

The Senior English Thesis (ENGL 404)

Description:

- A scholarly research project that merits extended study/preparation and lends itself to a longer paper.
- For English majors seeking education licensure, a scholarly research project as defined above OR a scholarly research project with a pedagogical focus and which is linked to a text(s) the student will be teaching during his or her spring semester senior year.
- Senior Honors Thesis (See description of the Senior Honors Thesis for further detail).

In exceptional cases, the department will consider variations on the above options, but such decisions will be made on a case by case basis and will require a formal petition.

The Scholarly Research Thesis:

- This deeply researched thesis will be a least 20 pages in length. Students completing a senior thesis typically read and consult 10-20 sources and actively engage and cite at least seven of these sources in the final project. These sources must be scholarly, rigorous, and up-to-date. The scholarly project must be connected to an advanced English class previously taken by the student. The scholarly project must represent new and original work, but it may grow out of previous research completed in that advanced English course.

The Senior Thesis for Education Licensure Students option:

- The Education Licensure thesis option is composed of two parts:
 1. A collection of materials related to the instruction of the text(s) (i.e. lesson plans and reflections, writing assignments, in-class assignments, theoretical framework and rationale).
 2. The scholarly project. This project can take the form of the scholarly pedagogical essay (see MLA Approaches volumes for examples) or the form of a scholarly research paper that connects to the text and theme identified in the teaching unit. Students completing either one of these projects should typically read and consult 10-15 sources and actively engage and cite at least five of those sources in the final project. This project should be at least 15 pages in length.

Timeline and Process:

The Scholarly Research Thesis:

In September of the senior year, English majors will:

- Attend a group meeting with department chair to review requirements of the Senior Thesis.
- Consult with former and/or current instructors about area of interest to develop for the thesis.

In October of the senior year, English majors will:

- Submit to the English Department Administrative Assistant a two-page thesis proposal that includes a preliminary bibliography (minimum of five sources)

During fall registration, senior English majors will enroll in the Senior Tutorial. (The Senior Tutorial will have a once-a-week evening meeting time).

By early November of senior year, all senior English majors will be notified as to whether the submitted proposal is approved, approved with revisions, or not approved. If the proposal is approved with revisions or not approved, the English major must submit a new or revised proposal within two weeks. (This process continues until the proposal is approved).

In January of the senior year, senior English majors begin work on their theses, attending individual and/or group tutorial sessions with the instructor of the Senior Tutorial and attending scheduled group sessions at the time listed for the course.

In April, senior English majors present a 20-minute paper (@ 10 pages) based on their longer senior thesis in a senior symposium. (The grade on that presentation and on the senior portfolio will constitute the grade in the 405 capstone course.). Final senior research papers are due at the time specified in the Senior Tutorial syllabus; final papers are graded by the instructor of that course.

The Senior Thesis in English for Education Licensure Students option:

In spring semester of junior year, English majors seeking education licensure will meet with the chair of the English Department and minor advisor to review requirements for the Senior Thesis.

In late August or early September of the senior year, the English majors seeking education licensure will meet with their student teaching cooperating teachers to discuss thesis possibilities for spring student teaching. In mid- /late September of the senior year, English majors seeking education licensure will submit to the English Department Administrative Assistant a two-page thesis proposal that includes a preliminary bibliography (minimum of five sources).

By early/mid- October, English majors seeking education licensure will be notified as to whether the submitted proposal is approved, approved with revisions, or not approved. If the proposal is approved with revisions, the student must submit a new or revised proposal within two weeks. (This process continues until the proposal is approved.)

In October, student enrolls in Senior Tutorial for spring semester.

During the fall semester of the senior year, student conducts research related to senior project and explores topic with the instructor of "Reading and Writing in the Content Areas."

See above for remaining steps; same as scholarly research thesis.