



MarymountManhattan

Writ 102 Spring 2026 Blurbs
Academic Writing Program

In-Person Sections:

Writ 102.1 (Fridays, 8:30-11:21) IN-PERSON

TBA

TBA

Writ 102.2 (Tuesdays, 10:00-12:51) IN-PERSON

Prof. Kirk Quinsland

TBA

Writ 102.3 (Fridays, 11:30-2:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Alexandre Moudrov

Tributes to Classical Mythology in Science and Art

The course invites you to practice your writing skills while studying classical mythology and its impact on art and science. As we will see, classical myths inspired generations of artists and scientists to try to understand and celebrate human experience. As a point of departure, we will use Ovid's collection *Metamorphoses*, where we can find such compelling characters as Narcissus, Arachne, Pyramus and Thisbe and Orpheus (whose story inspired *Hadestown*). Our writing assignments and class discussions will take us beyond this book to look at how later painters, sculptors, poets, and scientists responded to classical myths. Students are encouraged to focus on the areas that interest them in a final 8-10 page research paper.

Writ 102.4 (M/W 11:30-12:51) IN-PERSON

Writ 102.5 (M/W 1:00-2:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Isabella Bartels

Pop Culture and Media

The movies, television, social media, books, and music we consume are not made by accident; pop culture both represents and creates important truths about society. In this class, we'll examine how pop culture, society, and cultural theory construct our interests, experiences, and cultural inequities. Throughout the class, we'll critically examine multimedia texts and inquire into academic sources which analyze these texts. Assignments will guide students to develop their own research question about a specific pop culture phenomenon and social issue, culminating in an 8-10 page research paper.

Writ 102.6 (Mondays, 2:30-5:21) IN-PERSON

***Environmental Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Jonathan Rachmani

The Uncanny Valley: Art and Reality in the Modern Age

In our time, technological, social, and political upheavals have meant that each new generation needs to rethink what it means to be alive in fundamental ways. This has opened a new imaginative realm of utopian possibilities and dystopian terrors. To aid us in exploring these potentials, we will read short stories by writers such as Ursula K. Le Guin, Samuel Delaney, and Jorge Luis Borges, watch films such as *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, *12 Monkeys*, and *Children of Men*, and discuss non-fiction writings on contemporary social questions such as the politics of Tik-Tok, the changing role of art, and the commodification of the self. This class will help you to gain a new level of confidence and skill in your academic writing and specifically in addressing complex social, political, and artistic concerns. Students will design and write a 10-page final research project on a related subject of their choice.

Writ 102.7 (Wednesdays, 2:30-5:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Vincent Giordano

Medieval Fables, Myths, and Performance

Allegories and myth dominate much medieval literature: such stories can fascinate, incite, and moralize all at once. In this course, students will read, write, and do research on these texts. Together, we will trace depiction, development, and change in different popular texts, stretching from poems and stories about Robin Hood, to animal fables in the tradition of Aesop, to allegorical plays with “Death” among the cast. Through these topics, this course will develop students' research skills through the selection of research topics, the use of a variety of research resources and their evaluation, and culminate in an 8-10 page research paper on a topic of your own design, engaging on at least one of our class texts.

Writ 102.8 (Mondays, 5:50-8:41) IN-PERSON

***Environmental Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Darius Phelps

Writing as Resistance, Reflection, & Renewal

In this class, we treat writing as more than a skill—it's a way of seeing, questioning, and reimagining the world around us. Whether you're working within your field of study or exploring new disciplines, you will learn to write with both precision and courage. Together, we'll examine how identity, power, and perspective shape the stories we tell and the knowledge we create. You'll experiment with multiple forms culminating in a final research project—memoir, poetry, research, remix—because writing doesn't live in a single box. You'll also be asked to slow down, reflect, and care for your well-being, because your mind and body are part of the writing process. Here, revision is not punishment—it's liberation. Your voice matters, and this course is designed to help it grow stronger, braver, and truer with every page you write. By the end of the semester, you won't just leave with polished pieces; you'll leave with a deeper understanding of how to use writing to resist silence, reflect on your journey, and renew both your craft and your sense of self.

Writ 102.9 (T/TH 2:30-3:51) IN-PERSON

Prof. Vincent Giordano

Medieval Fables, Myths, and Performance

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Writ 102.10 (Fridays, 2:30-5:21) IN-PERSON

Prof. Alexandre Moudrov

Tributes to Classical Mythology in Science and Art

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Writ 102.11 (M/W 2:30-3:51) IN-PERSON

Prof. Patrick McCarthy

Society Through Film

The Hollywood film industry prides itself on capturing and presenting an image of America, turning it into a product that it sells to the world. This Writing course is designed to acquaint students with academic research and documentation techniques and stimulate their spirit of inquiry. We will practice these skills on the subject of American society throughout the 20th century and how it was represented in contemporary popular film; and will design and complete a final research project on the topic. Readings include essays on cinema by renowned critics and writers such as Pauline Kael, Roger Ebert and William Goldman; as well as film reviews, historical and contemporary, and analyses of the industry and its impact on the nation. We will also look at movies that obsessed previous generations but are forgotten today...and ask why. By researching films and texts, we will explore the complex cause-and-effect relationship between the visionaries who make movies, and the society that both enjoys and inspires their work.

Online Sections

Writ 102.OL1 (T/TH 10:00-11:21) ONLINE

Writ 102.OL2 (T/TH 11:30-12:51) ONLINE

***Environmental Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. Diana Epelbaum

AI & Writing about Writing

The theme for this course, *AI & Writing about Writing*, introduces you to scholarship in Writing Studies as a jumping-off point to your own research inquiries in this field. This semester, we will narrow our focus to AI in Writing Studies, and specifically the role of AI in writing, reading, critical thinking, and in higher education more broadly. We select research questions to pursue that lead us through a bottom-up, inquiry-based, ethical research process—researching AI while also navigating AI—culminating in an 8-10 page research paper. “Writing about writing” will challenge you to think about yourself as a writer in ways that you haven’t before, transitioning you into college-level writing through key concepts that will transfer to your discipline and to contexts and situations beyond the classroom, including the professional and personal.

Writ 102.OL3 (M/W 8:30-9:51) ONLINE

Writ 102.OL4 (T/TH 5:50-7:11) ONLINE

***Environmental Social Justice Academy Linked**

Prof. A.W. Strouse

Conflict in Space & Place

In this course, we will critically read and write about spaces and places. We will pay particular attention to how arguments emerge within spaces and places, and how spaces and places embed social and political conflicts. Many of our course readings will examine how geography is shaped by political-economic forces. And we will study how writers have written about places. Throughout the semester, we will each write a research paper (8-10 pgs.) that explores the conflicts within a particular space.