*Spring 2017* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Writing 340:**

**Advanced Writing in the Social Sciences**



*Professor Sarah Mesle*

Office: Jefferson 226

Office Hour: Thurs 9:30-10:30

and by appointment

smesle@usc.edu

773.203.8164

This class aims to give students ample practice at writing for a range of audiences and in a range of tones; by the end of the course, students should feel in greater control of their own writerly ability and have a stronger sense of the practical, technical, and creative aspects of working in the world as a writer.

**Policies**

**Attendance** is required. **Points are earned via in-class work and cannot be made up**; frequent absences (over four) will lead to a reduced grade regardless of points (.5 letter grade per absence). I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences except in cases of emergency. Students who miss class are responsible for all material covered.

**Announcements** about assignments, changes in schedule, etc, will be made at the beginning of the class meeting. If you are late, it is your responsibility to receive all relevant information from your classmates. Periodically, announcements will be made via email. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE AND CHECK AN ACTIVE EMAIL ACCOUNT.

## Academic integrity is imperative. You are responsible for having read the college’s policy on the subject. Ask your professor if you have concerns. Students who present another writer’s ideas or words as their own, or who turn in a paper they’ve used for another class, are guilty of *plagiarism* and will receive an F on the assignment and/or an F in the class. In serious cases, the student will be referred to the Academic Dean’s office for further action. PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

**Assignments** are due at the beginning of class on the days assigned. Final essays must be uploaded to Blackboard. Often hard copies of both readings and writings will be required for class exercises: failing to bring hard copies will count as an absence. (It is your responsibility to know when to bring hard copies; when in doubt, bring a hard copy). Remember that computers and printers often fail; please regularly back up all work written on a computer (try using dropbox or a similar service). In the event of a computer emergency, you are still responsible for submitting material evidence of your work.

**Formatting** of copies uploaded to Blackboard must be as follows: papers typed in Times New Roman 12-pt. font, double-spaced, paginated, and collated (be sure to check). Margins should all be set at 1”.

**Accommodations will obviously be made to support students with disabilities.** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 740-0776.

The university provides specialized support for students in terms of academic counseling, psychological counseling, learning skills, and career placement. Your tuition pays for these services, you have every right to use them, and I recommend that you take advantage of them should you have need.

**The Writing Center** (a component of USC’s Writing Program) is located on the second floor in Taper Hall on campus. The center is open to all students of the university and offers free consultations for any type of writing assignment. You are encouraged to visit the center throughout the semester for any additional guidance on the assignments for this course. Call or email the center for an appointment with a writing consultant, and be sure to bring the relevant assignment sheet, paper, or prepared questions to your session (740-3691; writing@usc.edu).

**Email** is not an efficient way to discuss questions about the course or assignments. Please use email and phone ONLY to set up meetings. I give ample time in class to ask for clarification on assignments; if you email me a question I know I answered in class, I will not respond.

**Grading:**

**Unit 1**: Short Takes: 10%

**Unit 2**: Paper 1: 20 %

 Ancillary: 10%

**Unit 3**: Paper 2: 20%

 Ancillary: 10%

**Unit 4**: Portfoilio: 30%

**Unit 1 Grading:**

This unit aims to build a habit of regular writing: of moving from concept through completion with a minimum of anxiety.

Short take one is a sample essay and will be ungraded; students receive 1 point for completion of this assignment. Short takes 2-4 will be graded on a four point scale. Conferences can receive 2 points. Students who receive 10-11 points will be A range, 8-9 points will be B range, 6-7 points are C range for unit 1.

**GRADING:**

 “0” Point Papers are either not completed, are completed in a way that shows disregard for the assignment, or are completed in a way that demonstrates a lack of basic writing skills

“1” Point Papers are complete papers that engage with the assignment; are clearly written; and clearly connect the details they discuss to a larger issue and final point

“2” Point Papers are complete papers that compellingly and interestingly connect the details discussed to a larger point.

“3” Point Papers are complete papers that, with stylistic sophistication, display sophisticated and provocative execution of all parts of the assignment.

**Unit 2 & 3 Grading:**

**Papers**: Will receive standard letter grade

Papers will be 6-7 pages. Details and Rubric to follow. One of these can be an expansion of a short take.

**Ancillary Work**: Students will accrue ancillary points for workshop participation, conference participation, and completing a structured reading response.

**Unit 4 Grading: Portfolio**

10 Page Paper. This should be an expansion of a previous paper.

3 Page short paper. This can be a revision of a previous paper.

In-class presentation.

**CALENDAR/DEADLINES**

Unlike in most classes, this section of writing 340 will not have uniform deadlines across the class. Instead, starting in **week four**, every week 4-5 students will have deadlines for their long essays.

After an initial introductory period, we will follow a standard pattern: On Tuesdays we will read and discuss an essay (available online); Thursdays we will focus on technique and workshop student papers.

Reading responses must be uploaded to blackboard **PRIOR** to class on the day assigned to receive credit.

Students who workshop papers on Thursdsay must submit revised papers by 9 am the following Monday.

**Please note your assigned deadlines. Any changes must be confirmed by the end of week 3. Subsequently, NO CHANGES to deadlines can be made; missing a response or workshop will mean loosing those points.**

**SHORT TAKE UNIT**

Mon, Jan 9

Wed, Jan 11: Write: Short Take, the OA

Fri, Jan 13: Read: Four first paragraphs from *the atlantic*

Identify: Main claim, main person or claim arguing against

Mon Jan 16: NO CLASS

Wed, Jan 18: Short Take: Aesthetic Object

Fri, Jan 20: Short Take: Social Norm

Mon, Jan 23: Read: *The Trouble with Normal*  (PDF online)

Wed, Jan 25: Short Take: Free Choice

Fri, Jan 27: No Class, Conferences