

Graduate Writing

T/Th 1:30-4:30 p.m.
1101 Taliaferro Hall

Dr. Heather Blain Vorhies

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Office hours: By appointment

Writing at the graduate level is tricky—you have to negotiate many new genres, along with the expectations of an audience you've most likely never met. You may have had little writing instruction in the past, or even little writing practice. However, that is all about to change.

This course is all about breaking down and analyzing disciplinary genres and audiences. Additionally, we'll talk about organization, cohesion, paragraph structure, sentence variation, effective transitions, and word choice, just to name a few.

This is an intensive writing course. For the next four weeks, you will make writing a priority. There will be many writing assignments: in order to improve your writing you must WRITE. Then, you must RE-WRITE over and over again.

There will also be a good amount of reading; reading texts in your discipline and reading your fellow classmates' texts. With any text, be it published or a work-in-progress, I expect you to read with care and respect.

Course Texts:

Rewriting: How To Do Things With Texts (Joseph Harris)

Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace, 11th edition (Joseph Williams)

Other readings as assigned

What to bring to class:

A laptop or a tablet

Notebook

Pen or pencil

Course texts

Assigned readings and handouts

Assignments:

The assignments for this course come in three varieties: **major assignments**, which will be revised for your portfolio, **minor assignments**, which consist of reflective writing, and “**daily**” assignments.

“**Daily**” assignments are sentence-level exercises and/or additional assignments (such as bringing an article in your field to class and being prepared to talk about its organizational structure) are assigned class-by-class. *They are not included in the syllabus.*

Your final assignment will be a portfolio of revised major assignments.

<p>Submit all out-of-class writing work (aside from your final portfolio) electronically through our course ELMS site.</p>
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Grading:

This is a non-credit course. You will not receive a grade, but an evaluation. A copy of this evaluation will be sent to your advisor.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class. In addition to classroom instruction, you will meet with the Fellows once per week. You will also meet one-on-one with Dr. Vorhies during the course.

Professionalism:

As graduate students, I expect you to be fully invested in your own education. This includes writing instruction. I also expect you to be committed to engaging in standard practices within your discipline, such as peer review.

It is crucial that you respect your fellow classmates and their work; not everyone will be in the same phase of writing development. That's normal. You will get as much, if not more out of talking with others about their writing as you will get out of others talking about your work.

In addition, I expect you to treat the course with professionalism. Be on time, put away your cell phone, lock out Facebook on your laptop, and come prepared. And be sure to schedule your one-on-one consultation with the Writing Fellows each week.

Course Schedule

Date	Reading Due	Writing Due
Tues., 6/4 Peer review and reader expectations	Kolln, Chapter 3 (e-reserves) Harris, Introduction	Article introduction (2 pages)
Thurs., 6/6 Peer review (part 2) and verbs	Assigned introductions Williams, Lessons 3 and 4 Harris, Chapter 1	Harris (Project p. 32)
Tues., 6/11 Structure	Swales and Feak, "General-Specific and Specific-General Texts" (e-reserves) Harris, Chapter 2	Literature review (6 pages)
Thurs., 6/13 Sentence Structure	Assigned literature reviews Kolln, Chapter 5 (e-reserves) Williams, Lessons 5 and 6 Harris, Chapter 3	Harris (Project p. 71)
Tues., 6/18 Paragraphing and Putting Things Together	Williams, Lessons 7 and 8 Harris, Chapter 4	Discussion section (or conclusion) (6 pages)
Thurs., 6/20 Precision and Concision	Assigned discussion sections/conclusions Williams, Lessons 9-10 Lanham, The Paramedic Method (e-reserves) Harris, Chapter 5	Harris (Project p. 111)
Tues., 6/25 Rhythm and Voice	Assigned proposals	Grant proposal (2 pages)
Thurs., 6/27 Usage and "correctness"	Kolln, Chapter 12 (e-reserves) Williams, Lesson 2	Portfolio (Harris Project p. 122)