Course Description:

In ENGL 496 you will pursue an extensive research project in literary or cultural studies, culminating in a substantial scholarly essay. The course will help you develop your research and writing skills, as you will have an opportunity to explore in depth a particular topic that interests you. If you are considering graduate school in English or a related field, you will find this course especially useful as you work on a writing sample to support your application.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should develop an authoritative understanding of a topic within English studies, based on research, evaluation, analysis, and written and oral presentation. Through the assignments, you should be able to demonstrate

- awareness of academic discourse and research on a particular topic.
- skills of research, analysis, argumentative development, and critical thinking.
- appropriate tone, style, and sentence structure of academic writing, including synthesis of research.
- command of academic written English and conventions of documenting research.
- proficiency in oral presentation of research, analysis, explication, and argument.

Writing:

Abstract for Exploratory Essay (250 words)

Exploratory Essay (5 pages)

Article Analysis (5 pages, double-spaced)

Annotated Preliminary Bibliography (10 entries, minimum 50 words each)

Conference Paper (10 pages)

Revised Abstract for Research Essay (500 words)

Oral Presentation on Research (15-20 minutes plus discussion)

Research Essay (20-25 pages, double-spaced, with appropriate documentation)

Assignments:

Tues., January 15: Course Introduction
Thurs, Jan. 17: Selecting a Topic

Tues., Jan. 22: Selecting a Topic
Thurs, Jan. 24: How To Do An Abstract

Tues., Jan. 29: Argumentation and Evidence; Abstract due
Thurs., Jan. 31: Introductions

Tues., Feb. 5: Conclusions
Thurs., Feb. 7: Research Methods; 5 Page Exploratory Essay due

Grading

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

5% Abstract for Exploratory Essay
10% Exploratory Essay
5% Article Analysis
10% Annotated Preliminary Bibliography
10% Conference Paper
5% Revised Abstract
10% Oral Presentation
45% Final Research Essay

Attendance: You are allowed three absences in this class. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.
Tues., Feb. 12: Research Methods
Thurs, Feb. 14: How To Do An Article Analysis

Tues., Feb. 19: How To Do An Annotated Bibliography; Article Analysis due
Thurs., Feb. 21: Day Off

Tues., Feb. 26: Documentation Format
Thurs., Feb. 28: Incorporating Research; Annotated Bibliography due

Tues., March 4: Individual Conferences
Thurs., March 6: Individual Conferences

Tues., March 11: Individual Conferences

Tues., March 18: Revising and Editing
Thurs., March 20: Oral Presentations

Spring Break

Tues., April 1: Oral Presentations
Thurs., April 3: Oral Presentations

Tues., April 8: Oral Presentations
Thurs. April 10: Oral Presentations; Revised Abstract due

Tues., April 15: Individual Conferences
Thurs. April 17: Individual Conferences

Tues, April 22: Individual conferences
Thurs., April 24: Individual conferences

Tues., April 29: No class
Thurs, May 1: Final Paper due
ENGL 496 Senior Thesis

Assessment rubric for thesis

Semester: ________  Student: __________________________________________

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>failing</th>
<th>below average</th>
<th>average</th>
<th>above average</th>
<th>excellent</th>
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<td><strong>Context:</strong> The thesis demonstrates awareness of academic discourse and research on its topic.</td>
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<td><strong>Content:</strong> The thesis demonstrates skills of research, analysis, argumentative development, and critical thinking.</td>
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<td><strong>Style:</strong> The thesis demonstrates appropriate tone, style, and sentence structure of academic writing, including synthesis of research.</td>
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<td><strong>Format/Conventions:</strong> The thesis demonstrates command of academic written English and conventions of documenting research.</td>
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