

Texas A&M University—San Antonio
English 5306-001: Graduate Thesis (Fall 2026)
Meeting Sessions: every other Tuesday, virtual appointments

Instructor: Dr. Jackson Ayres

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Zoom Room link: <https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/jackayres>

Office Phone: 210-784-2229

Office Hours*: Mon and Wed, from 11:00am-12:00pm, and f2f or virtual meetings by appointment

*Office hours are times that I designate to be available to meet with students about coursework.

Course Description

This course is for Plan I students. The course requires 6 hours of grades, the first 3 hours consisting of completion of a thesis proposal and the last 3 hours consisting of completion of the thesis. Completion of the thesis proposal is a prerequisite for enrollment in the last 3 hours of thesis.

Student Learning Objectives

On completion of this course, students will:

- demonstrate progress on a significant project in the field of English Studies;
- produce and defend a thesis proposal; and
- hone written and oral communication skills (COM, SR, PR).

Assignments

The only assignments in this course are: 1) chapter drafts, and 2) a proposal. They are graded on a standard 0-100 point scale.

How to Submit Your Work

Submit assignments electronically to Blackboard. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard system prior to submission/posting, and contact me if you have questions. Use MLA format.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

ENGL 2321 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center

The Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Center in JagWire under the student services tab. The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center can be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu. Students can also make appointments with the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing under the Student Services tab in JagWire.

JAGS

Additional academic skill resources can be found in The JAGS (Jaguar Academic Guides to Success) Program. JAGS offers academic skill building strategies and can assist you in developing an effective academic success plan. If you are interested in the JAGS program, please contact the Student Academic Success Center at (210) 784-1352.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in room 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Counseling Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Safer Spaces

We will work together to create a safer classroom for every student enrolled in this course. We will treat each other with common decency and respect. Derogatory or abusive comments made regarding race, class, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, size, appearance, age, religion, ethnicity, political orientation, or nationality are grounds for dismissal from the classroom community. Enthusiasm is encouraged; hostility is not. These expectations apply to online interactions as well as face-to-face ones. If you experience any discomfort, please contact me and we will redress it.

Meeting Essential Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Student Misconduct

Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in [The Student Handbook](#) and The Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please [this site](#), which includes information on policies for the use of AI tools. Students, moreover, are expected to contend with the content of the course and the academic field from which that content emerges. Please refer to [the Student Handbook](#) for more information.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, [34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education \(DoE\) Title IV regulation](#), a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which includes class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-4357.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Week 1

Send Graduate Portfolio materials (Proposal Draft, Annotated Bibliography) to Thesis Director for review

Week 2

Add 3-5 articles to the Annotated Bibliography started in Graduate Portfolio
Receive and review feedback on Proposal Draft and other Graduate Portfolio materials

Week 3

In-person or virtual meeting with Thesis Director to discuss Proposal and possible committee members

Week 4

Revise Proposal

Email prospective committee members

Week 5

In-person or virtual meeting with Thesis Director to discuss Proposal and committee meeting

Contact prospective committee members for a meeting to discuss Proposal

Week 6

Draft selected section / chapter

Week 7

Draft selected section / chapter

Meeting with committee over Proposal (contingent scheduling)

Week 8

Draft selected section / chapter

Meeting with the committee over Proposal (contingent scheduling)

Week 9

Draft selected section / chapter (send to Director for feedback)

Week 10

Revise Proposal (recirculate with committee)

Draft selected section/chapter

Week 11

Draft selected section / chapter

In-person or virtual meeting with Thesis Director to discuss progress / revised Proposal

Week 12

Draft selected section / chapter (send to Director for feedback)

Week 13

Draft selected section / chapter

In-person or virtual meeting with Thesis Director to discuss progress

Week 14

Thanksgiving holiday – draft as able, take a break

Week 15 (last week of the semester)

Draft selected section / chapter (send to Director for feedback)

In-person or virtual meeting with Thesis Director to discuss progress and plan next steps