MMW 13: NEW IDEAS AND CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS (6 CREDITS)

Sections C03 & C04
Professor Babak Rahimi

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Welcome to MMW 13! Congratulations on making it through MMW 11 and 12! Last quarter, you learned about academic writing within the context of a limited selection of primary sources. Now, as we continue our journey through history, with a broader focus in your writing. In this course, we review each step that corresponds to academic writing and expand upon these by allowing you to look at an unlimited selection of sources, ranging from . We (the royal ‘we,’ as I'll be grading your papers) understand that this may be your first major exposure to academic writing. We do not expect perfection, merely that you show an understanding of the structure that we will go over in class and through practice and creativity, show progress toward becoming a capable academic writer.

Course Objectives

MMW 13 provides a framework for understanding developments in the global past from 1200 CE to 1750 CE and the transition from the medieval to the early modern world. This course is the second of two writing-intensive quarters in the MMW sequence. Our sections together will be divided into writing-focused tutorials and a critical focus on a selection of readings from the course.

Section Objectives

There are two primary objectives for our sections: (1) to improve your understanding of the course content, (2) to improve your understanding of writing academic research, and by virtue, your critical thinking, reading, writing, studying and speaking skills.

Upon completion of this course, you will be better able to:

- Articulate how human experience from the late Mideaval and early modern eras has shaped our contemporary world.
- Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context, developing ideas in dialogue with course readings and lectures
- Conduct academic research and use library resources
- Ask open-ended, precise and falsifiable questions and take informed stands on issues raised by the course.
• Be able to answer those questions through a falsifiable thesis statement and supporting points.

• Transform a research question and thesis statement into a piece of academic writing that incorporates course content as evidence to support your argument.

• Know the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them in academic writing.

• Engage in substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers.

Attendance, Participation, and Section Requirements

Attendance and participation in section are mandatory. Students who miss five sections – excused or unexcused – will fail section. Students who miss seven sections – excused or unexcused – will fail the course. Any absence can lower your grade.

You must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss and write about course material. Consistent tardiness will lower your grade.

You are REQUIRED to bring all relevant material (including lecture notes, homework assignments, and readings) to section each week. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom. Please come prepared, having done the readings when we are discussing course readings for the particular week or any readings specific to a tutorial related to academic writing.

A significant portion of your section grade is based on your active participation, whether that is asking questions about something that intrigues or confuses you, responding to your fellow students, or proposing new ideas or topics for discussion. Dialogue and even disagreement are always encouraged, provided they are done so respectfully.

I also understand that speaking in a group setting can be difficult. Given that this is a smaller section and we meet twice a week, I hope to challenge you in this course, and I will ask that everyone talks in class at least once per week. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the class, please come see me, and we will work out the best way for you to share your ideas.

Grading

Section counts for 10% of your overall class grade. Your section grade will be determined from regular attendance and participation, which, along with reading and assignments done outside of class, will not only help your course grade but also ensure your overall success in MMW. After your first absence, you will be deducted 1/3 of a letter grade for every additional absence (until the fifth, which results in an F for your section grade).

Letter Grade Requirement

You must take MMW courses for a letter grade. If you have selected Pass/No Pass as a grading option for MMW 13, you should immediately change your option to letter grade, or you will not fulfill the ERC General Education Requirement and will have to take MMW 13 again.
Writing Assignments and Late Policy

In MMW 13, you are required to write an academic research paper in 4 stages. The assignments will build your research skills and argumentative writing skills. Assignments will be covered in section, along with the MMW “Style Sheet” for guidelines on how to format and submit your papers. Failure to meet ALL criteria for writing assignments will result in the loss of points.

All papers must be turned in directly as a hard copy to me in section, lecture, or office hours, in addition to an electronic copy uploaded to www.turnitin.com. Papers left in my mailbox or the MMW office will not be graded. You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late (including weekends). If you are unable to attend section the day the paper is due, you must make other arrangements to submit your work. In addition to taking the mid-term and final exams and attending section regularly, you must submit ALL writing assignments (both as a hard copy to me and to turnitin.com) in order to pass the course.

Classroom Environment

Our sections will be divided into two weekly components. One day of the week we will discuss a different facet of academic writing and on the other, we will discuss materials related to the course readings and lectures. You should come prepared, having done the readings for a particular week for the section we will focus on substantive materials for the class. While there will still be substantive focus when we discuss academic writing, supplemental substantive materials will generally be provided for you.

Broadly, section is designed to help you develop strong critical thinking, reading comprehension and writing skills that you will use regardless of what major your pursue or your post-university career. By reading critically, you will be better able to understand the major themes of the course and gain experience working with primary sources. Given our smaller class size, my aim is also to simulate a “workshop” environment in some sections, where you will have the opportunity to discuss both your insights and original hypotheses relating to course materials with your peer.

Finally, given that we will touch on some subjects that are considered controversial to this day, I ask that you act in a respectful manner with regard to your classmates, me and the subject matter at all times. A friendly, positive, and mutually respectful atmosphere is necessary for effective learning. It is important that we have a substantive and lively discussion about these subjects, but also that the voices and backgrounds of others are respected.

Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email/Piazza

In my experience, too few students come to office hours and send me e-mails with questions. I am a resource for you guys to utilize to the fullest extent in understanding the readings, making sure you understand the assignments and in reaching the full potential in class. I try to answer every e-mail I get within 24 hours of receiving it. Moreover, if you can't make office hours for any reason, I'm happy to meet outside of class on a day I'm on campus (Monday, Wednesday or Friday and some Thursdays). However, I do ask that you send me an e-mail to schedule any meeting outside of office hours at least 24 prior to when you want to meet.

Course Resources

MMW13 Homepage: http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw13.html
UCSD Library: http://libraries.ucsd.edu/
Excellent search engine for books and journal articles, Melvyl: http://ucsd.worldcat.org
UCSD Writing Center: http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

College life can be stressful, and it is normal to feel overwhelmed at times. UCSD has a staff of professionals that are available for confidential meetings to discuss any personal concerns you might have. Feel free to contact CAPS at anytime to set up an appointment: http://caps.ucsd.edu.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact OSD for more information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), http://disabilities.ucsd.edu (website).

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for the honesty and integrity of your academic work at UCSD. The University has a strict policy prohibiting cheating of any kind. If you are suspected of cheating, you will be required to meet with an academic coordinator, who will then discuss your case with the professor. If the professor charges you with misconduct, the professor will determine the penalty for your grade in the course, which can range from deductions to failing the paper, section, or the course. Then you will have to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs, who will determine additional penalties, which can range from failing the course and taking an academic integrity seminar to suspension to expulsion.

Throughout this process, a hold will be put on your grade. Even a first offense can result in a quarter's suspension, and the standard sanction for a second offense is suspension or permanent dismissal from the university. Any instance of academic misconduct can be recorded in a student's file. Such a record might interfere with a student's acceptance into law, medical, or graduate school, or might make that student ineligible for positions requiring a security clearance, such as a government internship.

In brief, the University's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship states that students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor's standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

1. No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions, or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.

2. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination nor assignment for another person.

3. No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.

4. No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.
5. No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.

6. No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for re-grading.

7. No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

Please read the full Policy: http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academicintegrity/policy.html. If you have any questions, ask me.