ENG 4930 Senior Literature Seminar Sample Syllabus
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OVERVIEW and OBJECTIVES: The Senior Seminar is designed as the capstone course for literature majors. Students will be encouraged to develop and synthesize the knowledge and skills gained in the English literature major. Our topic for this semester’s seminar is Tragedy and Comedy: Conventions and Innovations. We will study foundational dramatic texts as well as how modern plays draw on and react to tragic and comic conventions. Students should improve their abilities to

*Demonstrate an understanding of literary texts in light of the various cultural contextual issues that may impact their creation and/or reception.

*Demonstrate an understanding of literature as an art form, evidencing certain aesthetic principles, which are relative and dynamic.

*Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical writers and texts in the British and American traditions, as well as efforts to “open” these canons.

*Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the conduct of literary argument and the judicious use of primary and secondary textual support.

*Write effective, correct scholarly prose, in accordance with MLA style.

COURSE WORK: In addition to reading plays and critical commentaries, students will analyze literature through frequent full-class, smaller-group, and Blackboard discussions. They will complete short assignments, a comprehensive final exam, and a 12-15 page research paper. Class participation is essential.

GRADES: Grades are based on 500 points, broken down as follows:

Final Exam 200 points
Research paper 200 points
Participation/attendance/short assns. 100 points

The 100 points for participation/attendance/shorter assignments are distributed as follows:

Summarize a critical article on a foundational play (on Blackboard). 10 pts
Write a Blackboard response to one classmate’s summary. 10 pts
Submit an annotated bibliography of sources to be used for the paper. 10 pts
Submit first and second drafts of the research paper. 10 pts
Complete a helpful peer review of a classmate’s drafts. 10 pts
Complete in-class activities, including faculty-created quizzes. 10 pts
Be a discussion leader for a play on the syllabus. 10 pts
Attend all classes, on time. 10 pts
Participate actively in class discussion. 20 pts
At the end of the term, all points are added and grades are assigned on a percentage scale: 90-93% A-, 94-97% A, 98-99% A+, etc. I do use plus/minus grading, and in borderline cases, I do consider improvement shown during the semester.

For each assignment, students who earn A grades will have demonstrated conspicuous excellence; those who earn Bs will have displayed superior skills; Cs are for competent skills;Ds for poor performance; and Fs for unacceptable work.

ATTENDANCE: Because this course is based on student involvement, your attendance and participation are mandatory. An absence may be excused for such reasons as a serious personal illness, serious illness or death of a family member, legal obligation, religious observance, or approved campus activity. Don’t hesitate to confer with me about unusual circumstances. For an excused absence, please provide documentation such as physicians’ notes, legal documents, or notices on USF letterhead. If you know about the absence in advance, so should I. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. Unexcused absences will affect your participation grade. Because we do so much work together in class, even excessive excused absences may adversely affect your grade. If you can’t make it to class on time, consider adjusting your schedule. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early will lower your participation grade.

SCHEDULE: The schedule you will be given is subject to change according to our progress. There will be short assignments and/or pop quizzes given in class. Therefore, if you must miss class, be sure to contact me or a classmate to confirm what is due for the next class. In the event of a university emergency, the USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information. You are urged to become familiar with USFSM’s emergency plans: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Alpha/ready/EAP.pdf

“In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor the Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.”

PAPER FORMAT: I urge you to do all work on computer; this is required for your major assignments. Short assignments should be legible with ample margins, at the least. Whenever you use an outside source, cite it in MLA style. I recommend buying the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook.

DEADLINES: Deadlines are a fact of life; meeting them gives you good experience for your future profession. For an excused absence, we will determine a makeup schedule. Unexcused short assignments turned in late receive no credit; however, I will evaluate them and record that you handed them in, so late is better than never. An unexcused late major assignment is docked one letter grade.

ACADEMIC ETHICS: All individual work must be your own and must be done specifically for this class. You are encouraged to seek info and advice from others, just as professionals do, but you must do your own research, writing, etc. Material taken from another source must be properly cited. You are urged to consult the USF policy on plagiarism, www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adapap.htm A student who commits plagiarism may receive a course grade of "FF," failure for academic dishonesty. This grade may not be removed through grade forgiveness and remains on the student’s record forever. This course assumes you have studied plagiarism; see me if you are in doubt as to what constitutes it or whether you are citing a source correctly. I’m happy to help you with documentation issues.
The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized.

**BLACKBOARD:** We will use the Blackboard course site as an integral part of the learning experience, as it offers students maximum flexibility for managing course work -- and saves paper, too. Some assignments will be conducted entirely on Blackboard. Get your Net ID, then become familiar with Blackboard immediately and log in often. If you need help using it, tutorials can be accessed: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/CampusComputing/Documents/CC_Student_Resources.php

Technical assistance is available by phone or online: 866-974-1222
http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/usfsupport.cfg/php/enduser/chat.php

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION:** Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Pat Lakey, Coordinator, 941-359-4714, plakey@sar.usf.edu, www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/

**ACADEMIC DISRUPTION:** USF does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. Please consult university policy: www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm.

**ASSISTANCE:** I will do everything I can to help you reach your academic goals. Please don’t hesitate to call, email, or come to my office. I look forward to working with you.
ENG 4930 Reading Schedule -- Sample

Assignments are listed by the day they are due. This schedule is subject to change according to our progress. Additional assignments will be given in class.

Jan. 12 Intro to course
Jan. 14 Read Jacobus, intro to drama, p. 1
Jan. 19 Jacobus intro to Greek drama, Oedipus Rex
Jan. 21 Contin. Oedipus
Jan. 26 Contin. Oedipus
Jan. 28 Contin. Oedipus
Feb. 2 Lysistrata
Feb. 4 Cont. Lysistrata
Feb. 9 Jacobus intro to Roman drama
Feb. 11 Jacobus intro to Medieval drama, Dulcitius
Feb. 16 Jacobus intro to Renaissance drama, Othello
Feb. 18 Othello Article summary due
Feb. 23 Othello Last day for submitting research paper topic
Feb. 25 Othello
Mar. 2 Jacobus intro to late 17th/18th century drama, The Rover
Mar. 4 The Rover Annotated bib. due
Mar. 8-12 Happy Spring Break
Mar. 16 Jacobus intro to 19th century drama, The Importance of Being Earnest
Mar. 18 Earnest
Mar. 23 Cherry Orchard
Mar. 25 Cherry Orchard
Mar. 30 Death of a Salesman
Apr. 1 Salesman
Apr. 6 Krapp’s Last Tape 1st draft of paper due
Apr. 8 Far Away
Apr. 13 draft conferences
Apr. 15 draft conferences
Apr. 20 Clean House 2nd draft due online
Apr. 22 Clean House
Apr. 27 365 Days/365 Plays Peer review due online
Apr. 29 365 Days/365 Plays
May 4 Paper due
May 6 Final exam 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Note extended class period