**ENG 600**

**Fall 2023**

**Dr. Mackas**

**Office Location: Lawson 124-E**

**Email: maria.mackas@reinhardt.edu**

**Office Hours: TT 12:30-1:45 and by appointment**

**MFA Thesis Part I: The Critical Essay on Craft**

**(6 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** In this class, students work on-on-one with a mentor in writing a 40-page (minimum) critical essay on a craft element in the work of a selected writer (or writers) in their genre.     The student will produce a research-based paper in which he or she crafts an original argument about the writer’s use of a certain craft element and supports his or her argument with quotations from scholarly secondary sources.  Students are expected to write using the conventions of formal academic prose, including correct use of quotations and citations in MLA style.  Students will combine a close reading of the primary texts by their chosen writer with relevant points made by other critics.   The critical essay will be graded on the originality and complexity of the student’s analysis; the quality of the student’s research; the use of the conventions of academic writing, including organization, structure, quotations and citations; and the quality of the student’s prose, including elements such as syntax, diction and style.

 The student will submit monthly portfolios of work to the mentor for comments and will revise in response to the mentor’s suggestions.   The student and the mentor will draft a timetable of due dates and logistical processes at the beginning of each semester.

**Grades:**

Critical Essay 100%

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate mastery of structure and form in their chosen genre.

Means of Assessment: critical essay

1. Demonstrate mastery of style, including diction, syntax and tone.

Means of Assessment: critical essay

1. Demonstrate mastery of image in concrete description and figurative language.

Means of Assessment: critical essay

1. Demonstrate mastery of character, point of view and voice.

Means of Assessment: critical essay

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze craft elements in literary works within their chosen genre.

Means of Assessment: critical essay

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct and document scholarly research

Means of Assessment: critical essay

**Schedule:**

**August 4: Updated Detailed Outline including thesis statement, outline of chapters, and texts to be studied**

**Aug 28: Chapter 1 Draft (10-page minimum) and Works Cited Page**

**Sept 25: Chapter 2 Draft (10-page minimum) and revised Chapter 1 and Works Cited Page**

**Oct 23: Chapter 3 Draft (10-page minimum) and revised Chapter 2 and Works Cited Page**

**Nov 20: Chapter 4 Draft (10-page minimum) and revised Chapter 3 and Works Cited Page**

**[After I send you comments on your Chapter 4 Draft you may still need to make some changes before submitting the final and complete version to Bill Walsh.]**