Writing 109HU: Writing for the Humanities

**Prerequisites:** *Writing 2, 2LK, or 2E; upper-division standing or consent of the instructor.*

**Catalog Description:** Writing 109HU focuses on the analysis of various forms of writing for the humanities, both academic and professional. Attention is paid to the modes of argumentation, research methods, stylistic conventions, and development of original inquiry.

**Course Description**: Writing 109HU introduces students to the writing techniques, theoretical approaches, and research methods in the various fields of the humanities. Students engage in the discourse of the humanities by conducting bibliographical research strategies, interpreting both primary and secondary sources, and producing original research. Students also explore how to respond to different academic discourse communities, theoretical frameworks, and rhetorical situations in the presentation of their research. Students combine their knowledge of humanities scholarship in general with the terminology and methodology of individual humanistic disciplines, including literary criticism, philosophy, art history, musicology, and history to develop critical writing projects that demonstrate a contribution to a particular field.

**Curricular Premises:** Writing 109HU addresses the conventions of academic discourse and writing processes within academic humanities fields, paralleling Writing 109SS and Writing 109ST, which address other divisions of the academic research disciplines. Students are encouraged to relate the work they do in Writing 109HU to their evolving knowledge in their major disciplines. Writing 109HU students should become familiar with the analysis of different methods and evidentiary standards in scholarly argumentation, the role of interpretation in shaping evidence and argument, and the rhetorical strategies of humanities scholarship. Writing assignments allow students to put their research and analysis into practice and make a critical intervention in the field of study. The theoretical methods studied in Writing 109HU can be applied to other 109 courses but also to other disciplines with regard to scholarly research and working with texts.

**Course Requirements:**

**Texts:** Course texts usually follow a related sequence of topics, either disciplinary or issue-oriented, so that students can pursue projects in a wide range of disciplines while remaining part of a coherent community of scholars. Readings should introduce students to the conventions of humanities writing and research inquiry in a wide range of disciplines and theoretical models.

**Assignments:** Writing assignments should prepare students for the planning and execution of an original scholarly project through the refinement of research questions, interpretation, and analysis. Common writing assignments in Writing 109HU include the following:

* multiple drafts of a short paper
* a formal proposal for a research-based paper
* an annotated bibliography
* multiple drafts of the longer research-based paper
* an oral presentation on the research conducted and related findings.

**Outcomes:**

* Develop and refine an academic writing style appropriate to a discipline of study and its discourse community
* Apply genre-specific conventions, including understanding and use of specialized terminology
* Recognize and develop significant research questions and potential modes of inquiry
* Conduct a substantial independent project, drawing on primary and secondary sources from a range of resources, including specialized professional journals, databases, websites, and other pertinent texts
* Develop familiarity with general disciplinary activities and responsibilities, through exposure to genres, forms, and paradigms characteristic of the discipline
* Contextualize and attribute both primary and sources appropriately
* Tailor writing to address the requirements of public, professional, or specialized audiences