Graduate Proseminar  
Spring 2016  
ENG 350a

Prof. Sherman  
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office: Rabb 136  
office hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00, Friday 10:00-12:00, and by appointment

Class Schedule:  
Irregular Tuesdays, 9:30-10:50  
Rabb 119

This spring proseminar continues the fall 2015 proseminar, ENG 350a. We will address social and professional aspects of academic work in literary and cultural studies. Our series of discussions and workshops will cover skills useful for scholarship, practical issues involving graduate school, and institutional questions about academic and related work. Our discussion format is intended to be flexible enough to accommodate a wide range of student concerns and interests, so I invite you to help shape our conversations throughout the year.

Assignments:
Paper or Project Proposal: A proposal, in one or two paragraphs, for a paper, editorial project, or other academic, intellectual, and/or pedagogical project that interests you. You can propose a seminar paper, conference paper, essay submission to a journal, special issue for a journal, conference or conference panel, database, digital humanities project, or other project or event involving literary and cultural studies. The due date is open; you can turn in this proposal anytime before our last session on April 12. Each proposal will be shared with the class for in-class feedback and further brainstorming.
Hypothetical Reading or Working Group: A description, in about a page, of a hypothetical reading or working group that you might like to develop. This description can involve a central question or theme, a field designation, a reading list or set of sub-lists, a set of activities or exercises, and other elements of this group’s work. Feel free to play with your descriptions of where and when this group will meet, how it will take up its work, what it will make or do, and why people will want to participate in it. Due March 15.

Schedule:
Jan 26: Seminar Papers, Aftermath and Beginnings. Converting Seminar Papers into Conference Papers.

Feb 2: Academic Labor
Laurence, “The Job Market and Graduate Education” [LATTE]
Downing, “Ethical Conundrums: Institutional Pressure and Graduate Student Needs in the Era of Contingency” [LATTE]
Bousquet, How the University Works, ch. 1 (required) and ch. 6 (recommended) [LATTE]

Feb 9: Two Academic Sub-Genres: the CV, the Fellowship Proposal
Presentation by John Plotz

March 1: Humanities in the World
Weisbuch, “The Humanities at Work” [LATTE]
Barthes, “Blind and Dumb Criticism” [LATTE]

**March 15: What Is a Field, and How Do You Participate in One?**
*Hypothetical Reading or Working Group Due*
Presentation by Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman

**March 22: Field Exams**
Presentations by Jenny Thomas and Matt Schratz

**April 5: Graduate Conference Debrief, or, How and Why to Participate in Graduate Conferences. With Additional Notes about the Second-Year Symposium.**

**April 12: Seminar Paper Workshop**