

WSC 002 in Spring 2021

WSC 002 offers continued instruction in expository writing and an introduction to writing in the disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Reading and writing assignments are organized around a central theme. You will find a description of central themes for the Spring 2021 semester below.

Prerequisite(s) Course Notes:

- WSC 001. May not be taken on a Pass/D+/D/Fail basis.
- The Writing Proficiency Exam is given at the conclusion of WSC 002, WSC 2A, WSC 110, and WSC 134.

To fulfill the WSC 002 requirement, students can also opt to take either **WSC 110: (WI) The Art of the Essay** or **WSC 134: (QR) Technical Writing** in lieu of WSC 002. Both of these classes conclude with the Writing Proficiency Exam.

22155 WSC 110 (WI) The Art of the Essay TR 09:40 am-11:05 am Kristopher M. Lotier BROWER 101
23926 WSC 110 (WI2) The Art of the Essay TR 01:00 pm-2:25 pm Kristopher M. Lotier BROWER 101

23930 WSC 134 (QR) Technical Writing MW 11:20 pm-12:45 pm Joseph Bartolotta BRESLIN 217
24256 WSC 134 (QR2) Technical Writing MW 8:00 am-9:25 am Joseph Bartolotta TBA

If you have questions, please contact the Writing Studies and Composition Department at (516) 463-4871. The department office is located in 124 Mason Hall.

Course Themes

Title: Health, illness, Disease, and Somewhere In-Between

Professor DeCarlo

002	01	20611	MWF	10:10-11:05
002	04	20608	MWF	11:20-12:15

What contributes to health? What causes illness and disease? And how and why do we waiver in-between? We will research immunological issues regarding our bodies and minds; we will address these findings through discussion and writing, considering how best to promote health and well-being for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Title: Dangerous Reproductions

Professor Reesman

002	05	21268	TR	11:20-12:45
-----	----	-------	----	-------------

A variety of reading selections throughout the semester will be chosen on the theme of “Dangerous Reproductions,” a broad theme that encompasses the humanities and the sciences as topics on sexual reproduction, scientific reproduction, artistic reproduction, historical reproduction, literary reproduction, and cultural reproduction, to name a few, are explored.

Our discussions will evaluate the cross-disciplinary literature we read in class based on questions such as: What were the prevalent social attitudes during the period in which the literature was written? How did families, political leaders, writers, artists, scientists, and other individuals, live, dress, eat, and think during this period? What were the political and cultural views that influenced the author's work? These perspectives will dominate class conversations as we examine the theme of "Dangerous Reproductions." These issues will circulate around the major influential novel of nineteenth-century England written by Mary Shelley in 1818, *Frankenstein, Or the Mode, Or the Modern Prometheus*.

Title: Sleep and Dreams: An Inter-disciplinary Investigation

Professor Jarvis

002	06	20623	MWF	10:10-11:05
002	02	20609	MWF	11:20-12:15
002A	A2	20630	MWF	9:05-10:00

Sleep. All living things require it in some form or other. By rough estimate, human beings spend 1/3 of their lives doing it. Next to love, but more than money, we crave it most. You'd probably rather be doing it now than reading this, yes? So, to meet you halfway, this semester our course theme is "Sleep and Dreams: An Inter-disciplinary Investigation." Readings for our course will consist of texts in the Natural Sciences (Biology, Neurology), Social Sciences (Anthropology, Psychology) and Humanities (Literature). We will engage with these texts through reading response, class discussion, and composition. This course will focus on students' continued practice in developing theses and arguments, through each stage of the composition process -- discovery, organization, drafting and revision. All major assignments are designed to give students a proper grounding in the kinds of academic writing with which they will be engaged during their Hofstra careers.

Title: Travel and Community in American Life

Professor Luongo-Cole

002	07	20627	TR	11:20-12:45
002	10	20620	TR	1:00-2:25

From the wagons of the western frontier to the building of the railways and highways, travel in America has taken many forms. In WSC 002, we will explore the theme of travel in American life and how travel for purposes such as recreation, business, education or social escape affects individuals, communities and the natural world. Through reading the work of various authors, we will discuss, question and write about travel as an integral aspect of American life and identity.

Title: Parameters of the Mind

Professor Bengels

002	08	21378	TR	11:20-12:45
002	18	20622	TR	1:00-12:25

Our thematic focus will be on the human desire to discover the many dimensions of the human mind, its imaginative voyages, and its hidden potential. To that end, we will begin by reading,

discussing, and writing about the “fantastic,” first as it appears in fairy tales. Next, we will examine the “findings” in the field of parapsychology. Finally, we will look at the mind’s attempt to envision where science will lead us in the future. You will be reading and writing evaluations of essays by psychiatrists, anthropologists, linguists, medical doctors, and novelists. Perhaps you will come to some conclusion about what humans want to believe, what they should believe, and what they may decide to disbelieve.

Title: Pop, People, Words, and Music

Professor Prinz

002	09	20614	MW	2:40-4:05
002	13	20958	MW	11:20-12:45

The goal of this course is to assess critically American popular culture of the past 50 years. We will focus on lifestyles, technology, music, film, television, and visual art, with the goal of commenting on the direction pop culture is, will be and/or should be taking. Students will write three (3) papers (in a way, one large paper in three parts) showing some logical progression/evolution/devolution of pop culture: a genesis, a turning point and the current state of affairs.

Title: Through a Glass Darkly: Viewing America Through Its Movies

Professor Friedkin

002	12	20613	MW	2:40-4:05
002	D	21432	MW	4:20-5:45

If art reflects life, it does so with special mirrors. —Bertolt Brecht, poet and playwright

The mirror is the imitation of life. What is interesting about a mirror is that it does not show yourself as you are, it shows you your own opposite. —Douglas Sirk, film director.

The cinema uses the language of dreams.—Federico Fellini, film director.

We would be foolish to think movies offer us a realistic picture of our lives. In real life, folks can’t fly, heroes don’t banish evil-doers, and few of us find true love with sea-monsters. And yet, would movies really hold such a fascination for us if they did not speak to our real lives in some meaningful way? In this course, we will view the movies as projections of our own cultural anxieties, values, beliefs, and ideals. Like a psychoanalyst interprets dreams (the “movies” we create in our sleep), we will examine how Hollywood films transform our fears, hopes, and desires into stories, images, and emotions that speak to us on levels we may not always be aware of. Through close film study, secondary texts, class discussions, and presentations, we will examine the complex relationship between our movies and ourselves, and consider how these powerful cultural products reflect, shape, and distort the social, political, and psychological realities of our lives.

Title: Silence Is A Deafening Sound**Professor Marx**

002	14	20618	MWF	10:10-11:05
002	29	21498	MW	11:20-12:45

The Inspiration for the theme of this course, *Les Miserables*, a work of art that has transcended multiples, disciplines and forms, reminds us of an important power that silence has: “When the beating of your heart”/Echoes the beating of the drums,”/”There is a life about to start”/When tomorrow comes?” The first is a sound that remains largely unheard unless we seek it, and the second is a sound that is difficult to ignore. However, “Do You Hear The People Sing?” places the same amount of weight on both of them. Silence, in both its implied and literal forms, is a concept with the power to inspire and transform literature, awaken society, and symbolize both the beauty and sadness found in the natural world. In this course, we will examine the concept of silence in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Title: Social Justice and Diversity**Professor Montemurro**

002	15	20615	TR	8:00-9:25
002A	A5			Asynchronous

Multicultural perspectives on advocacy for social justice and an affinity to identify the appreciative value of diversity are still imbued within marginalized ethnic, racial, and gender differences. This course examines how written discourse in the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Humanities has contributed morally, legally, financially, politically, and scientifically either to exacerbate or to preclude bias; it explores how individuals can empower themselves as conduits of civility, civil liberty, and civil rights.

Title: Dust, Depression, Drama – the 1930s**Professor Vestigo**

002	DL1	20616	TR	11:20-12:45
002	DL2	20621	TR	1:00- 2:25
002	DL	21417	TR	9:40-11:05

Edward Abbey’s 1956 comment about what was then Arches National Monument, Utah, is simple: “This is the most beautiful place on earth.” In 1971, Arches became one of 59 national parks out of 417 sites the US national Parks Service maintains throughout the United States. This semester we’ll visit some of the parks found in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. These Western locations are culturally alive, rich in literature, and have become the natural backdrops for many artists, photographers, and filmmakers. As we take in the landscape, we’ll observe the physical history of these constantly changing rock formations. We’ll also discuss the influences that led people to build their dwellings in the red sandstone canyon walls, making these deserts and canyons their home. So this semester, let’s take a trip out west to learn as we discover.

Title: Why Pop Music Matters**Professor Wilson-Carter**

002	19	20617	TR	9:40-11:05
002	41	20629	TR	11:20-12:45

We will study the various ways popular music has contributed to social and cultural constructs in American society. Students will examine several genres and their relationship to shifts in societal attitudes. Students will analyze music's role as social commentary and its impact in changing the status quo. The course delves far beyond mainstream hooks and catchy beats, instead students begin to rigorously frame popular music in a global and sociological context. This class requires students to independently research and write about many aspects of popular music

Title: The Gothic

Professor McDonough

002	25	20625	MW	2:40–4:05
002	C	23239	MW	4:20-5:45

In this course, students will explore the broad genre known as the Gothic by defining the term. Students will investigate the Gothic genre, critiquing and adapting their approaches and theories through writing. Students will view classic thriller films, read short stories by writers such as Angela Carter, and read articles on the psychology of fear.

Title: Identity, Memory and Molecules

Professor Stein

002	26	20624	TR	11:20-12:45
002	27	20957	TR	1:00- 2:25

This course asks the question: How do our memories contribute to the construction of our persona, our “self”? One way we will pursue the answer to that question is through an examination of a graphic memoir, the best-selling work *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel. We will use Bechdel’s memoir to ask other questions: What can memoir tell us about the role of narrative in our daily lives? What is society’s influence on our memories? And what does actually happen, on a molecular level in our brains, when we remember something? In addition to Bechdel’s work, we will read and discuss texts by scientists and scholars who are working to understand human memory. We will explore the theme of memory and personal identity while continuing to practice a variety of academic writing designed to improve students’ writing skills while at Hofstra and in their future careers.

Title: Writing from Both Sides of the Brain

Professor Navarra

002	28	20965	TR	11:20-12:45
002	11	21494	TR	1:00-2:25
002A	A4	24226	TR	9:35-11:00

This composition class will examine the role of creative thinking in a robust society. Stanislavsky’s “method” parallels Freud; Meisner’s work mirrors Autism research. The Arts tap into our collective unconscious. The Arts can reflect our society’s unfolding narrative, help us metabolize rapid changes, restore community, and help us decide what it all means. Readings

will include Carl Jung's "Man and His Symbols," Joshua Foer's "Moonwalking with Einstein," and Kim Addonizo's "Ordinary Genius."

Title: The Business of Sports

Professor Heiss

002	36	20959	MWF	10:10-11:05
002	32	22153	MW	11:20-12:45

The influence that sports has on world culture is the strongest it has ever been. Over the last 100 years, the world of sports has transformed from simple athletic competitions to a multi-billion-dollar industry. From the clothes and shoes children wear to the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies, the sports industry impacts people personally and globally. The Business of Sports will examine how athletes have gone from the semi-professional individual to purveyors of a global brand, and how industries have been created or modified to accommodate this new business world. Behind every sports hero, every winner, and every loser, is an army of people wrestling over dollars and television coverage. This section of WSC 002 will study and write about the sports world through interdisciplinary texts, media, and discussion of the industries that thrive behind the veneer of the sports world.

Title: The Truth Behind The Facade

Professor Schaffer

002	42	21255	TR	11:20-12:45
-----	----	-------	----	-------------

WSC2 is a theme-based course that includes readings in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The class will concentrate on critical reading and critical thinking as well as focus on instruction in expository writing. Specifically, the class will focus on the interaction of children and the choices children make. This will include the intricacies of human nature and the difficulty in making ethical decisions. Through close analysis, critical thinking, discussion, and writing, the anomaly of the human conscience will be explored.

Title: Non-Conformity

Professor Plath

002	A	20843	MW	4:20-5:45
002A	A1	22154	MW	1:00-2:25
002	22	20991	MW	2:40-4:05

Sue Coe writing about the horrors of the slaughterhouse, Fly writing about the people living on the margins, squatting in abandoned buildings, Hubert Selby Jr. writing about the illusion of the American dream, Timothy "Speed" Levitch writing about the dark side of capitalism —all these writers are known as non-conformists and are often labeled outlaws for daring to write about the truth. These courageous writers, as well as many others, using ink and fire, challenge the reader to remove the cataracts of conformity from their eyes and really see truth. In this course, we will read some non-conformist writers and discuss why truth-telling is important in a

land where, as Alan Watts so bluntly put it, “it’s taboo to really know yourself.” And at the same time, we will attempt to write our non-conformist essays. #truthtellers #non-conformity

Title: Cultural Myths and Realities: An Exploration in Personal and Social Identity

Professor Briscoe

002	16	21495	TR	2:40 – 4:05
002	21	21496	TR	11:20-12:45

What is identity? What directs who you are and the choices you make? Is our environment or our internal “make-up” what directs us to make the choices we do? In this course we will look at the historical, scientific, philosophical, and cultural factors that might determine our thinking about who we are and what develops our ideology. We will examine the cultural myths and realities that shape these decisions and questions whether some of these factors are our decisions at all. We will also investigate how social stereotyping can often lead to the misuse and abuse of power, how beliefs about culture, language, race, gender, and genetics play into our personal and social identities. Through a variety of texts, we will examine varied intersections culturally and physically that define who we are through reading responses, class discussion, and composition. The composition portion of the course will focus on students’ continued practice and developing thesis and argument through each stage of the writing process – discovery, organization, drafting, and revision – to give students the proper grounding in academic writing, critical analysis, and argumentation.

Title: Hacking the Climate: Geoengineering and the Coming Climate Crisis

Professor Barbarello

002	B	21892	TR	6:00-7:25
-----	---	-------	----	-----------

With carbon emissions continuing unabated, even after repeated efforts to reach global consensus on reducing them, scientists, economists, business leaders, environmentalists, and others are taking a hard look at methods of intervening in natural processes on a global scale to avert what many see as an impending ecological disaster. Call it hacking the planet, playing God, tuning the weather, fixing the sky, or simply madness, the debate over its viability has begun. This course weighs the legal, ethical, economic, political, and scientific arguments being made for and against geoengineering for their implicit assumptions, values, and rhetorical methods. Although the course addresses the scientific bases for various geoengineering proposals, its focus is on scrutinizing the logic and rhetoric of the arguments for and against geoengineering and on writing in response to these arguments.

Title: Love, Marriage, and Friendship

Professor Dresner

002	31	21107	MWF	10:10-11:05
002	40	20626	MWF	11:20-12:15

Love, marriage and friendship: which of these ideals is most important to us as human beings? Can love for one’s partner be compatible with deep friendship with one’s friends? Does marriage require love? What historical, scientific, philosophical, and cultural factors might determine our thinking about these ideals? To answer these questions (and many more), our course takes an interdisciplinary approach towards examining the varied intersections and tensions among love, marriage, and friendship.

Title: Comics, Comic Books and Graphic Novels**Professor DeTora**

002	24	20619	MW	9:40-11:05
002	35	20612	MW	11:20-12:45

Superheroes are first thing that comes to mind for many people when they think of comic books. But comic books are much more than just superheroes. Some people trace the first comic books back to cave paintings, the earliest form of written communication. And today, comic books, comics, and graphic narratives communicate information about everything from history to science, from makeup hints to preventing disease. Characters that started out in comic books can do anything from entertaining to educating, even helping people defuse land mines.

In this class, we will read and comment on comic books, graphic narratives, and comics as ways of understanding and explaining the world. We will consider comic books, comics, and graphic narratives that communicate about people, knowledge, science, and society. Writing assignments will include reflection papers, a personal comic, and a multipart research project.

Title: Screenshots: Our Technological Selves**Professor Lay**

002	33	20610	TR	9:40-11:05
-----	----	-------	----	------------

What does it mean to participate in the technology-driven [American] world? What are the consequences of being technological? We will read, annotate, collaboratively read, and write about the ways we use technology and the ways technology uses us. We will be constructing various technological selves in WordPress blogs, in image sets, with hyperlinks and with sound. We will question what is happening to writing and what is happening to us as we write in digital spaces.

Title: Page Turners: Writing for Audience**Professor Miller**

002	37	20628	TR	1:00-2:25
-----	----	-------	----	-----------

To write engagingly and dynamically about the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities requires very particular skills (and more than a little talent). This class will examine the transformation of what might be considered difficult subjects into “popular” essays and books. The writers we will read have considered what audiences need in order to care about “dry” subjects; this often calls for blending the three disciplines and a good story-telling voice. We will read Oliver Sacks on neurological disorders and humanity, Jonathan Haidt on morality, politics, and psychology, and Art Spiegelman on memory and the Holocaust. We will also consider the more traditional sources that inform these texts and how they “interact” with their respective audiences.