

## **Narrative**

### **Writing-Intensive Course Proposal**

**Course:** Art History: Theories and Approaches (11456)

**Instructor:** Reva Wolf

The seminar *Art History: Theories and Approaches* fits the criteria of a writing-intensive course because of the types of writing assigned as well as the number of writing requirements.

**Research Paper Requirements.** The central written assignment is a research paper. Each student will select the work of a thinker who has made an important contribution to the methodology of art history to research and to analyze critically. The research paper will then be developed in four stages, comprising a two-page topic proposal, a bibliography, a draft of the paper, and the completed paper. The professor will edit and comment on all these assignments.

**In-Class Writing Exercises.** Students will write three short commentaries in response to questions about assigned readings. These commentaries will then be reviewed by their peers and discussed in class. The purposes of the in-class writing exercises are (1) to encourage careful reading of assigned texts, (2) to give students opportunities to articulate their thoughts in writing, and (3) to facilitate the discussion of ideas as well as of questions about writing.

**Exams.** The midterm and final examinations are essays in which students will be asked to discuss the development of a particular type of art-historical methodology. In each case, students will be given three topics one week prior to the exam, and on the exam day, one of these will be selected by random drawing as the exam essay. The essay will be written in the classroom. The aim of these exams is to encourage students to write carefully organized essays in which they trace the history of an idea over time.

The research paper, in-class writing assignments, and exams all serve to give students ample writing experience and analytical skills. Through revisions and discussions, students will be provided with models that in the future will help them to better judge and revise their own work.