English 588

Thesis / Creative Project Colloquium

Fall 2014

Dr. Laila Abdalla

Day and Time: Mondays, 12-1:40           Place: L&L 403C

Professor’s Office and Hours: L&L 102J / TBA

Aims of Course

First of all, Congratulations! It is no mean task for you to have completed your first year of graduate courses and to have maintained a superior GPA in order to be here. Well done! In addition to finishing the regular course requirements for the program this year, there is only one more step to undertake before receiving your Master’s degree. You must research, propose, and ultimately write and orally defend, a thesis. That’s all! This course is designed to take you through the first two steps, and your six 700-level credits, to be taken over the next two quarters, will take you through the final two.

Learning Outcomes

In this course we will identify a topic; define a scope; write a proposal / prospectus; put together an annotated bibliography; set up a graduate committee; submit a Graduate Committee and Option Approval form; imagine a research plan that serves your particular project; learn about the rules of a CWU thesis/creative project; learn about pagination etc.; discuss the steps for scheduling the Oral Examination and completing the program, and more. Details provided in the weekly schedule.

Evaluation and Class Performance

This is a Pass/Fail course. To pass, you must perform all the work required of you by the set deadline. Because some of the work will be in the nature of work-shopping or discussion, you must attend class regularly, on time and well-prepared. You must make the effort to be thoughtful and responsive to your peers, offering genuinely useful and critical advice, rather than only words of encouragement. You must likewise be open to criticism and to be able to engage passionately but politely with your colleagues. You must pass this course in order to begin taking the 700-level credits.

By the end of the course, and in order to pass, you must have a 10-12 page proposal (also called a prospectus) which identifies your project in a developed way. In it you will define your thesis / project’s ideas, methodology, and anticipated organization. For a thesis, you must also have a minimum 30-item annotated bibliography; for a creative project you must have a minimum 20-item bibliography. The proposal and bibliography must be written according to the MLA conventions.

Please let me have your DSS documentation so that I can accommodate your needs.