

Course Information

ENGL 5305 - Graduate Research Project

Instructor: James Finley - james.finley@tamusa.edu

Student hours: By appointment - please click [here](#) or send me an email to schedule a phone call or Zoom meeting..

Course Description

This class asks you to develop an extended research-based scholarly project while also reflecting on practices of knowing and producing knowledge. We will examine some ways that scholars and critics approach knowledge production and how different disciplines present knowledge. The class will therefore focus on writing as a process and, in particular, how to revise one's work so as to enter into a scholarly conversation.

I will ask you to read scholarship on writing, epistemology (or ways of knowing), and research and to take a project that you've begun in a previous course. While you may choose to revise a seminar paper, you could also choose a technical document, a lesson plan, a creative piece, a multimedia project, or something else. This will culminate in a final project, a public presentation of your work, and an e-portfolio that reflects your work across the semester.

Learning Objectives. At the end of the course, students will have:

1. Further developed their understanding of writing as a process;
2. Gained knowledge about research and scholarly epistemologies;
3. Constructed a digital portfolio and extended piece of scholarly expertise;
4. Reflected on how their knowledge and expertise connects to personal and professional goals.

Books

The Craft of Research, fourth edition, edited by Wayne C. Booth, et. al. (Chicago, 2016), 9780226239736

Course Design and Assignments

We will meet every few weeks, [via Zoom](#), to discuss the assigned readings and the progress you're making on your project. For each meeting, I will ask you to prepare by reading from *The Craft of Research* and by drafting a short reflection (prompts will be on Blackboard), or by preparing a draft to workshop. At the end of the semester, there will be an opportunity to present your work to the English MA community. Detailed assignment descriptions will be posted to Blackboard and discussed in class.

Reflections - For each of our meetings, I ask you to write a one to two page reflection about the assigned reading and your project. Reflections serve two specific purposes. (1) They provide an opportunity to reflect on a reading assignment - to process the ideas and suggestions within the assignment so as to set up our in-class discussion. (2) They are a space for connecting the general points in the reading to the specific work you're doing on your project. A detailed description and individual prompts can be found [here](#).

Final Project - Our work this semester will culminate in an essay or other form of scholarship, alongside other components that will build toward the final product and that will be collected in an e-portfolio. Detailed descriptions of the component parts can be found [here](#).

Late work and extensions - Because each assignment builds on the previous work and provides a foundation for what is to come, it is important that assignments are completed in order and on time. If you anticipate being late with a submission, please be in touch as far in advance as possible to request an extension.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

| DATE | TOPICS / READINGS / ASSIGNMENTS DUE |
|----------|--|
| W 08/28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the class |
| W 09/04 | <p><i>No meeting - assignment due</i> [A] Reflection 1, Finding Your Focus</p> |
| W 09/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is research and scholarship; audiences; composing questions and considering evidence; developing a topic and selecting a problem <p>[R] <i>Craft of Research</i>, 3-64 [A] Prospectus</p> |
| W 09/18 | <p><i>No meeting - assignments due</i> [A] Revised prospectus (if necessary) [A] Reflection 2, Working with a Prospectus</p> |
| W 09/25 | <p><i>No meeting - assignment due</i> [A] Reflection 3, Finding Sources</p> |
| W 10/02 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary sources; library resources <p>[R] <i>Craft of Research</i>, 65-104</p> |
| W 10/09 | <p><i>No meeting - assignment due</i> [A] Reflection 4, Engaging Sources</p> |
| W 10/16 | <p><i>No meeting - assignment due</i> [A] Reflection 5, Annotated Bibliography Check-In</p> |
| W 10/23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argument and claims; organization; using sources <p>[R] <i>Craft of Research</i>, 107-213 [A] Annotated bibliography</p> |
| W 10/30 | <p><i>No meeting - assignment due</i> [A] Reflection 6, Assessing Your Argument</p> |
| W 11/06 | <p><i>No class - assignment due</i> [A] Draft 1</p> |
| Su 11/10 | [A] peer review |
| W 11/13 | <p><i>No class - assignment due</i> [A] Reflection 7, Responding to Feedback</p> |
| W 11/20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft workshop <p>[A] Draft 2</p> |
| W 12/04 | <p><i>No class - assignment due</i> [A] Final draft</p> |
| TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations |
| W 12/11 | <p><i>No class - assignment due</i> [A] Portfolio [A] Reflection 8, Final Thoughts</p> |