



Marymount Manhattan

Writ 102 Spring 2024 Blurbs ***Academic Writing Program***

Writ 102.1 (Wednesdays, 10:00-12:51) IN-PERSON

Prof. Michael Colvin

Constructing Geographical Spaces

In this course, students will choose a specific geographic space; research its history to settle on a specific historical moment in that place's history; and carry out further research to understand how the history of that place is constructed in popular culture and in different media. Students may choose to research a specific local history in New York or in another urban setting; a local suburban or rural history of a place where they have spent time or lived; or the history of a place they have visited. The course will culminate in a final 8-10 page research paper in which students present an argument for how the history of a geographical space is represented and constructed in popular culture.

Writ 102.2 (T/TH 11:30-12:51) IN-PERSON

Writ 102.3 (T/TH 1:00-2:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Kent Worcester

1940s Film Musicals

For these sections of Writ 102, students will read, conduct research, and produce texts on specific aspects of the film musical genre in the 1940s. By the end of the semester, students will have prepared two drafts of an 8-10 page research paper on a lesser-known film musical that draws on the major themes and concepts of the course. We will also screen and discuss excerpts from a couple of dozen or so studio releases as case studies for thinking and writing about the midcentury American film industry and its impact on the wider society.

Writ 102.4 (Tuesdays, 8:30-11:21) IN-PERSON

Writ 102.5 (Thursdays, 8:30-11:21) IN-PERSON

***"Work" Spring Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Jeffrey Norquist

Work & Occupations

In these sections of Writ 102, students engage in a research project examining the world of work from many perspectives: history of work and its daily reality in people's lives; personal experiences, needs and goals; the connection between work and larger societal institutions (e.g., capitalism, education, family); and the impact of social issues on the workplace. Participation in this course bolsters workplace knowledge and preparedness, either directly through student investigations of their potential careers or indirectly through a knowledge-build related to the dynamics of working life and the greater society. For their final paper project, students write an 8-10 page research paper about their future career or industry. The paper requires data from an interview with a professional working in the field.

Writ 102.6 (Fridays, 8:30-11:21) IN-PERSON

***“Work” Spring Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Alexandre Moudrov

Immigrant Literature

This course invites you to appreciate the diversity of immigrant experience in the United States through literature and, to some extent, other art forms. After a brief survey of the history of immigration in the US, we will discuss works of art and literature chosen by your professor and the students. Our reading list includes works by Kathryn Ma, Junot Díaz, Maxine Hong Kingston, Vladimir Nabokov, Mohsin Hamid, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Israel Daramola. In their final 8-10 page research papers, students can research and present other authors and materials.

Writ 102.7 (M/W 5:50-7:11) IN-PERSON

***“Work” Spring Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Patrick McCarthy

Hollywood and the American Dream

Hollywood prides itself on presenting an image of American society, turning it into a product that it sells to the world. This market has been stalled this year due to the Writers' and Actors' strikes, emphasizing how central the labor of these artists is to the industry, and putting a spotlight on its flawed self-image. This course is designed to acquaint students with academic research and documentation techniques and stimulate their spirit of inquiry. Our subject is American film in the 20th century, how it represented, and was representative of, the changes in American society and labor. Students will design and complete a 10-page final research project in the subject. Readings include essays by renowned critics and writers such as Pauline Kael, James Agee and William Goldman; and reviews and analyses of the film industry. We will also look at movies that obsessed previous generations, but are forgotten today...and ask why critical opinion evolves. By researching films and texts, we will explore the complex cause-and-effect relationship between the visionaries who make movies, and the society that both enjoys and inspires their work.

Writ 102.8 (Fridays, 2:30-5:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Ryan Everitt

Representing Evil

Whereas research topics are easy to come by, original arguments, and the questions that lead to them, are particularly challenging to develop. Therefore, this semester, we will take a broad topic (that of evil) as a starting point from which to begin thinking about how to identify and develop strong research questions, as we gain practice bringing texts into conversation with each other. To do this, we will use Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* as an anchor text that will inform our reading of model essays and articles. We will practice close reading these texts, drawing lines of connection between them, while we pay attention to their rhetorical appeals to different audiences. Along the way, you will develop your own topic into a viable 8-10 page research project through informal, reflective writing and a series of scaffolded assignments.

Writ 102.9 (T/TH 5:50-7:11) IN-PERSON

Prof. Cornelius Collins

Writing and Disobedience

The concept of disobedience can be said to be at the heart of most debates in society, and it is fundamental to many, perhaps all, story-based forms of expression in the arts. Even as we see cultural norms relaxed compared to those observed in earlier decades, the idea that rules are made to be broken remains popular, even attractive, to creative people in our time. And make no mistake, new styles of authority and judgment are constantly emerging—in turn inspiring new modes of disobedience. In this section of Writ 102, you will read and write about key examples of disobedience as portrayed in literature and film as we enter a process of inquiry into the relationship between writing and disobeying. You'll then complete an 8- to 10-page research paper on a topic of your own design, engaging with at least one of our class texts, on the subject of what it means to be disobedient as a writer.

Writ 102.10 (M/W 11:30-12:51) IN-PERSON

Writ 102.11 (M/W 1:00-2:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Chelsey Barber

Penning Your Principles: Writing Research on Your Beliefs and Values

This course emphasizes the development of research skills through exercises in the selection of research topics, the use of a variety of resources, and the evaluation of research materials, leading to the development of an extensive academic argument in an 8-10 page research paper. To guide our thinking, we will reflect on our personal beliefs. It is often our beliefs that bring us together with others, and yet it is often beliefs that tear us apart. In this class, we will reflect upon some of the underlying beliefs and values that shape the way we move through the world. Where did they come from? How do they show up in my day-to-day interactions? How can I challenge my beliefs or practice empathy for others who hold beliefs different from mine? Ultimately, how can I use language and writing to convince others to see things from my perspective?

Writ 102.12 (Wednesdays, 2:30-5:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Cen Liu

Archives Unbound

In *The Allure of the Archives*, Arlette Farge describes the experience in the archive as “tearing away a veil, crossing through the opaqueness of knowledge and...finally gaining access to the essence of beings and things.” This themed writing course invites you to delve into the world of archives. Over the course, we will read fictional and nonfictional works centered on archives, take two field trips to NYC’s museums and archives, and learn to conduct research using physical and digital archives. We will also consider the changing forms of archives, in particular those that exist in the public sphere, such as on the internet and on social media platforms. The course will culminate in an 8-10 page research project that uses existing archives in a critical or creative way.

Writ 102.13 (Fridays, 11:30-2:21) IN-PERSON
***“Work” Spring Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Jonathan Rachmani

The Uncanny Valley: Reality and Fiction in the Electronic Age

Is A.I. on the cusp of becoming sentient? Are we living alternate lives in other quantum realities? Is this world just a simulation? How are we supposed to respond to these and other provocative questions that have become such a big part of our popular culture? The past century has been a period of constant change, and technological, social, and political transformations have guaranteed that each generation will ask surprising questions and discover unexpected answers. To aid us on this quest, we will read short stories by Franz Kafka, Jorge Luis Borges, Ursula K. Le Guin, and others, watch films such as *Solaris*, *12 Monkeys*, and *Run Lola Run*, and investigate non-fiction writings on science, politics, and philosophy. Developing a critical method for interpreting these questions in writing is necessary if we want to avoid the pitfalls of misinformation, speculation presented as fact, and the feeling of apathy to which information overload can too easily lead. This class will help you to gain a new level of confidence and skill in your academic writing and specifically in addressing complex social concerns. Students will design and write a 10-page final research project on a related subject of their choice.

Writ 102.OL14 (Wednesdays, 5:50-8:41) ONLINE

***“Work” Spring Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Veronica Wong

Social Issues & Policy in the U.S.

This course will offer an opportunity for students to read, research, and write about U.S. social issues and the policies that impact them. The course will culminate in writing an 8-10 page research paper on a social policy issue of your choosing, such as childcare, housing, poverty, healthcare, the justice system, environment, and education.

Writ 102.OL15 (T/TH 5:50-7:11) ONLINE

Writ 102.OL16 (T/TH 7:20-8:41) ONLINE

***“Work” Spring Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Allen Strouse

Conflict and Consensus in Space and Place

This course will challenge us to investigate the ways that we relate to reading and writing. We will develop communication skills that can help us to “win arguments” and to “do research.” But we will also study how, historically, these skills have promoted separation and competition. Much of our reading and writing will focus on consensus-building and deep-listening, and our class-room policies and writing practices will cultivate collaboration and cooperation. As we think about how reading and writing relate to consensus and conflict, we will pay particular attention to how arguments emerge within spaces and places. Throughout the semester, we will each write an 8-10 page research paper that critically and creatively explores the conflicts within a particular space or a place. Many of our course readings will examine how geography is shaped by political-economic forces.

Writ 102.17 (M/W 8:30-9:51) IN-PERSON

Prof. Deanna Twain

Religion, Science, Philosophy, Law, Love, and the Tooth Fairy: Is Anything Certain?

In this section of Writ 102, we will explore the concept of certainty. Can anything actually be proven? How does certainty relate to trust or faith? Is a lack of doubt the same as a sense of denial? Students will read texts, view films, and write on this topic, with an eye towards developing an original 8-10 page research paper by the end of the semester.

Writ 102.18 (M/W 1:00-2:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Leigh Harbin

***Dracula* in Popular Culture**

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897), expressed the cultural pride and fears of residents of late 18th-century London, causing a sensation among his readers. The novel has never been out of print and has inspired almost countless film adaptations, as well as influencing portrayals of vampires in both horror and young adult novels to this day. Reading Stoker's original novel offers many insights into current cultural struggles around gender, disease, and immigration, as well as telling a story that remains surprisingly fresh and engaging. In this course, students will write an 8-10 page research paper.