Course Guide for Fall 2019

All LHSP students are expected to enroll in an LHSP class each semester. LHSP 125 fulfills LSA’s first year writing requirement. Students who are enrolled in the College of Engineering, the Honors College, and students who have fulfilled the first year writing requirement over the summer can enroll in LHSP 230.001 or LHSP 151.001.

If you have any questions, please contact the LHSP office at (734)-764-7521 or via email at lhsp@umich.edu.

LHSP 125.001: Writing and Seeing
Instructor: Scott Beal
Credits: 4
Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am-11:00am
Location: Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2012

When William Blake wrote in 1799, “As the Eye is formed such are its Powers,” he noted what we see is shaped by who we are and what we believe. Almost 200 years later, Alice Fulton wrote “let my glance be passional / toward the universe and you,” calling for vision as an active approach to the world, a form of attention that clarifies truths and embraces hidden possibilities. In this course we will use writing to explore our visions of ourselves and each other, of our natures and cultures. We will investigate art and artifacts—some we know well, and some we will discover on field trips to museums and other spots of interest—to question how they both embody and challenge our ways of seeing. Writing is often (as John Berger has pointed out) “an attempt to explain how, either metaphorically or literally, ‘you see things.’” Our course will engage with all aspects of the writing process, from brainstorming and research to collaboration and revision—to make our glances more passional, to see our subjects more sharply and deeply, and to communicate our ways of seeing most effectively to audiences.
LHSP 125.002: Creative Obsessions and Writing
Instructor: Carol Tell
Credits: 4
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2012

What are your obsessions? Are they quirky and unique (and maybe embarrassing) (a schlocky song, a character from a book, your family recipe for meatloaf), or more mainstream but no less haunting (a love interest, a social identity, a sports team, the number of likes you get on Instagram)? From childhood crushes to white whales, our obsessions can be self-defining and often drive us to write/create beautiful things. But as much as they define us, they can occasionally delude or even destroy us. This introductory writing class will allow you to explore—and write about—intellectual, aesthetic, and personal obsessions—both your own and those of writers, artists, filmmakers, and musicians. We’ll read texts (from such writers as Claudia Rankine, David Foster Wallace, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Maurice Sendak), watch a film (Brokeback Mountain), and listen to and create a podcast, all of which will explore obsessive love, work, and creativity. But most of all, you’ll be figuring out how to write effectively for college—how to parse a writing prompt, what words like “argument” and “revision” really mean, and how to move (quickly) beyond the five-paragraph essay to create complex and challenging essays.

LHSP 125.003: Genre Wonderland
Instructor: Raymond McDaniel
Credits: 4
Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:30pm
Location: Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2012

Noir, fantasy, romantic comedy, thriller, horror: we take categories like these for granted when we talk about film or literature, but what (if anything) do they have to do with how we imagine and narrate our own lives? In this section of LHSP 125, we will examine: what it means, why it has to exist, whether anything exists outside of it, how we use it to construct experience and knowledge as consumers, scholars and people just trying to make sense of it all. Texts will include both literature and multimedia references both high and low, common and obscure, and skills will be developed in analysis, argument, narrative, and
writing into and across academic curricula. Tolerance for stylistic excess encouraged but not required.

LHSP 125.004: *Monsters and Beasts*
Instructor: Angela Berkley
Credits: 4
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am-11:30am
Location: Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2012

Zombies, vampires, werewolves, cyborgs, yetis, witches, ghosts, demons and countless others—they stalk us relentlessly from the pages of our favorite novels and stories. Their creepy images haunt us from movie and TV screens—and we love every minute of it, however frightened we might be. Why do we fear these beastly monsters, and why do we love them? What's behind our enduring urge to create and consume narratives of these inhuman imaginary beings? *Are* they as inhuman as they seem—or is what captivates us about monsters the unsettling suggestions and foreboding images they offer us about who and what we really are?

All good writing starts with good questions, and in our course, we will explore a range of texts (novels, stories, comics, photos, paintings, TV shows and movies) that raise questions and make arguments about the cultural and political meaning of the monsters we create. You will read and write in response to these questions and arguments, through essays, images, sounds, and stories. You will engage with each other as you explore these questions as readers and writers, using the experiences of your peers to develop your insights and conclusions about what it means to be a monster lover in 2019. You will practice readerly and writerly skills together—skills that you can readily apply to the writing that awaits you beyond this course.
LHSP 125.005: *The Hidden Lives of Ordinary Things*

**Instructor:** Cat Cassel  
**Class Time:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30am-12pm  
**Location:** Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2060

In this writing-intensive course, we will explore the personal, cultural, historical, and philosophical significance of the material objects that surround us in our everyday lives, and develop original insights and arguments in a series of writing assignments designed to introduce you to personal narrative, analytic writing, argumentative writing, and multimodal composition. Good arguments stem from good questions, and academic essays allow writers to write their way toward answers, toward figuring out what they think. Using things as an anchor for our inquiry, we will focus on the creation of complex, analytic, well-supported arguments addressing questions that matter in academic contexts. The course also hones your critical thinking and reading skills with readings from a variety of genres, which will serve as models or prompts for your writing assignments. Working closely with your peers and myself, you will develop your essays through peer review workshops and extensive revision and editing. The specific questions that you pursue in your essays will be guided by your own interests.
LHSP 125.006: *Our TV, Our Selves: The Rhetoric of Television*
Instructor: Shelley Manis  
Credits: 4  
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm-4:00pm  
Location: Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2060

How many times have you heard someone say (or have you said), “It’s just TV!” In this class, those, as they say, are “fightin’ words.” Television—from high drama like *Breaking Bad* to goofy animation like *Bob’s Burgers*—makes meaning, makes arguments. Television both reflects and creates current attitudes about public issues; and it can and should inspire important, sometimes difficult, conversations. I’ve designed this course around one major question that should be important to those of us who love TV (or who hate it!), who live for the next episode of *Riverdale* or the next season of *Queer Eye*, or who would rather eat glass than watch *Game of Thrones*. How does TV make meaning? How does it contribute to our senses of self—as individuals, as citizens or residents of the U.S. and/or other home nations, as [you-fill-in-the-blank]?  

*The content that we study will be television; the end result of our study will be an intimate relationship with rigorous thinking, writing, and revising processes.*

We will practice strategies of close reading, thick description, research, analysis, reflection, revision, and responding in writing to a variety of texts: television episodes and series (some chosen by me, some by you), academic articles, podcasts, and mainstream publications. We will engage in the kinds of tasks you will be asked to do often as a college student: blogging, social media writing, informal writing, planning and conducting research, review writing, analytical essay writing, etc. We will argue about the virtues and shortcomings of the shows we watch. We will disagree (respectfully but enthusiastically) about all manner of things. We will “live every week like it’s shark week.”

This will all help you look anew at something you likely know well (tv) as you practice making dynamic, savvy, even artistic academic arguments. And we’ll hopefully have a lot of fun doing it.

*“Clear eyes, full hearts, can’t lose.”*
LHSP 151.001: *What Matters Most?: Big Questions, Fabulous Failures, and Creative Genres in Writing and the Arts*

**Instructor:** Carol Tell  
**Credits:** 1  
**Class Time:** Tuesdays 4:00pm-5:00pm  
**Location:** Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2060

You see how I try  
To reach with words  
What matters most  
And how I fail.  
- Czeslaw Milosz, “A Photograph”

College is a time not just to pursue a major or profession, but to ask big questions of ourselves and our world: Who are we? What do we want? How shall we live in the world? One essential way of understanding such questions is through writing and the arts. In this discussion-based seminar, we will explore how different writers and artists interpret such topics as identity, purpose, community, and aesthetics. We’ll think about labels like “success” and “failure,” and what it means to take an aesthetic risk. Yes, these are hefty subjects for a mini-course--but we’ll discuss and respond to them in concrete ways through specific pieces of writing and artwork. Each week we’ll examine a different genre--tv and film (Black Mirror to Black Swan), poetry and fiction (Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Kazuo Ishiguro), and music (Bob Dylan to Beyonce) and the visual arts. We’ll visit an art museum, attend a University performance, and explore the role of social media in writing and the arts. Along with short assignments and weekly blogging, students will produce their own creative, semester-long project in the genre of their choice.
LHSP 230.001: *Literary Journal Publishing and Editing*

**Instructor:** Alexander Weinstein  
**Class Time:** Thursdays 11:00am-2:00pm  
**Location:** Alice Lloyd Hall, Room 2060

In this class you will learn the necessary techniques to critically discuss poetry, fiction, non-fiction, art, and music in order to become successful editors. We will examine a wide variety of leading national and international literary magazines and small press journals, focusing our attention on the creative work of contemporary writers. Much of this class will focus on gaining experience in literary editing and publishing in order to produce your own literary and art journals and online magazines. During the semester the class will take field trips to the Duederstadt center, Hatcher Library, and Hollanders to become familiarized with the resources available to you on campus and in the community. You will learn to use Adobe Creative Suite programs (including Photoshop and InDesign) in order to gain the experience and confidence needed to produce your own journals. These workshops will lead to you creating your own posters (to advertise the LHSP Arts and Literary Journal), your own artistic/literary websites, and your own print journal. The class culminates with you designing and publishing your own printed literary journals.

LHSP 230.002: *Creative Communities*

**Instructor:** Mark Tucker  
**Credits:** 3  
**Class Time:** Fridays, 10:00am-2:00pm  
**Location:** Alice Lloyd Hall, Art Studio

Students in this class will co-design a creative community within the Lloyd Scholars Program for Writing and the Arts while collaborating and building community connections with students at Ypsilanti Community High School. Through inventive planning, organization, logistics, and implementation, students will have the opportunity to work together with other communities to experience first-hand what it takes to create their own relevant public arts exhibitions/performances/installations. Additionally, students will attend artist talks and performances and will disseminate these varied creative experiences via dynamic group discussions and written reflections.

*Note: LHSP 230.002 is limited to sophomore student leaders in the Lloyd Hall Scholars Program.*