

Business & Society: P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I.

FALL QUARTER WRITING

§ The Evolving Seminar Paper

¶ Each week, relevant to seminar texts, you will submit a typed analytical response that will grow through revision from week to week, somewhat in preparation for your synthesis paper and possibly your winter quarter work. Our expectation is that you write approximately 2 pages of new material each week, integrating that new material as much as possible into what you've already written. Thus, Week One, you will submit 2 pages of material; in week Two, 4 pages, then 6 pages, and so on.

¶ What you actually submit will change to suit the schedule and will sometimes include an additional component: *The Revision Strategy*. A Revision Strategy is a short discussion of *peer feedback* you've received followed by *your analysis* of your work and how you plan to continue developing your ideas *and* your writing skills.

¶ When faculty review your work during "Revision Strategy" weeks, they will focus on the Strategy and your ability to discuss your work critically and constructively.

all papers due friday unless otherwise indicated

WEEK 1 — Seminar Paper Due

WEEK 2 — Seminar Paper Due

WEEK 3 — Seminar Paper *with Revision Strategy*

WEEK 4 — Seminar Paper Due

WEEK 5 — Seminar Paper *with Revision Strategy*

— *Begin Synth Proposal*

— Synthesis Workshop (friday)

WEEK 6 — Synthesis Proposal Due (*no Sem paper*)

WEEK 7 — *Organized Notes for seminar—on Senge*

WEEK 8 — Synthesis Paper Due (*bring 5 copies to seminar on Wednesday*)

WEEK 9 — Seminar Paper Due in Portfolio

(*only new material [Invisible Cities]; need not be integrated*)

WEEK 10 — No paper due (working on evals)

§ SYNTHESIS PAPER

Goals — The purpose of writing a synthesis paper is to integrate and revise ideas from seminar, your seminar papers, lecture, and independent research to create a **formal, thesis-driven** paper of interest to a definable **audience**. Your work will be **evaluated** based on formal and technical qualities and on your ability to effectively (and substantially) use course materials to support a clear, organized, and relevant argument.

Thesis — A thesis is a statement—in direct answer to a meaningful question—that contains a focused claim and the primary supports for your claim that organize the essay. You might consider program themes, responses to specific texts, or your own research ideas (supported through program texts) as prompts toward a thesis. "Thesis-Driven" means that the organizational scheme of the paper is clearly driven by the ideas and connections suggested by the thesis. A paper that is not "thesis-driven" will lack the clarity of organization and argument required. At the beginning of your paper, you will include a thesis "abstract," a paragraph stating and briefly elaborating on your thesis statement.

Research — You should expect the research required for the synthesis paper to be an extension of the readings and other program work. We do not recommend the pursuit of entirely new avenues of inquiry. Ideally, as you conduct independent research each week, you will be able to build that work toward the synthesis paper. In any case, the final draft of your paper should exhibit the fruits of considerable study of your topic and the literature surrounding it, including a familiarity with major thinkers, concepts, historical cases, and current information.

Synthesis, Argument, Relevance, Audience — A synthesis of program readings presumes that our program readings constitute a reasonable collection of texts that one might read to prepare an essay. As is natural, you needn't use every text, and you may find some far more useful than others. Your thesis should be arguable, that is, worth talking about and supporting because it targets an issue about which people can reasonably disagree. A written argument is simultaneously an attempt to persuade your audience and a process of seeking the truth of the matter. Your argument will be relevant insofar as it deals with critical ideas from our texts and current conversations in business, ethics, management, economics, etc. and appeals to a real and definable audience. A simple way of imagining a real audience is to write as if for an existing scholarly or professional journal.

Format

Cover Page: Name / Date Submitted / Seminar Leader
Thesis *Abstract*

Text begins at the top of page 1.

1" margins.

12 point seriffed font. 1.5 line-spacing

Length: 5-7 pages

MLA citations throughout

Works Cited at end of paper

Following your final draft, include all other process materials, including critiques of your peers' papers, self-critique, drafts, outlines, etc.