

**HUM 654**  
**DOCTORAL PROJECT II: JOURNAL ARTICLE**

Individual Directed Study Course  
[Instructor Info Here]

While the dissertation is the centerpiece of the graduate career, and academic promotion revolves mainly around books, journal publication is also an important mode of academic exchange, research circulation, and professional validation. Just as students must be guided through proper dissertation processes, so must they be guided through the protocols of journal article preparation and publication.

Ph.D. students tend to rely far more on books than on articles for seminar paper and dissertation research. Even when assigned journal articles as course reading, few acquaint themselves with academic journal culture until they attempt to publish their first articles. Reasons for this include the facts that journal-based research is not generally emphasized on the B.A. and M.A. levels; that even with recent online advances, journal articles are often difficult to locate and access; and that the realm of academic journals is so broad and diverse as to be so overwhelming that it is difficult for students to know where to begin.

In addition, students often seek to publish seminar papers or dissertation sections as articles without first understanding the accepted hierarchies of journals in general and in their fields, divergences in types of journals, differing journals' expectations and demands, and/or the protocols of journal article preparation and submission. Even in the rare cases in which this approach is successful, students risk publishing articles that will not enhance their profiles because too divergent from their areas of expertise or placed in inappropriate journals. When this approach is not successful, students also risk wasting precious funding, self-funding, and graduate time far better spent on the more important task of dissertation writing, or failing to publish at all.

Early introduction to the realm of academic journals is particularly crucial given growing demands for shorter time to degree completion, and the increasing pressure of the academic job market.

In this individual directed study, the student explores the culture of the journal while writing an article suitable for publication. Article may later be submitted for publication.

*Note: this syllabus provides general guidelines for this individual directed study course. Assignment dates may be scaled by instructor to fit Summer Session parameters, or otherwise adjusted as needed.*

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1 or Summer Session Equivalent: Introduction**

Discuss with instructor your prospective article topic choice, or possible choices; the relation of the choice, or possible choices, to your proposed dissertation topic or dissertation-in progress; and the suitability of this plan to your projected academic profile at large. (Note: adaptation of a completed seminar paper, especially in an area of high relevance to the proposed dissertation topic, or section of dissertation-in-progress, is acceptable; however, any material submitted for credit in another course must be significantly altered and/or expanded to count for credit in this

course. Any questions regarding sufficiency of a plan for alteration and/or expansion of previously submitted material should be directed to the Ph.D. Program Director.)

**Week 2 or Summer Session Equivalent: Journal Survey**

Read Gregory Semenza, *Graduate Study in the 21st Century, "Publishing"* (book available in Slavin Library). Determine the following information from the websites of seven journals, in the general (ex.: *Nineteenth Century Literature*) or specific (ex.: *The Henry James Review*) areas of the article project. Write a 150-word-minimum report on each journal, including: general makeup of editorial board (types of institutions from which board members hail; academic rank of board members); general makeup of contributors (both faculty and students?); frequency of publication (twice yearly? quarterly?); general nature of material covered (single-disciplinary? interdisciplinary? textual? historical? critique of other criticism?); general scope of articles (broad surveys? close readings?); general nature and writing tone (highly theoretical? more fact-based? more exclusive? more approachable?); general submission guidelines. Write a 200-word-minimum conclusion based on this survey.

**Week 3 or Summer Session Equivalent: Article Survey**

Choose and read two articles each from three of the journals surveyed above that, based on the above survey, appear most appropriate, as well as the most likely to consider this particular submission. Write a 200-word- minimum report on each, including: topic; argument; length; number and nature of primary sources; number and nature of secondary sources (books, chapters in edited volumes; other journal articles, reports, unpublished manuscripts, interviews, etc.); level of complexity; breakdown of sections, if any; degree of specialization of terms and discourse; evident intended audience. Write a 200-word minimum conclusion based on this survey.

**Week 4 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing and Publication Plan (5%)**

Write a 500-word-minimum proposal for the article, including detailed outline, annotated bibliography, and rationale for choice of journal for article submission. Adjust as necessary with instructor feedback.

**Week 5 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**

Writing installment due.

**Week 6 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**

Writing installment due.

**Week 7 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**

Writing installment due.

**Week 8 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**

Writing installment due.

**Week 9 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**

Writing installment due.

**Week 10 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**  
Writing installment due.

**Week 11 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**  
Writing installment due.

**Week 12 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**  
Writing installment due.

**Week 13 or Summer Session Equivalent: Writing Installment (5%)**  
Writing installment due.

**Week 14 or Summer Session Equivalent: Article, with Cover Letter (35%)**  
Final version of article due. Cover letter, *as if* for article submission, due as well.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To gain crucial background and skills for successful journal article writing and publication; to produce one article informed by the nature of journal publishing.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS FULFILLED:** Required Humanities Ph.D. core course. 3 credits.

**GRADING BREAKDOWN:** 13 research and writing assignments, 5% each. Completed article, 35%.