

ENGL 496.C02—Senior Thesis (Capstone)—Spring 2010
MWF 1:30-2:20 PM
Colson G10

Prof. Adam Komisaruk
Mailbox: 100 Colson Hall
Office: 217 Colson Hall
Office Hours: MT 2:30-4:00 PM + by appointment

Office Phone: (304) 293-9724
Cel Phone: (304) 216-7156
E-mail: akomisar@wvu.edu

I will also be in the English Advising Office (118 Colson, phone [304] 293-9740) at the following times: MW 9:00-10:15 AM, F 9:00-10:30 AM. Please note that my advisees will take precedence during these hours.

Texts (available at Mountainlair Bookstore and Book Exchange)

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (New York: MLA, 2009)

Course Objectives

- Building an original research essay in the field of literary and cultural studies, in which you will demonstrate: an awareness of academic conversations; skills in research, interpretation and argumentation; an appropriate tone and style; a command of documentation conventions
- Reinforcing the goals of previous writing and literature courses: generating and refining a topic; finding, evaluating and incorporating research sources; constructing a critical argument; revising for style and structure
- Gaining confidence in giving and responding to constructive criticism

Prerequisites

- English 101 and 102 (or the equivalent)
- At least one 300-level English course, preferably in literary or cultural studies

Requirements

- Attendance at all class sessions. More than three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
- Frequent one-page exercises, on assorted tasks leading up to the final paper. These exercises, approximately one per week, are to be completed at home and submitted at the beginning of the following class. Missed exercises cannot be made up and will be recorded as a “zero.” Collectively, approx. 15% of course grade.
- This course will culminate in an original, properly documented literary research paper of approx. 20 pages. The research paper will constitute approx. 70% of your course grade. Of this portion, the initial prospectus will count 5%, the annotated bibliography 15%, the 10-page version of the paper 25%, the revised prospectus 5% and the 20-page version 50%. The 10- and 20-page versions will each be weighted 25% for the rough draft, 75% for the final draft. Each draft will receive a separate grade for style (30%), content (50%) and accuracy of documentation (20%).
- Your overall attitude, class participation, contribution to workshops, etc. will make up the remaining 15% of your course grade.

Schedule of Meetings

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|--|
| 1 | M | 1/11 | Introduction |
| 1 | W | 1/13 | What do we do when we do literary and cultural studies? |
| 1 | F | 1/15 | What makes a topic viable?
LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS |
| 2 | M | 1/18 | MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY—NO CLASS |
| 2 | W | 1/20 | Developing a research prospectus |
| 2 | F | 1/22 | Using electronic databases |
| 3 | M | 1/25 | Using electronic databases |
| 3 | T | 1/26 | INITIAL PROSPECTUS DUE 4 PM |
| 3 | W | 1/27 | Workshop on prospectuses |
| 3 | F | 1/29 | Writing an annotated bibliography |
| 4 | M | 2/1 | Giving credit where credit is due: documentation |
| 4 | W | 2/3 | Using special sources |
| 4 | R | 2/4 | ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE 4 PM |
| 4 | F | 2/5 | Using special sources |
| 5 | M | 2/8 | Finding an original approach |
| 5 | W | 2/10 | Finding an appropriate structure |
| 5 | F | 2/12 | Giving credit where credit is due: quotation |
| 6 | M | 2/15 | Individual conferences |
| 6 | W | 2/17 | Individual conferences |
| 6 | F | 2/19 | Individual conferences |
| 7 | M | 2/22 | Individual conferences |
| 7 | W | 2/24 | Individual conferences |
| 7 | F | 2/26 | NO CLASS—10-PAGE ROUGH DRAFT DUE |
| 8 | M | 3/1 | Revising for structure |
| 8 | W | 3/3 | Revising for style |
| 8 | F | 3/5 | Rough-draft troubleshooting |
| 9 | M | 3/8 | Rough-draft troubleshooting |
| 9 | W | 3/10 | Rough-draft troubleshooting |
| 9 | R | 3/11 | 10-PAGE FINAL DRAFT DUE |
| 9 | F | 3/12 | Oral presentation of research |
| 10 | M | 3/15 | Oral presentation of research |
| 10 | W | 3/17 | Oral presentation of research |
| 10 | F | 3/19 | Oral presentation of research
LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS |
| 11 | M | 3/22 | Oral presentation of research |
| 11 | T | 3/23 | REVISED PROSPECTUS DUE |
| 11 | W | 3/24 | Discussion of revised prospectuses |

11 F 3/26 **NO CLASS**

M 3/29 **SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS**
W 3/31 **SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS**
F 4/2 **SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS**

12 M 4/5 Individual conferences
12 W 4/7 Individual conferences
12 F 4/9 Individual conferences

13 M 4/12 Individual conferences
13 W 4/14 Individual conferences
13 F 4/16 Individual conferences

14 M 4/19 **NO CLASS—20-PAGE ROUGH DRAFT DUE**
14 W 4/21 Workshop on rough drafts
14 F 4/23 Workshop on rough drafts

15 M 4/26 Workshop on rough drafts
15 W 4/28 Workshop on rough drafts
15 F 4/30 Workshop on rough drafts

R 5/6 20-PAGE FINAL DRAFT DUE