

Senior Project Methods

Hartwick College
ENGL 489-1
W 8:00 a.m.–8:55 a.m., Clark 251
(1 Credit)
Fall 2023

Dr. Bradley J. Fest
Associate Professor of English
Cora A. Babcock Chair in English

Office: Clark 226, ext. 4921
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: festb@hartwick.edu

Prerequisites

The successful completion of ENGL 190 is required before taking this course.

Catalog Description

Guided group preparation prior to the individual directed study of English.

Course Description and Purpose

In this section of Senior Project Methods, students will do work that will prepare them to write their senior thesis in creative writing. As students are expected to write the majority of their senior thesis when enrolled in ENGL 490 Senior Project, this preparatory course focuses particularly on research and reading and is largely self-directed. As such, students in this course will write and revise an abstract of their project, form a reading list, and create an annotated bibliography; they will also draft a portion of their thesis and we will discuss various drafts as a group throughout the semester.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to writing creatively and performing literary analysis, students in this course will: 1) research their topic or genre or read the work of influential writers to gain greater knowledge of their project area; 2) compose an annotated bibliography that demonstrates the usefulness of their research for their project; 3) begin drafting portions of their senior thesis in poetry, fiction, and/or creative nonfiction; and 4) prepare and position themselves to complete their thesis in ENGL 490 Senior Project.

Other Course Requirements and Assignments

Texts—Students will select texts to read on their own and will verbally agree to how much they will read for each class meeting. Students are expected to have done this reading and be prepared to briefly discuss it in class. If students have not read what they agree to for any given week, they will lose 5% off their total grade. Please bring your chosen texts to class along with your peers' work. Expect to read a whole book every three weeks.

Abstract—The first few meetings will be devoted to drafting an abstract of your project and a reading list for the semester. Abstracts will be receive a completion check. Failure to complete the Abstract assignment will result in 5% deducted from a student's total grade. See assignment for more details.

Annotated Bibliography—Over the course of the semester, students will be keeping an annotated bibliography, which they will turn in during the last class meeting. Students will be expected to turn individual entries of their bibliography in every few weeks for a completion check (see due dates in the calendar below). Students who fail to turn in a bibliography entry will lose 25% off their Annotated Bibliography grade. Annotated Bibliographies will be graded at the end of the term. See the assignment for more details.

Writing—Throughout the semester, students will be given verbal writing assignments that ask them to draft portions of their senior thesis (e.g., “Write five pages” or “revise your first five pages”), due usually three weeks later. Students should send writing that will be discussed on a Wednesday by the Sunday night prior to everyone in class via email. Failure to turn in an assigned draft will result in 15% off your Writing grade. I will provide marginal comments and verbal feedback on this writing, though I will not grade individual drafts.

Feedback— Students should print out each other’s work, comment on it, and be prepared to discuss it and hand it back to the writer on days where it says “discuss writing” on the calendar below. Failure to do so will be reflected in a student’s participation grade.

Communicating: Other than posting the course syllabus and assignments under “Content,” I will not be using D2L in this course. Please send any work via email and as hard copy when requested.

Participation—This is a small class devoted to preparing its participants to write their senior thesis and will involve group discussion of student work and student-led discussions of what they are reading. As such, engaged participation is essential. Students are expected to be well prepared for class and to actively participate. Among other things, I expect students to have read everything they agree to have read for each class meeting, and students should also make sure to read and comment on their peers’ work. Since this class will rely heavily on student participation, your attendance is a necessity. *More than two absences will negatively affect your grade, in which case you may want to consider withdrawing from the course and taking it again under better circumstances. Students who are marked absent for more than four total classes will automatically fail the course.*

That said, I understand that it is possible that a student may miss significant class time due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, it is each individual student’s responsibility to communicate with me regarding any issues they might have attending class sessions or doing the work of the course. If students communicate with me about legitimate issues that may cause them to miss class time, I will do my best to work with them to make sure that they are given the opportunity to succeed.

Grading

Participation: 20%

Annotated Bibliography: 40%

Writing: 40%

FlightPath

Hartwick's FlightPath is a student-centered program that is flexible and adaptable to support your pathway to graduation and to prepare you for what lies ahead. By the time you graduate from Hartwick, you will have a suite of skills and experiences that tie together the breadth of your Hartwick education and highlight your accomplishments. This course supports the development of student educational outcomes in the following way(s): it fulfills a requirement for the Creative Writing Major.

College COVID-19 Policy

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, circumstances may necessitate adjustments to instruction, such as shifts in mode of instruction (to remote or hybrid), classroom capacity limits, or indoor mask requirements. Updates will be provided on the College website (<https://www.hartwick.edu/about-us/covid-19-updates/>). Instructors will communicate with students about any specific adjustments that are being made to their courses, such as modality of instruction, expectations for participation, and any changes to assigned work; students should check their Hartwick email accounts frequently for information from their instructors.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Because this is one-credit capstone writing class, a student found to have plagiarized will fail the course and a formal charge will be filed with the Office of Academic Affairs. Plagiarism could also result in more serious action, including a student being suspended from the College. *Plagiarism includes: lack of proper citations when quoting from someone else's work; representing someone else's work as your own; and knowingly allowing one's work to be submitted by someone else. Plagiarism also includes: copy and pasting from online (or offline) sources without quotation or attribution; using online paraphrase tools (such as QuillBot) to change other people's words and then submitting them as your own; and using generative AI (such as ChatGPT) and submitting without attribution any portion of its output as your own, including any ideas or topics it may have generated.* In this class, students are prohibited from using generative AI in any way unless an assignment says otherwise or they have made an arrangement with the professor to do so, and any unattributed use of generative AI constitutes plagiarism.¹ Violations of Hartwick's Academic Honesty policy are not limited to plagiarism, so students should familiarize themselves with it at: <https://www.hartwick.edu/academics/student-services/academic-affairs/academic-policies/>.

Academic Adjustments and/or Modifications

Students must present me with an updated Academic Plan Letter for the fall 2023 semester in order to be eligible for academic adjustments. Hartwick College is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If a student with a disability wishes to request academic adjustments, they should contact Lara Sanford, Director of AccessAbility Services, at sanfordl@hartwick.edu or AccessAbilityServices@hartwick.edu. AccessAbility Services is located on the fifth floor of Yager Library in the Center for Student Success. Any information regarding a student's disability will remain confidential. Requests for academic adjustments should be made as early as possible. Please reach out to the instructor with any other concerns you might have about the course, including accessing course texts.

The Writing Center

Located in Clark Hall 230, the Writing Center offers free one-on-one writing support for any stage of writing, including brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and revising. The Writing Center offers personalized feedback on short assignments, essays, senior theses, resumes, graduate school applications, scholarship applications, and other documents. Students can request in-person or [Zoom](#) support by scheduling thirty-minute or one-hour appointments through [Navigate](#). Asynchronous email support is also available by emailing your assignment prompt, assignment, and any questions to WritingCenter@Hartwick.edu. In some cases, I may send you to the Writing Center for help on a particular assignment or issue.

E-mail Communication Policy

Each student is issued a college email address (username@hartwick.edu) upon admittance. This email address may be used by the college for official communication with students. I will also communicate with students via their hartwick.edu address. Students are expected to regularly read email sent to this account. Failure to read and react to

¹ On attributing AI output in MLA style, see "Ask the MLA: How Do I Cite Generative AI in MLA Style?" *MLA Style Center*, 17 Mar. 2023, <https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>.

communications from either the College or from me in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. If email is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to communications sent to their Hartwick email address.

Health and Success

Success in this course depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Recognize that stress is an expected part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected setbacks or life changes outside the classroom. Your other instructors and I strongly encourage you to reframe challenges as an unavoidable pathway to success. Reflect on your role in taking care of yourself throughout the term, before the demands of exams and projects reach their peak. Please feel free to reach out to me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance in this course as soon as it occurs and before it becomes unmanageable. In addition to your academic advisor, I strongly encourage you to contact the many other support services on campus that stand ready to assist you. Hartwick offers free counseling for students who are experiencing personal or emotional difficulties. The Counseling Center is located in the Perrella Health Center and offers psychological services and sexual assault services. Appointments can be made Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., by calling (607) 431-4420 or emailing counselingcenter@hartwick.edu.

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX Reporting

Hartwick College is committed to equal opportunity and providing a safe community free from all forms of sexual misconduct including sexual-/gender-based harassment, discrimination, dating or domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and sexual assault. If you wish to make an official report to the College or have questions about the College policy and procedures regarding sexual misconduct, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, Michael Arno, at titleix@hartwick.edu or (607) 431-4293. Online reporting and policy information is available at <http://www.hartwick.edu/titleix>. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact one of the following resources: Perrella Wellness Center, Health or Counseling: (607) 431-4120; or Opportunities for Otsego's Violence Intervention Program: (607) 432-4855. All other employees of the College are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator so that support and resources can be provided for all parties.

Statement on Classroom Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion, or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Calendar²

- 8.30 Syllabus and check-in
- 9.6 **First Draft of Abstracts due by email by 9.3**
Discuss abstracts and reading plans
- 9.13 **Revision of Abstracts due by email by 9.10**
Joe: discuss writing (5 pages due by email by 9.10)
Sara: reading due
Sofia: reading due
- 9.20 **2nd revision of abstracts due by email by 9.17 (if necessary)**
Joe: reading due
Sara: discuss writing (5 pages due by email by 9.17)
Sofia: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
- 9.27 Joe: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
Sara: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
Sofia: discuss writing (TBD by email by 9.24)
- 10.4 Joe: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 10.1)
Sara: reading due
Sofia: reading due
- 10.11 Joe: reading due
Sara: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 10.8)
Sofia: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
- 10.18 Joe: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
Sara: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
Sofia: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 10.15)
- 10.25 Joe: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 10.22)
Sara: reading due
Sofia: reading due
- 11.1 Joe: reading due
Sara: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 10.29)
Sofia: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
- 11.8 Joe: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
Sara: reading due (and annotated bibliography entry)
Sofia: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 11.5)

² Please note that additional readings or handouts may be assigned when appropriate and that the schedule is subject to change.

11.15 Joe, Sofia, Sara: discuss writing (TBD due by email by 11.12)

11.29 **Annotated Bibliographies due (should contain at least one more entry)**

**Final *Rough* Draft of whatever writing of your thesis you have completed this term
due as hard copy and emailed to festb@hartwick.edu**

Group Reading

Reflection on Semester and Looking Forward to J-Term