

Course Information

ENGL 5305 - Graduate Research Project

Thursdays, 5:30 – 8:15 pm (unless otherwise noted)

Click [here](#) for Zoom link

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

Student hours: By appointment - please 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 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.

Course Design and Assignments

Meetings - We will meet every week, [via Zoom](#), to discuss relevant topics and the progress you're making on your project. Some meetings will be full-class discussions, individual conferences, or a combination of the two. Detailed assignment descriptions will be posted to Blackboard and discussed in class.

Discussion Board - Prior to each of our meetings, please post to the discussion board. This is a space to reflect on the week's work and to develop your thinking further. Please draft and revise your entries before posting, and please always strive to provide sufficient depth and detail. I will read and share feedback, and we will usually devote time in class for you to give and receive feedback to and from your classmates. Please save both the discussion board posts and the feedback you receive, as these exercises are designed to help the development of your final project. Detailed prompts for each week will be posted to Blackboard.

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 by clicking [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. Otherwise, late assignments will be docked 50%. Discussion board posts will not be accepted more than three weeks late.