

ENGL 496: Capstone for Literary & Cultural Studies

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Professor Farina

The “Capstone” is so called because it builds on the knowledge and skills that you have acquired in your English classes, but challenges you to take your expertise in the field to a new level. In this course, you will learn how to pursue an extensive research project in literary or cultural studies, culminating in a substantial scholarly essay. We will take a step-by-step approach to discussing what needs to happen for you to produce a knowledgeable, articulate, interesting research essay. Topics to be covered include:

- choosing a text and topic
- devising research questions
- researching textual criticism and historical context
- reviewing sources and compiling bibliographies
- citation formats and scholarly standards
- outlining, drafting, and revising longer essays
- presenting work for peer review



With Enough Coffee, Anything Is Possible!

Required Books:

- Peter Ackroyd, *The Plato Papers: A Prophecy* (Penguin).
- Claire Kehrwald Cook, *Line By Line: How to Edit Your Own Writing* (MLA).
- *How We Write*, ed. Suzanne Conklin Akbari (Punctum), free or donation online at: <http://punctumbooks.com/titles/how-we-write/>).

Note: We will be using Peter Ackroyd's short novel, *The Plato Papers*, as an example text for research. You must have it at the beginning of the semester. Any additional readings will be posted to ecampus or available online.

Course Requirements:

- class participation (5 points)
- three, 5-page "progressive" essays (10 points each)
- annotated bibliography (15 points)
- article review (10 points)
- draft and revision of 20-page essay (30 points)
- oral presentation of research (10 points)

The 20-page research essay will be on a text and topic of your own choosing. Alternatively, you may write on *The Plato Papers*, if you wish. The 5-page progressive essays will also be on your chosen text and topic, and may be used as sections of the 20-page paper, though they will most likely need some reworking in the process.

Because keeping on time is an essential part of long projects, I will not accept late assignments. You must complete the progressive essays, the annotated bibliography, and the draft and revision of the 20-page essay to pass the course. Failure to submit any one of these will result in failure of the course. There are no "extra credit" opportunities for you to make up missed work.

I will post your grades (as points) to ecampus throughout the semester. There are 100 possible points in the class; a point-to-letter grade scale can be found here: http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/EdLicense/StudentTeaching/grade_scale.pdf .

Course Policies:

Attendance: We will be meeting both as a whole class and in small work groups throughout the semester, but much of your work will be done independently. For that reason, there is no attendance policy. However, you miss class at your own

peril. Not showing up will mean that you miss opportunities to workshop your material, receive editing help, and figure out how research efficiently.

Plagiarism: All written work submitted for credit in this class must be produced by you for this class and must be in your own words. Any language you use from other sources, including your own previous work, must be properly cited. That means that you may not: 1) turn in something that someone else has written or partially written, 2) “copy” another piece of writing without citing it, or 3) turn in written work that you have submitted for another class. Plagiarism on the research essay may result in an “Unforgivable F” for the course.

Social Justice: WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Disruption of this environment may lead to dismissal from the class.

Special Accommodations: Please let me know at the beginning of the semester if you expect that a condition such as a learning disability will require you to make special arrangements (such as individual meetings with me). These can be accommodated with advance notice.

Contact Information:

My office is 335 Colson Hall (3rd floor, front corner). I encourage you to come see me individually about your projects. Email me to make an appointment: I am available most times M-F. If I have announcements, I will email you via e-campus.

Kelly Diamond (kdiamond@wvu.edu) is the designated librarian for the English Department, and can help you with research queries. You might also want to take advantage of the Eberly Writing Studio in Colson Hall (<http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writing-studio>).

Schedule:

Tu. 1/12	Introduction/brainstorming
Th. 1/14	<i>How We Write</i> : Sharp, Holsinger, Godden
Tu. 1/19	<i>The Plato Papers</i> , to p. 93; identifying topics
Th. 1/21	<i>The Plato Papers</i> , to end; devising research questions
Tu. 1/26	small group conferences
Th. 1/28	small group conferences

Tu. 2/2	<u>5-page progressive essay due</u> ; peer review; idea maps
Th. 2/4	finding sources: text, author, genre, context
Tu. 2/9	no class
Th. 2/11	effective quotation, paraphrasing and summarizing
Tu. 2/16	<u>Article Review due; peer review</u>
Th. 2/18	no class
Tu. 2/23	<u>5-page Progressive Essay due</u>
Th. 2/25	outlining and sequence of argument; paragraph organization
Tu. 3/1	no class: <u>Annotated Bibliography due</u>
Th. 3/3	optional conferences
Tu. 3/8	small group conferences
Th. 3/10	small group conferences
Tu. 3/15	editing, <i>Line-by-Line</i> , 1-17, 75-81, 88-94
Th. 3/17	introductions and conclusions (bring draft intro)
Tu. 3/29	<u>5-page progressive essay due</u>
Th. 3/31	no class
Tu. 4/5	small group conferences: revision plans
Th. 4/7	small group conferences: revision plans
4/12	<u>Draft of 20-page Essay due; peer review</u>
4/14	strategies for oral presentation; editing, <i>Line-by-Line</i> , 108-131
4/19	10-minute presentations
4/21	10-minute presentations
4/26	<i>How We Write</i> : Gillespie, Mittman, etc.
4/28	final class meeting: <u>Revision of 20-page Essay due</u>