Library Instruction: English ProSeminar 41500

☐ Identify a topic.

Elizabeth Bishop and the sestina
Lycidas and elegiac traditions
T.S. Eliot's The Wasteland
Philip Larkin

☐ Find an overview of the topic


☐ Refine and, if necessary, narrow your topic and begin to form a thesis:

- Keats' "Grecian Urn" seeks human perfection.
- How do theological readings of Elizabeth Bishop's "A Miracle for Breakfast," enrich our understanding of the poem?
- Depression and the poetry of Philip Larkin

☐ Search the STL Catalog for books on your topic.

Choose *subject begins with* or *subject words* if you are fairly certain your topic is a Library of Congress subject heading:

- Eliot, T.S. (Thomas Stearns), 1885-1965 —Wasteland
- Bishop, Elizabeth—criticism and interpretation
- Poststructuralism
- Novel - history

OR Choose *word(s) anywhere* if you are uncertain about the subject heading:

- Shakespeare sonnet?
- Philip Larkin criticism
- Sestina?
- Elizabeth Bishop criticism

Use *Advanced search* feature to combine search terms or search specific collections or format: *Poetry* (to capture singular and plural) and select *reference collection PMLA* and change format to *journals*
For journal articles and other critical information, consult the **Databases** on the STL web page at [http://lib.newpaltz.edu/](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/)

- **Expanded Academic (InfoTrac)**: multi-disciplinary source for locating journal articles, some full-text (may limit search to “peer-reviewed” journals)
- **Academic Search Premier**: aggregate database with full text (Limit to "peer-reviewed" journals if desired.)
- **Gale Literature Resource Center**: full-text criticism from reference sources and journals of main-stream authors and works
- **JSTOR**: great resource for full text of archived articles from scholarly journals. (Use expert search and select a collection or collections when using this database). Remember that there is a three to five year embargo on the most recent titles.
- **New York Times Historical (Proquest)**: full text from 1851 - 2001
- **OED online**: Oxford English Dictionary
- **ProQuest Direct**: aggregate database with some full text (Limit to "scholarly" journals.)
- **Twayne Author Series**: online version of the print series of books
- **MLA**: Citations and abstracts of journal articles in the fields of literature, language, linguistics and folklore published by the Modern Language Association.
- **Wilson Select Plus** (full text of Reader's Guide, Humanities Index, etc.)
- **WorldCat**: materials in other libraries

See **Find it at New Paltz SFX/Serials Solutions** for access to full text of your journal article.

If your article is not available, either in print, in microform or online, you may request it via Interlibrary Loan (ILLIAD).

Some good source materials:

- *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms* [Ref PN 44.5 .M86 1998]
- *A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory* [Ref PN44.5.H37 2000]

Remember to evaluate Internet sites according to: authority, objectivity, currency, coverage.