

Department Preparatory Course for Prospective Students – Summer 2021

“First We Read, Then We Write” – Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The American Scholar”

This 3-part, 11-session course is designed to introduce potential students to the English Department. Eight pre-recorded sessions are 45 minutes long and will be available on Moodle.

At the end of Part One (Session 4), there will be an online quiz. Only students who pass the quiz will continue to Parts Two and Three.

Sessions 7, 10, and 11 are live.

The entrance exam takes place a few days after the last session.

Part One: Comprehension and Analysis via Close Reading

Sessions 1-3

After an introductory meeting in which we describe the department, as well as basic concepts such as literary interpretation, genres, periodization, etc., we cover a variety of subjects that include but are not limited to close analysis of poetry and prose, how to write clear sentences, proper essay structure, and thesis statements.

Session 4

An online **quiz** gauges how much students have learned from the first three sessions.

Part Two: Essay Writing and Revision

Sessions 5-6

Close reading of texts, model strategies of writing about texts, including thesis statements. Between session 6 and 7 students submit homework—a short writing assignment—to teachers.

Session 7

Live session on Zoom in which homework will be discussed.

Sessions 8-9

We demonstrate a close reading of a story, along with an eye towards writing about it. Emphasis on independent (creative) analytical thinking and not rote recounting of plot, followed by a short but complete analytic essay on the story.

Sessions 10-11

Live sessions on Zoom where we will workshop opening paragraphs and thesis statements. Close work on language as well as analytical thinking. The ‘academic crime’ of plagiarism explained again.

Part Three: Entrance Exam

Thursday June 17, 2021

Thursday August 12, 2021

Course dates detailed (please note that dates may change):

July-August Course:

Part One:

Session 1, 2, 3: Sunday - Thursday July 25 – 29

Session 4: Thursday July 29 (**quiz**)

Part Two:

Session 5-6: Sunday – Tuesday August 1 - 3

Session 7: Wednesday August 4 (**live**)

Session 8-9: Thursday-Sunday August 5-8

Session 10: Monday August 9 (**live**)

Session 11: Tuesday August 10 (**live**)

Part Three:

Entrance Exam: Thursday August 12, 2021