Instructor: Lauren O’Leary
Contact: lauren.oleary@yale.edu
Location: WLH/Rm. 113
Time: M/W 1:00pm – 4:15pm

Course Rationale:
This course emphasizes analytical reading and writing as processes that result in compositions appropriate for academic study and cross cultural communication. Assignments will include critical readings, academic writing exercises, and the systematic study of the process of creating formal essays, complete with MLA documentation. Course objectives include practice with writing grammatical structures, paragraphs, and formal papers, including work with vocabulary, punctuation, usage, and sentence structure skills needed by writers. Emphasis will be placed on the communication of each writer’s ideas.

Course Outcomes:
Students who consistently adhere to syllabus requirements, regularly attend classes, and faithfully complete all writing assignments will succeed in this course and will be able to do the following:

➢ Apply college-level standards of grammar, style, usage and mechanics
➢ Choose subjects appropriate for an intended audience and given purpose
➢ Demonstrate the basic principles of unity, coherence, and support for paragraph and essay writing
➢ Organize and express ideas through a variety of different modes of writing
➢ Master the techniques of the 5-step writing process: brainstorming, outlining, drafting, workshopping, and editing/revising/proofreading
➢ Write essays in MLA format
➢ Engage in primary/secondary source research and assessment of sources
➢ Employ critical reading and thinking techniques to stimulate writing
➢ Complete a writing portfolio which demonstrates the aforementioned skills
Required Materials:
All texts and materials are available at the Yale Bookstore: 77 Broadway @ York Square, New Haven. Please bring all materials to class every day!

✓ A good college-level English-English dictionary. Hard copy or app.
✓ Notebook, folder, and writing implement
✓ Laptop or tablet for writing assignments

Course Work:
All students are expected to attend every class and to complete all reading and writing assignments on time. However, it is not enough to merely show up to class. I highly value your opinions and analysis and expect that you share your unique wisdom and experiences with all of us on a daily basis. This is an American-style seminar university-level course. Therefore, it is essential that you critically read all of the assigned readings and carefully prepare before class begins. Class discussion is not optional; it is a requirement of the course. In addition, you will share your own writing with the class at times; please feel as if our classroom is a comfortable and judgment-free zone. We are all students of the world and our writing serves to showcase this!

Please note: all writing done for this course must be typed, double-spaced, and printed out. I do not accept e-mailed essays unless you are absent – no exceptions! Please figure out the printing situation in your college/dormitory/library ASAP!

Attendance and Late Work:
Regular attendance is mandatory (according to Yale University policy and by the legalities of your I-20/Visa status in the United States). The nature of this course calls for consistent student participation and preparation, so your attendance affects both your success in the course and the success of your peers.

• Only 1 absence is allowed during this 5 week course. If you choose to use that absence, you are 100% responsible for all work covered, assigned, and due in your absence. You are required to contact me if you will be absent and to ensure that you do not fall behind on work.
• If you are absent a second time, your final grade will be lowered by 2 full letter grades.
• If you are absent more than twice, you will be dropped from the course.
• Please be on time - class begins at 1pm.
• Class ends at 4:15pm. In order to receive attendance for the day, you must stay for the entire class period.
• Yale summer session does not allow any extensions on assignments. All work must be completed on time. All course work must be finished by the last day of class.
• Late writing assignments will not be accepted and will not be graded.
• Students who do not submit all of the required formal writing assignments may not be eligible to pass this class.

If you are absent on the day that a writing assignment is due, you must e-mail that assignment to me by 1pm to “prove” you have completed the assignment. Papers submitted after 1pm will not be accepted, so please plan ahead. You must then bring a hard copy of the assignment to the next class. I do not print out student work. Emailed papers are ONLY accepted if you are absent. If you are present in class, you MUST bring a printed copy. Please print BEFORE coming to class. Do not leave class to print.

Cell Phone/Electronics Policy:
In the American classroom, using, looking at, checking, or playing with your cell phone during class is seen as an extreme form of disrespect to both the instructor and your peers and often as a sign of academic dishonesty (cheating). Your cell phone must be off and put away during class time. No phones are allowed to be on the table. Similarly, when we use laptops in class for writing workshop purposes, please do not disrespect the academic environment by checking social media, personal e-mail, etc. Please focus only on the task at hand.

Grading Policy:
Grades will be determined by the quality and punctuality of class preparation, reading and writing assignment completion, and participation in our seminar discussions.

✓ Writing Assignments (portfolio): 60%
✓ Seminar Participation: 20%
✓ Homework (including the demonstration of complete and thorough reading): 20%

Plagiarism Policy:
Academic dishonesty (plagiarism/cheating) is a serious offense against the academic community; at Yale, as at most other universities, such dishonesty results in stiff academic penalties including automatic failure of a course. The YSS (Yale Summer Session) Executive Committee can assess penalties to include temporary or permanent suspension from YSS and its courses, with the possible loss of course credit. It can also assign lesser penalties, such as a letter of reprimand sent to another university.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s work, words, or ideas as if they were your own. In Western culture we believe that we can “own” ideas, texts, and publications; this is one of the reasons we have such strict copyright laws. This means that using someone else’s ideas or copying his/her words in NOT a form of flattery, but a form of extreme dishonesty and theft. For this reason, all work submitted for grades must be your own. This includes paragraphs, essays, homework, quizzes, and any other assignment. If it appears that any work submitted by a student is not original (is copied from another student or the Internet), that student will receive
a zero. Please do not allow friends and classmates to help with your assignments. Do your own work, and feel free to ask for my assistance, if need be.

More information about American University expectations for writing can be found here: http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/what-plagiarism

Additional Course Details:

It is a common misconception that those who are highly educated are able to do most reading and writing projects easily, in one step. However, sophisticated readers and writers are defined by how carefully and slowly they read and re-read and by how frequently they rewrite and revise their work. Knowledge making is not a result of instantaneous “brilliance” but of careful, patient, thinking and re-thinking. In short, writing is not a talent, but rather a skill, which readers can practice and master.

Also, to be willing to speak up even when you are not sure of what you’re saying is brave, and being respectful of others’ differing opinions is admirable and a hallmark of American culture. These characteristics are to be commended and will be rewarded. I realize participation may be more difficult for those students coming from cultures where speaking out in class is not generally promoted, but it is essential in most American classrooms. Speaking in class is encouraged, even if you are speaking about a topic which you do not yet fully understand. Take a risk – your opinion, beliefs, and interpretations absolutely matter!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the material or concerns about the course. I look forward to working with you all this summer!!