

English 496: Senior Thesis, Spring 2008 (Section C01)

Professor Dennis Allen
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:20
and by appointment

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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.

Textbook: Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. NY: Modern Language Association, 2003.

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**



Attendance: You are allowed three absences in this class. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.

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

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
Thurs., March 13: Strategies for Oral Presentations; **10 Page Conference Paper due**

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: _____

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