This course is designed as a one credit course to be taken concomitant with any other course in the postdoc program or as an independent study project. It serves as an opportunity to write about a particular topic or question either emerging within another course taken at the same time as this course, or, as an independent writing project. It is unique to the program as it offers 6 classes in which candidates are able to compare and contrast their writing over time and with each other.

The course has a coordinator (Steven Knoblauch) whose role it is to oversee the course across semesters. For any one semester an instructor is chosen from one track with the tracks rotating turns for this role. The role of the instructor is to facilitate a class in which candidates are able to offer samples of their writing projects and receive assistance from the instructor and class members regarding form, style and any other aspects of paper structure. Additionally, candidates are helped to develop voice, formulate clinical narrative, and integrate research and past contributions from the field to the writer’s topic.

As an additional dimension of assistance and also, as a way to insure that each candidate can get help from a faculty member with writing experience in the particular theoretical background in which the candidate is interested no matter what particular orientation of the instructor in a particular semester, a new role of writing mentor exists as part of this course. A writing mentor is a faculty member who has published in a psychoanalytic journal, written a psychoanalytic book or served in an editorial capacity for a psychoanalytic journal. A pool of potential mentors has been developed by each track and made available to candidates. The writing mentor offers at least 4 writing supervision sessions at the current supervisory rate (more sessions could be scheduled at the discretion of the supervisor and candidate, but 4 would be the minimum requirement).