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Writing 5 Section Descriptions for Winter Term 2026

Writing 5 introduces Dartmouth students to the writing process that characterizes intellectual work in the academy and in educated public discourse. Each section of Writing 5 organizes its writing assignments around challenging readings chosen by the instructor. The course focuses primarily on the writing process, emphasizing careful reading and analysis, thoughtful questions, and strategies of effective argument. Below you will find a list of the courses being offered next term.

Writing 5 -- Expository Writing

Section 01

Hour: 9L; **Instructor:**

Course Title: American Cults and New Religious Movements

Description: What's the difference between a "cult" and a religion? And what can we learn about ourselves from the new religious movements that have arisen in the US? This course will examine groups the public has, to varying degrees, considered "cults." We will explore what these movements reveal about American culture and American identity. We will also look critically at how the writing of scholars, journalists, and memoirists frame the public's understanding of these communities.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Urban, Hugh. The Church of Scientology: A History of a New Religion. ISBN : 9786613168993

Wright, Lawrence. Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief. ISBN: 0307745309

Section 02

Hour: 9L; **Instructor:** Francine A'Ness

Course Title: Experience and Education

Description: In Experience and Education, we explore two questions: what makes an experience educational and what is the relationship between education and power? Through micro and macro lenses, you will reflect on your own educational experiences as well as contemplate the role that schools—as primary social educational institutions—play in society, today and in the past. The texts we will use to think through these questions will include essays, film, theatre, and art.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Deresiewicz, William. Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Path to a Meaningful Life. Free Press, 2015. ISBN: 1476702721

Dewey, John. Experience and Education. Touchstone, 1997. ISBN: 0684838281.

Section 03

Hour: 12; **Instructor:** John Barger

Course Title: Identity in Poetry and Cinema

Description: Personal identity—how it's shaped, expressed, fractured, and reclaimed—is a central concern of poetry and film. In all three of our primary objects, the artist projects aspects of lived experience onto the “screen” of the work, whether literal or metaphorical. Marie Howe's poems draw from her deeply personal reflections on childhood and family; Barbara Loden's film (Wanda, 1970), though fictional, draws on her background and social position, blurring the boundaries between character and creator.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Marie Howe: New and Selected Poems (ISBN: 978-1-324-07503-5)

Suite for Barbara Loden, by Nathalie L\u00E9ger (ISBN: 978-0-9973666-0-0)

Section 04

Hour: 2; **Instructor:** John Barger

Course Title: Identity in Poetry and Cinema

Description: Personal identity—how it’s shaped, expressed, fractured, and reclaimed—is a central concern of poetry and film. In all three of our primary objects, the artist projects aspects of lived experience onto the “screen” of the work, whether literal or metaphorical. Marie Howe’s poems draw from her deeply personal reflections on childhood and family; Barbara Loden’s film (Wanda, 1970), though fictional, draws on her background and social position, blurring the boundaries between character and creator.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Marie Howe: New and Selected Poems (ISBN: 978-1-324-07503-5)

Suite for Barbara Loden, by Nathalie L\u00E9ger (ISBN: 978-0-9973666-0-0)

Section 05

Hour: 10; **Instructor:** James Binkoski

Course Title: Knowledge and Disagreement

Description: Epistemology is the study of knowledge, evidence, and justification. Its questions are of fundamental importance—and they’re everywhere. Can you know that climate change constitutes an existential threat even if you’re not completely certain? Can two people disagree over the existence of God and yet both be equally, fully rational? Why do groups that share evidence sometimes polarize? We'll pursue these questions and more as we study the ins and outs of academic writing.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 06

Hour: 10; **Instructor:** Samuel Carter

Course Title: Border Sounds

Description: If we often understand borders as what visually separates spaces either on maps or in person, what happens when we ask how we might hear them? Where does listening reproduce or repudiate forms of division? This course contemplates the circulation of sounds and bodies by considering a variety of recordings, films, and literary texts that are drawn from across the Americas and that include works such as I'm No Longer Here and Lost Children Archive.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Valeria Luiselli, Lost Children Archive, 978-0525436461

Section 07

Hour: 2; **Instructor:** Samuel Carter

Course Title: Border Sounds

Description: If we often understand borders as what visually separates spaces either on maps or in person, what happens when we ask how we might hear them? Where does listening reproduce or repudiate forms of division? This course contemplates the circulation of sounds and bodies by considering a variety of recordings, films, and literary texts that are drawn from across the Americas and that include works such as I'm No Longer Here and Lost Children Archive.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Valeria Luiselli, Lost Children Archive, 978-0525436461

Section 08

Hour: 10A; **Instructor:** Rebecca Clark

Course Title: Image and Text

Description: This class will look at a variety of works—include ekphrastic poetry, graphic novels, advertisements—that combine images with text to tell stories. How, we will ask, does the combination of the verbal and visual help authors create fantastical new worlds, document painful or playful quotidian realities, or navigate and narrate traumatic personal and national histories? How, in turn, can we analyze, research, and write about them?

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*, 0618871713

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen*, 9781555976903

Adrian Tomine, *Shortcomings*, 9781897299166

Valeria Luiselli (author), Christina MacSweeney (translator), *The Story of My Teeth*, 9781566894098

Section 09

Hour: 3B; **Instructor:** William Craig

Course Title: Wild Hopes: Anarchism in Literature and Popular Culture

Description: Most of us know very little about anarchism, but we're quick to declare, "It can't work." Our opinions are usually based on anarchies portrayed in stories, movies and other fictions. We'll survey representations of anarchy in canonical and popular culture, tracing our assumptions back to their sources. We'll sharpen our writing, critical thinking and research skills as we appreciate artworks that have kept anarchism alive in our fears and dreams.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Camus, Albert. *The Plague*. Vintage. ISBN: 9780593082096

Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Dispossessed*. Harper Perennial Modern Classics. ISBN: 9780060512750

Moore, Alan. *V for Vendetta*. DC Comics. ISBN: 9781779511195; Ward, Colin. *Anarchism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0192547590

Williams, Joseph and Joseph Bizup. *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*, 5th edition, Pearson 2014 ISBN: 0321953304

Section 10

Hour: 9L; **Instructor:** Phyllis Deutsch

Course Title: Gender and the Holocaust

Description: Writing is a process that includes the ability to undertake research in primary sources, analyze diverse texts, and develop coherent evidence-based arguments. This course explores all aspects of the writing process through the lens of Gender and the Holocaust. Examining three memoirs written in the context of remembered extremity, you will learn how to organize an argument, incorporate evidence, develop a strong voice, and respond to provocative texts in original ways.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, 978-0-684-826806

Edith Bruck, *Who Loves You Like This*, 0-9664913-7-8

Ruth Kluger, *Still Alive*, 978-1-55861-436-9

Section 11

Hour: 10; **Instructor:** Christopher Drain

Course Title: Ethics of the Internet

Description: This course examines ethical and political issues emerging from the rise of ubiquitous computing in the 21st century. Topics include “platform capitalism”; algorithmic harms and digital surveillance; echo chambers; and First Amendment issues in the wake of trolling and social media bans. We also explore questions concerning the agency, design, and political status of technical artifacts to come to terms with whether technology can ever be a morally neutral enterprise.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Srnicek, *Platform Capitalism* ISBN-10: 1509504877

Seymour, *The Twittering Machine* ISBN-10 : 1788739280

Section 12

Hour: 11; **Instructor:** Christopher Drain

Course Title: Ethics of the Internet

Description: This course examines ethical and political issues emerging from the rise of ubiquitous computing in the 21st century. Topics include “platform capitalism”; algorithmic harms and digital surveillance; echo chambers; and First Amendment issues in the wake of trolling and social media bans. We also explore questions concerning the agency, design, and political status of technical artifacts to come to terms with whether technology can ever be a morally neutral enterprise.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Srnicek, Platform Capitalism ISBN-10: 1509504877

Seymour, The Twittering Machine ISBN-10 : 1788739280

Section 13

Hour: 11; **Instructor:** Min Young Godley

Course Title: Metamorphosis and Otherness

Description: Through reading classic and contemporary texts on metamorphosis, we will examine how bodies and forms of life transform themselves or are transformed by others. Following this motif, we will focus on writing as a form of critical thinking that is continually constructed and reconstructed in a multi-stage process. Aiming to produce change in oneself and others, students will learn how to write literary analysis, engage with scholarly conversations, and give and receive meaningful feedback.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. They Say I Say. 978-1324070030

Han, Kang. The Vegetarian. 9781101906118

Section 14

Hour: 12; **Instructor:** Min Young Godley

Course Title: Metamorphosis and Otherness

Description: Through reading classic and contemporary texts on metamorphosis, we will examine how bodies and forms of life transform themselves or are transformed by others. Following this motif, we will focus on writing as a form of critical thinking that is continually

constructed and reconstructed in a multi-stage process. Aiming to produce change in oneself and others, students will learn how to write literary analysis, engage with scholarly conversations, and give and receive meaningful feedback.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. They Say I Say. 978-1324070030

Han, Kang. The Vegetarian. 9781101906118

Section 15

Hour: 12; **Instructor:** Emily Kane

Course Title: Future Fantasies: Imagining the Posthuman

Description: Science fiction creates worlds in which the seemingly impossible is made real. How might representations of the future address current anxieties raised by technological advances like A.I.? This course examines the ethics of confronting otherness in science fiction. It also considers the real processes of “othering” across cultures, ethnicities and genders. Through writing and revising three analyses, you will learn to examine and refine your own ideas and form strategies for forming a convincing analysis.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Vandermeer, Jeff. Annihilation: Ishiguro, Kazuo. Never Let Me Go

Section 16

Hour: 2; **Instructor:** Margaretha Kramer

Course Title: How Civilizations Collapse

Description: Climate change and natural disasters, political division and dysfunction, soaring inequality, wars, and migration: news of society fraying at its edges is everywhere. Is our civilization collapsing? What does that even mean? Is it inevitable? And what would happen next? In this course you will examine historic collapses and transfer their lessons to today. Reading a mix of popular authors and scholarly literature, you will practice formulating your own arguments clearly and concisely.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Williams, Joseph & Bizup, Joseph. Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace. Pearson, 2014 (5th edition). ISBN: 978-0321953308

Hjortshoj, Keith. The Transition to College Writing. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009 (2nd edition)

Section 17

Hour: 9L; **Instructor:** Clara Lewis

Course Title: Authenticity: Self & Society

Description: This WRIT5 offers an introduction to social thought on authenticity. The seminar is an occasion to reflect deeply on one's identity and performance of self while also growing as a writer and thinker. We will read and write a mix of social theory and more literary, journalistic essays. Texts include work by Joan Didion, Kenji Yoshino, Hanif Willis-Abdurraqib, David Foster Wallace, and E.B. White.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 18

Hour: 10; **Instructor:** Clara Lewis

Course Title: Authenticity: Self & Society

Description: This WRIT5 offers an introduction to social thought on authenticity. The seminar is an occasion to reflect deeply on one's identity and performance of self while also growing as a writer and thinker. We will read and write a mix of social theory and more literary, journalistic essays. Texts include work by Joan Didion, Kenji Yoshino, Hanif Willis-Abdurraqib, David Foster Wallace, and E.B. White.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 19

Hour: 2; Instructor: Erkki Mackey

Course Title: Philosophy in Fiction and Physics

Description: Is it possible that philosophers, novelists, and physicists are trying to reach the same ends by different means? To answer that question we will pursue four primary objectives: 1) become familiar with surprising and unresolved problems in physics; 2) consider how different philosophical perspectives attempt to resolve those problems; 3) analyze works of fiction from those philosophical perspectives; 4) complete several formal essays and informal writing exercises exploring different points of view.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Calvino, Italo. *If on a winter\u2019s night a traveler*. Translated by William Weaver. ISBN-13: 978-0-15-643961-9

Pynchon, Thomas. *The Crying of Lot 49*. ISBN-13: 978-0-06-091307-6

Section 20

Hour: 2A; Instructor: Shalene Moodie

Course Title: Black and Latino Spiritual Practices

Description: How are notions of spirituality related to our understanding of different cultures and cultural identity? How does popular culture and established scholarship help us understand different communities? In this writing course, we will develop your college reading and writing knowledge and strategies via examining the ways in which “African” and other “Non-Western” practices have collided with “European” practices to reimagine Christianity and to form unique spiritual practices such as Rastafari, Obeah, Day of the Dead festivities, Santeria, and Vodou. We will also examine how these practices relate to our understanding of various communities. Using diverse genres (including song, essay, poetry, film and the novel)--and looking at artistic productions from the Caribbean, South America, Nigeria and the United States--we will examine productions of artists such as Bob Marley, Jorge Gutierrez, W. E. B. Du Bois, Walt Disney, Wole Soyinka, and Zora Neale Hurston.

Divisional Affiliation:

Textbook(s)Required:

Plath, Sylvia. *Ariel*. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 1965. ISBN: 9780060732608.

Ai. *Killing Floor*. Tavern Books, 1978. ISBN: 9781935635727.

Section 21

Hour: 12; **Instructor:** Douglas Moody

Course Title: Foundations of Dartmouth

Description: Samson Occom (1723-1792) was a protégé of Eleazar Wheelock, and although he was never a student at Dartmouth College, Occom's involvement with the college was crucial. Another trailblazer at Dartmouth was Edward Mitchell, Class of 1828, who was the Dartmouth's first Black student. We consider these foundational stories as they relate to civil rights and educational access for Natives, African Americans, and other minorities at Dartmouth and in the U.S.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 22

Hour: 10A; **Instructor:** Rachel Obbard

Course Title: Machina et Deus: Sports, Science, and Ethics

Description: This writing course examines the intersection of sport, technology, and ethics. In it, we will examine the social implications of new technology and scientific understanding on sports.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Millar, David. Racing Through the Dark. Touchstone, 2011 or 2012 (ISBN: 978-1501133657)

Section 23

Hour: 2A; **Instructor:** Rachel Obbard

Course Title: Machina et Deus: Sports, Science, and Ethics

Description: This writing course examines the intersection of sport, technology, and ethics. In it, we will examine the social implications of new technology and scientific

understanding on sports.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Millar, David. Racing Through the Dark. Touchstone, 2011 or 2012 (ISBN: 978-1501133657)

Section 24

Hour: 10A; **Instructor:** Katherine Riley

Course Title: Word Meaning in Context

Description: Each of us knows thousands of words. Normally, we use them without stumbling; we must to some degree or we wouldn't speak at all. But sometimes we're struck by meanings heretofore unremarked. What is a word meaning? What are the contexts of its use? Are they different or one and the same? We'll consider scientific, philosophic, cultural, artistic, artificial intelligence and other perspectives, examining how their answers vary, and new questions arising from their juxtaposition.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 25

Hour: 2A; **Instructor:** Katherine Riley

Course Title: Word Meaning in Context

Description: Each of us knows thousands of words. Normally, we use them without stumbling; we must to some degree or we wouldn't speak at all. But sometimes we're struck by meanings heretofore unremarked. What is a word meaning? What are the contexts of its use? Are they different or one and the same? We'll consider scientific, philosophic, cultural, artistic, artificial intelligence and other perspectives, examining how their answers vary, and new questions arising from their juxtaposition.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 26

Hour: 9L; **Instructor:** Ellen Rockmore

Course Title: Free Speech on the College Campus

Description: Who is allowed to say what on college campuses? This course examines the philosophical foundations of the right to free speech and why it is considered essential to liberty and democracy. We will also study the legal parameters of the first amendment, particularly as it pertains to “hate speech.” We will then turn to the specific case of the university, where values such as equality, inclusion, pedagogy and academic freedom may sometimes be in tension.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 27

Hour: 11; **Instructor:** Sarah Smith

Course Title: Food for Thought

Description: Brillat-Savarin wrote “Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you who you are.” Indeed, food choices can reflect our families, religious beliefs, ethics, and emotions. Our decisions may be influenced by the media, our peers, or simply by convenience. What we eat also influences how food is grown, and therefore has wider reaching effects, such as on the environment, the economy, and public health. Readings include personal stories, popular press, and scholarly papers.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 28

Hour: 12; **Instructor:** Sarah Smith

Course Title: Food for Thought

Description: Brillat-Savarin wrote “Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you who you are.” Indeed, food choices can reflect our families, religious beliefs, ethics, and emotions. Our decisions may be influenced by the media, our peers, or simply by convenience. What we eat also influences how food is grown, and therefore has wider reaching effects, such as on the environment, the economy, and public health. Readings include personal stories, popular press, and scholarly papers.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 29

Hour: 10; **Instructor:** Amanda Wetsel

Course Title: Experiencing Built Environments

Description: We will write as a way to understand the built environment: How do buildings shape our lives? How do values, hierarchies, and inequalities materialize in the built environment? How do architectural spaces affect how people understand themselves and relate to each other? We will analyze spaces at Dartmouth and interviews with Dartmouth students as well as texts written by architects, historians, sociologists, and anthropologists.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 30

Hour: 11; **Instructor:** Amanda Wetsel

Course Title: Experiencing Built Environments

Description: We will write as a way to understand the built environment: How do buildings shape our lives? How do values, hierarchies, and inequalities materialize in the built environment? How do architectural spaces affect how people understand themselves and relate to each other? We will analyze spaces at Dartmouth and interviews with Dartmouth students as well as texts written by architects, historians, sociologists, and

anthropologists.

Divisional Affiliation: Social Sciences

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 31

Hour: 10A; **Instructor:** Leigh York

Course Title: Literatures of Refusal

Description: Herman Melville's scrivener Bartleby refuses every request with "I would prefer not to." Toni Morrison argued that there is a "free space opened up by refusing to respond [to] somebody else's gaze." And for Audre Lorde, refusal is central to "Learning to Write." By analyzing literature that performs a range of refusals—writing against and around normative expectations and hierarchies—we will see how diverse authors have tackled questions of power and resistance.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 32

Hour: 2A; **Instructor:** Leigh York

Course Title: Literatures of Refusal

Description: Herman Melville's scrivener Bartleby refuses every request with "I would prefer not to." Toni Morrison argued that there is a "free space opened up by refusing to respond [to] somebody else's gaze." And for Audre Lorde, refusal is central to "Learning to Write." By analyzing literature that performs a range of refusals—writing against and around normative expectations and hierarchies—we will see how diverse authors have tackled questions of power and resistance.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

None

Section 33

Hour: 11; **Instructor:** Rosetta Young

Course Title: The Novels of Sally Rooney

Description: In this course, we will read and write about the novelistic oeuvre of the millennial Irish novelist, Sally Rooney. Over the span of the course, students will read all four of Rooney's novels. Students will build critical authority about her novels through reading, discussing, and—most of all—writing about her work.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Sally Rooney, *Normal People* (1984822187)

Sally Rooney, *Conversations with Friends* (0451499069)

Sally Rooney, *Beautiful World, Where Are You?* (1250859042)

Sally Rooney, *Intermezzo* (1250397561)

Section 34

Hour: 2; **Instructor:** Rosetta Young

Course Title: The Novels of Sally Rooney

Description: In this course, we will read and write about the novelistic oeuvre of the millennial Irish novelist, Sally Rooney. Over the span of the course, students will read all four of Rooney's novels. Students will build critical authority about her novels through reading, discussing, and—most of all—writing about her work.

Divisional Affiliation: Arts & Humanities

Textbook(s)Required:

Sally Rooney, *Normal People* (1984822187)

Sally Rooney, *Conversations with Friends* (0451499069)

Sally Rooney, *Beautiful World, Where Are You?* (1250859042)

Sally Rooney, *Intermezzo* (1250397561)