

Introduction to Graduate Studies in English

***This syllabus is subject to change at any time during the semester. I will notify you of any changes.**

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Carr

Course Description:

English 5300 is taken by all English graduate students during their first year of the program. This course has multiple aims: 1) To introduce you to the field of English Studies and some of its many subfields; 2) To consider the value and professional uses of English Studies; 3) To familiarize you with critical approaches and methodologies in English Studies; 4) to help you acquire and hone research, writing, and speaking skills necessary for graduate level work; and 5) to help to adjust to life in graduate school and meet the demands of graduate study.

We will explore what graduate work in English Studies can look like and you will have chances to consider what directions you might wish to pursue. Our work will be metacritical and oriented around professional development, as we will reflect on how we learn, how we operate in academic spaces, and how we produce new knowledge.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop a rich understanding of English Studies as a collection of fields;
2. Gain experience and expertise in reading, writing, researching, and sharing ideas;
3. Hone strategies for succeeding in graduate school;
4. Produce a series of scholarly writing.

Course Design and Assignments:

Discussion board posts

By 4:00 pm before classes that have readings assigned, please post to the discussion board about something from the readings that you found interesting.

Mapping the Conversation

Research on a topic of your choice. This topic should be one that you're interested in possibly developing into a thesis or graduate research project. The final project will consist of three parts: annotated bibliography, synthesis essay, and presentation.

- Annotated Bibliography (November 8)
- Synthesis Essay (December 12)
- Presentation (December 1)

Professional Scholarly Identity Essay

Reflective essay addressing your experience during this course, this semester in the master's program, and a tentative sense of your intellectual development/emerging scholarly identity.

Readings

All readings are available via the blue link[R] or Blackboard [BR].

Class Participation and Attendance

Respectfully engaged participation. Completion of in-class assignments and minimal absences.