This course is designed for new graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences. We will focus primarily on academic texts that include literature reviews (e.g., journal articles, dissertations, theses, grant proposals, or stand-alone reviews). The course will also provide instruction in writing important secondary genres (e.g., reading responses, conference proposals, personal statements, and correspondence with advisors, committee members, and editors). We will analyze and discuss genres particular to graduate academic life, the role of these genres in graduate education, and the habits and practices that contribute to successful academic careers. The course will also provide guided instructions on revising and editing your own work and providing useful, constructive feedback on your peers’ work. Class sessions will function like writing workshops where we will work toward developing positive, productive writing experiences and demystifying the writing process.

Instructor: Dr. Kathie Gossett

Dr. Gossett earned her PhD in Writing Studies from the University of Illinois. She has been teaching writing at the graduate and undergraduate level for 25 years. She has advised many graduate students from coursework through completion of theses and dissertations. She currently directs the Graduate Writing Services in the University Writing Program.