Administrative Unit: Humanities Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 221

Course Title: Sophomore Seminar

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course begins the organizational stage of Portfolio compilation, either critical or creative. Individual student focus will entail intensive preparation for an introduction to advanced academic writing. This emphasis will take the form of introducing students to major schools of literary criticism and theory as well as advanced research methodology in MLA style and source collection, resulting in two 10-15 page essays and substantial revisions of these. One of these essays may lead to working prospectus for the senior project. Prerequisites: ENGL 112 and Sophomore standing or English faculty acceptance; minimum of C average in English courses.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112 and Sophomore standing or English faculty acceptance; minimum of C average in English courses.


A main text introducing literary theory and criticism at the undergraduate level. A good example is:


Other texts would include primary works covered by the proposed project as well as relevant secondary sources.

Course Objectives:

- To develop beginning scholarly and critical skills necessary for advanced study in English literature and creative writing.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and refine projects worthy of merit.
- Demonstrate intermediate level organizational and analytical skills when discussing literature.
- Demonstrate intermediate revisionary capabilities.
- Demonstrate critical writing skills which support an understanding of basic critical and theoretical concerns in the English discipline.
- Demonstrate initial mastery of MLA citation and research methodology.
Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

ENGL 221 is a vehicle for assessment. During this course, the MFT will be administered. The results of this test are used by faculty to improve the curriculum at the College.

- Students’ definition of project in consultation with faculty.
- Student creation of working portfolio.
- Selection and reading of primary texts on the topics of 2 (10-15 page) research papers.
- Conducting research. Student will read the scholarship in the field.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 15

Library Resources:

Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Dr. Danny Campbell

Date: January 18, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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