UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: ENGL
Course Title: Writing Studies Capstone

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: English 4390 001
Credits: 3

Course Description

Explores the value and relevance of an English degree. Professionalizes students by assisting them with career or graduate school preparation. Offers students the opportunity to reflect on their major and to optimize writing and communication skills. Includes revision of an existing paper as a scholarly writing sample and creation of a professional portfolio to display knowledge and abilities. Culminates with submission of a reflective portfolio to the department. Lab fee for computers applies.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:
☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Jerry Petersen

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:
- make and know their own arguments for the relevance of English studies and English majors in contemporary society
- reflect and explore professional aspirations
- strategize ways of entering careers
- present themselves professionally and with confidence both orally and in writing
- prepare a professional application package to submit to job searches, advancement in current job, or graduate school applications
- prepare and submit a comprehensive senior portfolio for departmental assessment purposes

Course Materials and Texts

- Great Jobs for English Majors by Degalen and Lambert

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Unit 1 3 short papers (these are meant to stretch your English sensibilities)
90 Paper 1
90 Paper 2
90 Paper 3

90 Paper 4

Unit 2 Job or Grad track
Job
60 Self-Assessment
60 Research Report
60 Resume
60 Cover letter

Grad School
60 Self-Assessment
60 Grad School Report
60 Curriculum Vita CV
60 Statement of Purpose

Unit 3 Revision Writing Sample
60 Self-Assessment and Outline
25 Brief Self-Analysis

100 Revised Academic Writing Sample

Unit 4 Portfolio and Capstone Talk
50 Departmental Portfolio
65 English Colloquium (job talk or project)

Unit "Show Up and Participate"
100 Attendance and Participation

1000 points total (because grad or job track makes it add up right)

A = 93-100   B- = 80-82.9   D+ = 67-69.9

A- = 90-92.9   C+ = 77-79.9   D = 63-66.9
B+ = 87-89.9   C = 73-76.9   D- = 60-62.9
B = 83-86.9   C- = 70-72.9   E = 0-59.9

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the lectures below.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
Week 1: Course Introduction and Goals
Week 2: short paper on English Degree choice 1 Review and submit
Week 3: short paper 2 on English Skills Review and submit
 Week 4: short paper 3 on English Value for Employment or Graduate Studies
Week 5: short paper 4 on Goals review and submit
Week 6: Begin Job and Grad Track
Week 7 Job and Grad track research
Week 8 Job and Grad track resumes and CVs
Week 9 Job and Grad track cover letters and application statements
Week 10 Revision of major writing assignments begins
Week 11 Review in teams/ fill out peer review sheets
Week 12 Developing Web presence
Week 13 Web presence continued and complete
Week 14 Presentations on Degree Projects
Week 15 Student presentations
Week 16 Student presentations

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
The UVU English department is also keeping up with artificial intelligence chat bots such as ChatGPT (and many other stand-alone programs or plug-ins). Believing the technology is here to stay, and will only grow, we feel it's important to understand both its strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and assisting with research. We believe AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues. It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It also frequently generates fake citations and quotations. It cannot understand the complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording of an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism and means that a student will be held accountable for violating academic integrity.

Using Remote Testing Software
☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of

remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities
Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity
At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX
Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office

for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation
UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.
To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.