

FAH101 (Fall 2014)**Writing Module Syllabus****Contact Information:**

Writing Instructor: Dr. Michael Kaler

Email: michael.kaler@utoronto.ca

Office: Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre, Room 390 of the UTM Library

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10am-11am

Course Description: The Writing Module for FAH101 has three related learning objectives: 1) to improve students' critical writing and reading skills; 2) to improve students' research skills; and 3) to improve students' knowledge of the conventions that are used when writing about visual studies. This series of writing tutorials is an endorsed initiative of the Department of Visual Studies. It is a mandatory component of FAH101 and it is worth 15% of the students' final grade.

All writing tutorials will be held once a week on Wednesdays from 11am to noon in DV2105F. There is no textbook for this part of the course. Students should also be prepared to write and engage in active discussion during every writing tutorial.

Assessment: Your mark for the Writing Module in FAH101 (15% of your final grade in the course) will be calculated in the following way:

- 5%: Revision of first FAH101 assignment
- 5%: Six short assignments (2 quizzes, 3 exercises, 1 assignment), 1% each and you are permitted to miss one without penalty, or drop your lowest one if you submitted all six. Assignments will be graded as follows: 1%: job done well; .5%: job done or mostly done, but with significant problems; 0%: job not done, mostly not done, or done extremely carelessly
- 5%: Writing Module Final Test

Every class will include in-class writing exercises, whether graded or not; homework will be assigned as well, some of which will be submitted. Writing exercises will usually be assigned as peer-learning activities and submitted to the instructor at the end of class.

In-Class Exercises: These will be as follows:

The *first* will draw on critical thinking skills by requiring you to break down course-related material according to what it says, and according to what it does in its context.

The *second* will draw on comprehension and presentation skills by requiring you to provide a summary and a paraphrase of a piece of course-related material.

The *third* will draw on collaborative and editing skills by requiring you to both give and receive peer feedback on the outline of your final paper.

Each of these exercises will take approximately 15-20 minutes.

First Assignment Revision: This will require students to revise their visual analysis assignment on the basis of feedback received. Students will be expected to submit the original assignment, the feedback, and the revised assignment.

Final Test: This test will cover everything from the beginning of term. It will include an in-class essay and will take the entire class.

Homework: Relevant readings and exercises will be posted on Blackboard throughout the term. You are strongly encouraged to complete the readings and exercises before coming to class.

Missed Tests or Assignments: Any student who has a valid reason for missing a Writing Test or Exercise should contact Dr. Kaler immediately and submit a completed “Student Medical Certificate” (available at <http://www.utoronto.ca/health/forms/medcert.pdf>) or other applicable documentation within 48 hours of the test date. Students who have valid reasons for missing a Test or Writing Exercise will be allowed to write a make-up.

Corresponding with Your Writing Instructor: Dr. Kaler can be contacted by email at michael.kaler@utoronto.ca, but email messages from students will **only** receive a response if:

- 1) The subject line includes the words “FAH101 Writing Module” and a brief description of email’s contents (for example, “FAH101 Test Question”)
- 2) The body of the email includes the student’s name and student number.
- 3) The email is from a “University of Toronto” address.

Please make an effort to be literate in your emails. We are trying to encourage good writing habits in this module, so we will not read or respond to messages that have many spelling mistakes, are riddled with slang expressions, or have no punctuation.

Writing Module Tutorial Schedule:

Date	Topics of Study	Assessment
Sept. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of module • Diagnostic • Basic grammar/sentence structure work 	
Sept. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of assignment • Formal analysis and the difference between description and analysis 	Description of your approach to the visual analysis 1%
Oct. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing and constructing arguments • Patterns of argumentation 	
Oct. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and working with primary and secondary sources (Barnet) • Critical reading 	Says/Does Exercise 1%
Oct. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quoting/summarizing/paraphrasing • Academic integrity 	Summarize/ Paraphrase Exercise 1%
Oct. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS style • Integrating citations 	
Oct. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising and editing • Reverse outlining • Auto-Critiquing 	Academic integrity quiz 1%
Nov. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using primary and secondary sources to support your own voice • Applying theory to art 	Visual analysis revision 5%
Nov. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis statements and thesis paragraphs • Outlining 	Material review quiz
Nov. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay structure • Paragraphing 	Peer review exercise 1%
Nov. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Test 	5%