

English 4900 – Senior Capstone

Overall English Department Mission Statement

The English Department at Dixie State College strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays.

Course Description

Required of all English majors. Must be taken in the student's senior year, preferably during the final semester. Asks students to synthesize and reflect on their learning and experience in the major, allowing them to integrate their study of literature, writing, and theory as well as examine the discipline of English itself. Also, asks students to look forward to careers and/or graduate school, and may include guest speakers, previous English majors, and others who discuss career and graduate school options. Includes a series of culminating assessment projects, including a senior thesis aimed at measuring student outcomes and at assisting the department to improve its program. Prerequisite: English major; AND Senior standing. FA, SP

Course Goals:

Goals to be reached in this course:

- Demonstrate mastery of the English curriculum
- Recognize personal achievement as an English major
- Determine a course of action after graduation

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will have improved their ability to:

- Compile an annotated bibliography of 10 or more academic sources
- Produce an academic paper suitable for publication
- Give one oral presentation suitable for a conference setting
- Write an updated resume and curriculum vitae suitable for job searches
- Write a reflective essay

Methods of Assessment:

Formative Assessment Methods

Daily: Students will periodically report on their progress both orally in writing.

Weekly: Students will submit drafts of their work for peer workshops and instructor feedback.

Essay: Each student will write at least one substantial critical paper that could be submitted for publication. Essays will be returned promptly with instructor feedback.

Summative Assessment Methods

Final Exam: At the end of the semester, students will conduct an oral presentation of their work in a public setting.

Value-Added Assessment Method

Pre/Post Test: Students will write a short essay at the beginning of the semester, describing their past academic experience at Dixie. Students will write a reflective piece at the end of the semester, describing their overall impression of their academic career, especially in connection with the English Department.