BAL Office hours: m 1:00-2:00 | t 2:00-3:00 & by appt.

Email: jromberg@odu.edu Course Page: http://jromberger.faculty.digitalodu.com/810fa14/

# Course Description

Major Debates is a core course for the doctoral program; it provides an introduction to the discipline(s) of English Studies and a broad framework for thinking about current issues. We will examine the fields of linguistics, composition, rhetoric, professional and technical writing, literature, critical theory, cultural studies, creative writing, and English education from historical, theoretical, methodological, epistemological, and technological perspectives. We will engage with the major debates in these fields by reading, writing, and conversing among ourselves and with expert guest lecturers. Throughout the semester we will consider the various ways that analysis, critique, and production of language might be (re)combined to shape English Studies in particular contexts. Finally, we will discuss how history, theories, methodologies, and Objects of Study all are related to the epistemological underpinnings of the field and the shaping of the Major Debates that appear.

## Course Goals

* To analyze the complexities of English Studies and the multiple stances held by those who occupy the discipline.
* To understand theoretical, historical, and methodological controversies in English Studies and develop our own reasoned positions.
* To create thoughtful visions of the future of English Studies.
* To articulate what it means to be a scholar in English Studies and how to go about that work.

**Required Texts**

McComiskey, Bruce, ed. *English Studies: An Introduction to the Discipline(s).* Urbana, IL: NCTE, 2006. Print.

Miller, Thomas P. *The Evolution of College English: Literacy Studies from the Puritans to the Postmoderns*. Pittsburgh: U of Pittsburgh Press, 2011. Print.

Ostergaard, Lori, Jeff Ludwig, and Jim Nugent, eds. *Transforming English Studies: New Voices in an Emerging Genre*. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press, 2009. Print.

**You will also find articles and chapters in Blackboard in the Course Documents Section.**

# Projects

* Paper #1 History 10%
* Paper #2 Major Questions 10%
* Paper #3 OoS 10%
* Paper #4 Theories and Methods 10%
* Paper #5 Epistemological Alignment 10%
* Paper #6 Being a Scholar of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 15%
* Oral Presentations 10%
* PAB blog 15%
* Class participation 10%

Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+ (100 – 97) | B+ (89–87) | C+(79-77) | D+(69-67) | F (59 and lower) |
| A (96-93) | B (86-83) | C(76-73) | D (66-63) |  |
| A—(92-90) | B—(82-80) | C—(72-70) | D—(62-60) |  |

Policies

**Attendance**

Attendance is required at all meetings. No differentiation is made between excused and unexcused absences. If you need to miss a meeting, please contact me 24 hours in advance if possible.

**Late Work**

Late work will not be accepted. If there are truly extenuating circumstances, contact me 24 hours prior to the due date. All portions of each project must be turned in or a failing grade will be given for the entire project.

# Project Management

Because much of the exchange of information and materials in this class will be electronic, familiarity with certain technologies is crucial for participation and success in the course. If you need any assistance now or at any point during the semester, please do not hesitate to ask. Thus, you should be able to attend to the responsibilities in the list below.

* Have access to your ODU email account or a Gmail account and Google Account
* Set up and maintain a student blog. You’ll probably be using it in other classes. It's a good idea to do it now.
* You are responsible for keeping information sent to your chosen email account confidential to comply with FERPA regulations. (In other words, do not share this account.)
* Emails sent to me and your classmates should have Engl 810 and the name of the ASSIGNMENT (if attached) in the SUBJECT LINE of the email message
* Check the course calendar before the beginning of each class. It will be updated weekly. You are responsible for keeping track of the dates that materials will be due.
* Become more proficient with unfamiliar computer technologies and applications.
* Maintain back-up copies of all assignments. Please note that blogs sometimes eat things. I highly recommend starting anything of length in a word processor and then cutting and pasting the text.

**Collaborative Work**

Collaborative work is a required component of our course. You will be commenting on your classmates’ blogs. Concrete, valid, and thoughtful critiques and questions are encouraged. Be helpful. These people are your cohort and it is so very important to your long-term career that you maintain at the very least good professional relationships. (This is far more important than you might be aware).

# Ethics & Plagiarism

As per the University's Honor Code, you must do your own original work in English 810 and appropriately identify that portion of your work which is collaborative with others, or which is borrowed from others, or which is your own work from other contexts. Whenever you borrow graphics, quote passages, or use ideas from others, you are legally and/or ethically obliged to acknowledge that use, following appropriate conventions for documenting sources. In English 810, the most serious form of academic dishonesty is to recycle another individual's major project under your own name.

If you have doubts about whether or not you are using your own or others' writing ethically and legally, ask the instructor. Follow this primary principle: If in doubt, ask. Be up front and honest about what you are doing and about what you have contributed to an assignment.

# Documented Disability

If you have a documented disability, make sure you register with Disability Services 757.683.4655. Once you do so, feel free to talk to me about any special accommodations that you may need to fulfill the requirements of this course.

**Course Evaluation**

At the end of the semester, you will have an opportunity to evaluate the instructor and the course. This is very important for helping the instructor and the department to assess the course. Please take the time at the end of the semester to do these online evaluations.

**Quick Guide Calendar for English 810**

McC = McComisky; Mil = Miller; Ost = Ostergaard, Ludwig, Nugent

**Aug. 26:** Introduction to seminar; setting the agenda; keeping a reading journal.

**Preparation:** Purchase texts and explore Google Site. Fill out Google Form with your info.

**Sept. 2:** Intersections of history, theory, and practice in English Studies.

Guest Lecturer: Jackie Stein from the Office of Research on PIVOT

**Preparation:** ReadMcC, pp. 1-65; Mil pp. 1-23; Ost, Chs 1, 2. Articles in GD (Google Drive – not the other thing) – You will be assigned one of the 4 articles to read. Be prepared to report out.

**Sept. 9:** Technology and Media Studies. Guest lecturer: Dr. Kevin Moberly

**Preparation:** Read: GD articles.

**PAB Posts for Paper#1 Due**

**Sept. 16:** Linguistics and Discourse Analysis. Guest lecturer: Dr. Alla Zareva

**Preparation:** Read: Barton in McC, pp. 67-105; Burt in Ost, Ch 3. GD articles

**Paper#1 Post Due**

**Sept. 23:** Rhetoric and Composition. Guest lecturer: Dr. Pamela VanHaitsma

**Preparation:** Read: Janice Lauer in McC, pp. 106-152; GD articles

**PAB Posts for Paper#2 Due**

**Sept 30:** Professional Writing. Guest lecturer: Dr. Daniel Richards

Preparation: Read GD Articles

**Paper#2 Post Due**

**Oct. 7:** Literature and Literary Criticism. Guest lecturer: Dr. Manuela Mourao.

**Preparation:** Read: Richard Taylor in McC, pp. 199-222; GD articles.

**PAB Posts for Paper#3 Due**

**Oct. 14: Fall Break!! Woohoo! Take a Deep Breath.**

**Oct. 21:** Critical Theory and Cultural Studies. Guest lecturer: Dr. David Roh

**Preparation:** Read: Amy Elias in McC, pp. 223-274; GD articles.

**Paper#3 Post Due**

**Oct. 28:** English Education. (??)

**Preparation:** Yagelski in McC, pp. 275-319; Town in Ost, Ch 4; GD articles.

**PAB Posts for Paper#4 Due**

**Nov. 4:** Creative Writing. Guest lecturer: Dr. Luisa Igloria

**Preparation:** Read: Katherine Haake in McC, pp. 153-198; GD articles.

**Paper#4 Post Due**

**Nov. 11:** Disciplinary Enactment.

**Preparation:** Read: Ost, Part II, pp. 69-140; GD articles.

**No PAB post due. Browse through Collection of PAB readings in Google Drive. Be prepared to discuss a selection of 4.**

**Nov. 18:** Curricular Designs for English Studies.

**Preparation:** Read:Ost, Part III, pp. 141-194. Mil, conclusion, pp. 218-250.

**Paper#5 Post Due**

**Nov. 25:** Oral presentations on Being a Scholar, entering the Debates.

**Preparation:** 4 PAB Readings nominated by the class from the PAB posts.

**Dec. 2:** Oral presentations on Being a Scholar, entering the Debates.

**Preparation:** Read:Ost, Part IV, pp.195-253 & GD readings.

**Paper #6 Post Due on December 9 by midnight.**