

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

ENGL 49943 Capstone

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): Senior Standing and RHET 32053 Textual Research Methods; or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024rhett 2863

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Students will synthesize, integrate, and/or apply their previous knowledge and skills in the creation of a professional portfolio to include a sustained, article length paper/project or its equivalent creative or digital project.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate a particular aspect of literary studies, cultural studies, rhetorical studies, or pedagogy using the tools of literary theory, cultural studies, or rhetorical theory.
2. Establish a thesis, conduct original research, and write a sustained scholarly article length research paper/project or its creative/digital equivalent conforming to disciplinary standards that can be used for publication or as a sample of their work to use when applying for graduate school or employment.
3. Employ critical abilities in successive drafts and peer reviews of a sustained, longer writing project.
4. Exemplify mastery of writing skills and research skills in presenting the results of their portfolio and sustained article length research papers/projects.
5. Explore academic journals and other publication venues and their requirements.
6. Select and use appropriate MLA, APA, or other format and documentation.
7. Construct a professional portfolio of appropriate texts and/or media completed while in the program that also demonstrates evidence of meeting PLOs.
8. Develop an understanding of the meaning, significance, and application of their degree through reflection.

9. Prepare for graduate study, graduate school admissions, the job market, or other professional endeavors through the development of professional documents.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Project topics determined by student.
- B. Reiteration and reinforcement of research and writing skills learned in the program.
- C. Developing a longer writing project.
- D. Preparation of a text and/or media for publication or as a sample of their work
- E. Completing an exemplary research/ writing sample.
- F. Selection of appropriate texts and/or media to include in a program portfolio.
- G. Portfolio construction and reflection.
- H. Identification of skills and abilities demonstrated in their work.
- I. Analysis of various perspectives on the meaning and significance of their degree.
- J. Understanding current issues and trends in the field and related fields.
- K. Development of professional portfolio, to include a philosophy of teaching (for B.S. candidates) or a statement of purpose (for B.A. candidates).
- L. Development of resume/CV.
- M. Understanding graduate school expectations and admissions processes, deadlines, requirements, and testing.
- N. Finding jobs relevant to the degree.
 - O. Learning to market the degree and skill sets in professional venues.