

Office: SPH 217 Phone: (209) 792-2434 E-mail: ogoode@lcsc.edu
Hours: MW 12:00-1:15; W 2:45-3:15; TTH 10:30-11:45; T 1:30-2:45 and by appointment.

Course Philosophy:

Studying or creating literature offers a way to see, understand, and shape your relation to the world. Writing and thinking entail an awareness of traditional modes of thought and expression and the reexamination and transformation of them. The senior project offers the opportunity to work in depth on a subject of your choice in literature (or its relation to other forms of art), languages, and cultural study. Independent thought, writing, and research is the heart of literary study, in which you express your ideas and imagination, informed by the insight of others.

Course Description:

Taken during the last year of coursework, the two-semester senior project is the capstone of each English major's course of study. It consists of a major written research project undertaken in collaboration with a Humanities faculty mentor. The project must be of a scope and originality to justify three upper-division credits (two for the fall semester seminar and one for spring semester completion and oral presentation); it must be considerably larger than the subject for a term paper. Content may be scholarly, critical/theoretical, or creative as appropriate to the student's interests or program of study. All projects must demonstrate the student's familiarity with research writing and methods, in a manner to be decided by the student and faculty mentor. This course serves primarily as a workshop and a means of ensuring that guidelines are followed and deadlines met. Much of your work will be done in conjunction with your faculty mentor. At semester's end you will submit a draft of 10+ pages, with a Works Cited page. In the spring, a finished paper of 20+ pages and formal oral presentation of it are due in ENGL 499. A copy of the finished paper will be bound and available for public access in the Humanities Division office.

Course Procedure:

Our meetings will be workshop sessions, a time to discuss your topic, consider research issues, and seek feedback and peer review of your work. The class will also provide a forum for discussing the nature of literary study, reading, writing, and the implications of particular theoretical, textual, and personal approaches to it: How do they affect our reading and understanding? In what contexts does it matter? You are expected to meet with your mentor at least three times to discuss your ideas and writing.

Grading:

Your performance and participation count for 80% of the semester grade, with your mentor assigning the other 20%. The grade will be determined primarily by your satisfactory completion of course requirements in a timely manner. There are nine assignments, graded pass/fail. Completing 8 = A; 7 = B; 6 = C; 5 = D; fewer = F. Missing either the five-page or ten-page draft = C (at best); missing both = D (at best). No assignments will be accepted more than one week late (unless excused for extraordinary circumstances).

Course schedule: this is highly flexible and we may adapt it to best aid your work.

- Aug 25 Discussion: What's the goal? Your topic ideas? Choosing a mentor
- Sept 1 **Assignment 1 due:** present a list of possible topics or approaches to a defined topic.
- 8 No class meeting (you might use no class days for study/discussion/research groups or meetings with mentors, if their schedules cooperate)
- 15 Discuss handouts: Richter, "Falling into Theory" and Bonneycastle, "Why Study Literary Theory Now?"
- 22 **Assignment 2 due:** provide mentor's name and a narrowed, focused list of working topics or a list of approaches to one topic
- 29 No class
- Oct 6 **Assignment 3 due:** six-item bibliography. Discuss discoveries, redirections, problems
- 13 No class meeting (study groups might use this established time to meet)
- 20 **Assignment 4 due:** 150-word prospectus/proposal
Assignment 5 due: present it to the class
- 27 No class
- Nov 3 **Assignment 6 due:** five pages of your paper, with copies to your mentor and me
Assignment 7 due: present to the class
- 10 Five-page paper presentations continue
- 17 Your pleasure
- 24 No class—Thanksgiving/Fall Break
- Dec 1 **Assignment 8 due:** 10+ pages of your paper with a Works Cited page, copies to me and your mentor
Assignment 9 due: present it to the class
- 8 Ten-page paper presentations continue. Class ends.

Preview of spring semester's ENGL 499: a complete 20+ page draft, with Works Cited, will be due by the beginning of March.