

Department of English, Carleton University

ENGL 6001
Fall 2012-Winter2013

*** Preliminary Course Outline / Subject to Change

Proseminar

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Course description:

The general goal of this course is to equip PhD candidates with the pragmatic skills and knowledge necessary for succeeding as a teacher and researcher at the university level.

The seminar schedule is divided into four broad areas of concern: research activity, bibliographical skills, pedagogy, and professional matters. Under the category of research activity, we will discuss the challenges and strategies of applying for scholarly grants and fellowships, doctoral and post-doctoral. Attention will be given to the scholarly practices integral to writing a doctoral research project and a dissertation. This attention will take the form of not only reading about such practices but also navigating the spaces of the libraries from special collections to reference sections and library services. We will also navigate library catalogues and online reference shelves. Under the category of bibliographical skills, provision will be made for studying the ways in which books are described with respect to authorship, printing, publication, and edition. To this end, we will investigate the functionality of bibliographic software. In particular, we will familiarize ourselves with RefWorks, Carleton library's web-based tool for creating, managing, and formatting bibliographies.

Under the category of pedagogy, there will be a discussion of the challenges relating to university teaching in lecture and seminar environments. The philosophy of education, teaching styles, evaluation and grading, plagiarism, and class-room technology are just some of the topics that we will examine. Attention will be devoted to the creation of a teaching dossier, an invaluable record of one's pedagogical accomplishments, used for job applications and promotion through the ranks. Finally, under the broad category of professional matters, an examination of the history of the university English department will be a springboard to an investigation of current issues and trends within academia. The proseminar will conclude with a theoretical consideration of the roles of conferences and journals in disseminating research and a practical approach to submitting and presenting papers to these scholarly venues.