

WRIT 340 – Advance Writing for the Social Sciences

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30 – 11:00 am;
M 5:00 – 6:30 pm
(by appointment)
Course Time/Days: M/W/F
2:00am – 3:20pm
Course Location: GFS 109 and
The City of Los Angeles

“Ask not what you can do for your country. Ask what’s for lunch.” — Orson Welles



Course Description and Objectives – Food and Culture in Los Angeles

This course develops the reading and writing skills of advanced college students through the lens of the art of culture and food in Los Angeles.

This course is experiential, as you will engage in [fieldwork](#) using the city of Los Angeles as an extended campus. You will collaborate with peers and develop a heightened awareness of your values and the world around you.

This course will help you develop your critical thinking and critical analysis skills through observing and engaging in the rich cultural tapestry in the city of Los Angeles.

You will learn the art of argumentation by developing your unique style, voice, and interpretations to write convincing and even inspiring arguments.

We take a multi-modal approach (visual, auditory, spatial, and multi-linguistic—using multiple languages within a text to heighten communication when applicable).

Each assignment focuses on a different rhetorical goal to deepen your writer’s toolbox with an emphasis on writing as process.

Welcome to the Sandbox!

Requirements: Our class environment is a safe, respectful, vibrant and academically explorative space for rich and diverse discourse. Full participation in class discussions, peer review, and fieldwork activities is expected. There are two supplementary ancillary assignments. Completion of all 4 assignments plus the portfolio is required to pass the course. The analytical paper and the research argument (the 1st and 3rd assignments) are portfolio eligible.

PAPERS

Analytical Paper: This paper is inspired by the review and analysis of an aspect of culture in Los Angeles targeted toward a general audience. Inter-global perspectives are encouraged.

Restaurant Review: This review is designed to focus on a singular food culture to compose a convincing and engaging critique. The target audience is your chosen publication or blog readership.

Researched Argument: This paper is targeted toward a professional audience. You will engage in fieldwork to gather data to present an informed idea about a relevant issue in your professional field of work, or personal interest.



Personal Mission Statement: This paper will serve to inform the Statement of Purpose for graduate school, or a detailed cover letter for employment, but will transcend those practical texts by delving deeper into your character, goals, values, and aspirations.

Paper Due Dates

This schedule is tentative. Actual due dates may be changed to better accommodate class needs. You are responsible for keeping track of any changes to this schedule. All papers are due before midnight on the due date, and must be uploaded to Turnitin.

Analytical Paper	Sunday, September 15
Restaurant Review	Sunday, October 6
Researched Argument	Sunday, November 3
Personal Mission Statement	Sunday, November 17
Portfolio	Friday, December 6- NO LATE PAPERS!

Late Paper Policy: You will be granted without penalty ONE five-day grace period for any self-selected paper except the Final Portfolio. Otherwise, late papers incur the following penalty: 1-5 days late one-half letter grade; 6-13 days late one full letter grade; papers more than two weeks late will not be accepted without prior accommodations for emergencies.



Class Preparation and Participation

Because this is a writing workshop, attendance and active class participation are crucial both in class and online. Plan on completing all reading assignments before class periods. You are expected to come to class

prepared for class discussions. You also are expected to contribute to the course by participating in workshop sessions and posting to Blackboard (Bb) in a timely fashion. We will also be using Bb to access reading materials.

Paper Format

All assignments (including drafts) should be typewritten in 12-point font. We will use our online platform to turn in work, nevertheless be sure to include the [proper format](#):

your name, the professor’s name, the course name, the assignment, the date, etc., on the first page in the upper left-hand corner. While MLA 8 Style is preferred, you may use either APA style (or the Name-Year style), or MLA Style. You DO NOT need to worry about APA pagination rules.

Text

Reading material will be provided on Bb and in Class.

Final grades are based on the product that is produced: (papers 1-4 and the portfolio revisions), along with participation and ancillary writing assignments.

Assignment 1: The Analytical Paper	10%
Assignment 2: Restaurant Review	15%
Assignment 3: Research Argument	25%
Assignment 4: Personal Mission Statement	15%
Portfolio (Two Revisions WP1 and WP3)	25%
Ancillary Writing Assignments	5%
Participation	5%

Enrollment and Attendance

More than two (2) unexcused absences or a persistent habit of tardiness will lower your participation grade. A persistent pattern of absences (missing 6 classes or more) is grounds for failure in the course. Excused absences can only be granted for university obligations (with verification) and illnesses (with a doctor’s note). Absences that do not meet the criteria as stated are considered

unexcused. **Good communication is key to your success in this course.** I appreciate prior notification, when possible, if you will miss a class for any reason. You are responsible for all work due, assigned, or discussed in your absence. Please arrange with another student to obtain any homework or class notes you may have missed, and make sure you consult our Bb online course for information.

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website:

<http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.

<https://equity.usc.edu/>

Campus Support Systems

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response.

<https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic.

<https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is understood to be presenting someone else's work as your own. It is also the use of someone else's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment, in other words, without either directly quoting or citing the source. This can mean an entire essay is substituted for the writer's own work, however it is more commonly seen in the use of unacknowledged sources and/or quotations

within an essay. You must cite any secondary sources from which you have culled ideas for your paper, including course reading materials, academic essays, journal articles, even lecture notes from another class. Plagiarism is increasingly more easily detected and it has serious consequences. Do not do it! If you require further clarification, please review the Academic Dishonesty policy in *SCampus* and the "Writing 150 Handbook."

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>

“Eating with the fullest pleasure - pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance - is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world. In this pleasure we experience our dependence and our gratitude, for we are living in a mystery, from creatures we did not make and powers we cannot comprehend.” — Wendell Berry, *Bringing it to the Table*



Q&A Resources, Policies, and Advice

What is the course policy on technology use in class? We will be busy in every class session therefore electronic distractions are discouraged. Silence cell phones before you enter the classroom and refrain from texting, surfing social media, etc. in class. Laptops are welcome, but please confine your laptop work to taking notes or accessing relevant course materials. Internet surfing, email, updating social media, etc. will definitely jeopardize your class participation grade and they distract not only you, but your classmates from the work at hand. If an emergency arises and you need to text, please step out of the classroom to do so.

What if I need a disability accommodation? If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise) and require an accommodation in this course, please consult with me immediately at the beginning of the semester so together we can design a plan for successful in the class. Communication is key. I am happy to find the best style of learning for your individual need.

What should I do if I am feeling lost or overwhelmed in this class? First, speak up in class. Cultivating a space for every voice in this course is a priority. You may not be the only person with the same concern, and we benefit from working questions out together.

Second, schedule an office-hour visit. If my stated office hours are incompatible with your schedule, please let me know and I will do my best to make accommodations. You are welcome to email me anytime. I generally respond within 24 hours. Feel free to email me again if you do not hear from me in 48 hours. Sometimes emails are lost. Many questions and issues can be easily resolved this way.

Third, spend extra time on Blackboard. I offer a bevy of resources. “Writing Tools,” and “Readings,” are particularly rich with additional information.

What other campus resources might help me succeed in this class? Visit [The Writing Center](#) (Room: THH 216, Phone: 213-740-3691, Email: <mailto:writing@usc.edu>) for free help at any stage of the writing process.