

## The Senior English Capstone Overview: ENGL 405 and ENGL 404 or 499

### English Senior Thesis Options

**Pre-requisites for enrolling in ENGL 404:** ENGL 270, ENGL 280, ENGL 290, 8 credits of 300- level literature seminars, and declared English major.

- **All senior English majors** will complete a senior thesis, a scholarly research project on a work or works of literature that merit extended study/preparation. The traditional senior thesis, for most majors, will be 20-25 pages in length and explore literature or topics that grow out of a 300-level literature seminar.
  - **Course registration pathway for all majors not doing honors thesis:** Enroll in ENGL 404 (4 credits) and ENGL 405 (1 credit) in the Spring term of your senior year.
- **Option: English majors seeking education licensure may** opt to complete a slightly shorter senior thesis, similar otherwise to the traditional version described above, but supplemented by a packet of self-developed teaching artifacts and materials that complement the scholarly research project and prepare the student to teach the text(s) explored in their thesis.
  - 15-20 pages in length, plus
  - 5-10 pages of original instructional materials. May include, for example, learning outcomes and objectives, lesson plans and reflections, writing assignments, in-class assignments, theoretical framework and rationale.
  - Topics for this senior thesis option will also grow out of coursework in a 300-level literature seminar.
  - The text(s) studied in these projects might or might not be linked to a text(s) the student will be teaching during his or her spring semester senior year.
  - **Course Registration Pathway:** Same as above: Enroll in ENGL 404 (for 4 credits) and ENGL 405 (1 credit) in the Spring term of your senior year, while student teaching.
- **Students with a GPA of 3.5 or above may opt to complete a Senior Honors Thesis.** See description of the Senior Honors Thesis for further details.
  - **Course Registration Pathway:** Enroll in ENGL 499 in the fall and/or spring of your senior year (for up to 8 credits), and ENGL 405 (1 credit) in the Spring term.

*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.*

### English 405 (1 credit): Senior Exercises for All! Portfolio, Senior Symposium Presentation (Etc.)

Note that all senior thesis options, including the senior honors thesis, require enrollment in English 405, comprising the completion of a senior portfolio and a senior symposium presentation, which are supported through a series of workshops that all enrolled students are expected to attend. The department also asks all seniors to complete a senior survey in this course and tracks your colloquium credits. Students who fail to attend two colloquia will have their ENGL 405 grade dropped a third of a grade for each colloquium short of the requirement. Check in with Christina Reynolds, the English Department's administrative assistant, at any time about your current number of credits.

## **Timeline and Process for Senior English Majors Enrolling in English 404 / 405 – Class of 2023**

### **April, junior year**

In April of the junior year, English majors will meet with the chair of the English Department to review requirements for the Senior Thesis and Senior Exercises.

### **October, senior year**

During **fall registration**, senior English majors not completing an honors thesis will enroll in ENGL 404 and ENGL 405. English majors completing an honors thesis will enroll in ENGL 405.

### **November, senior year**

In early November 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 professors about area of interest to develop for the thesis.

In late November of the senior year, English majors will:

- Submit to the English department chair a completed senior thesis form and a two-page thesis proposal that includes a preliminary bibliography (minimum of five sources) via email attachment as a Word document or .pdf.

By the end of 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).

### **December, Winter break, senior year**

During the final week of the term, all seniors will receive an email from the ENGL 404/405 instructor, outlining requirements for the Senior English portfolio and preparing students for the spring term. During winter break of their senior year, senior English majors will begin work on their senior portfolios—selecting appropriate papers demonstrating skills learned, etc. Over the holidays, it's a great idea to re-read your primary text and, if time allows, a good biography of the author.

### **January, senior year**

In January of the senior year, senior English majors begin work on their theses. ENGL 404 will have a once-a-week evening meeting time, with several sessions devoted to workshops for the ENGL 405 portfolio and the symposium presentation.

### **April, senior year**

In April, senior English majors present a 20-minute paper (≈10 pages) based on their longer senior thesis in a senior symposium. (Reminder: 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 ENGL 404 syllabus; final papers are graded by the instructor of that course.