



Undergraduate Course Syllabus

LIT 485B: Senior Thesis in Literature

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

Advisor approval

Course Description

This course is an option for seniors of exceptional ability who are majoring in English language and literature and who wish to have a graduate-level research and writing experience in some chosen area of American, British or world literature. Students must petition to take the course. The following requirements are for undergraduate day campus students. Students who receive permission from the area coordinator/department chair and their academic advisors must proceed to formulate a written thesis proposal and assemble a three-person academic support committee, equipped with relevant expertise, no later than March 30th of the junior year. The proposal will then be submitted for approval to the individual's advisory committee. Assuming the project is universally approved, the student will meet with one or more members of the committee on a biweekly basis to review progress on research and written work. The final result will be a scholarly essay of 40 to 60 pages, to be presented as an academic paper in a public topic at least three weeks before graduation. Offered on an ongoing basis, as this is a year long course option. The following requirements are for undergraduate COCE students: Students who receive permission from their academic advisors must proceed to formulate a written thesis proposal to be submitted for approval to the selected instructor. If the project is approved, the student will collaborate with the instructor in the online course to review progress on research and written work. The final result will be a scholarly essay of 40 to 60 pages, to be presented to the instructor as a cohesive and polished academic paper with a supplemental essay that outlines plans to present/publish the paper after the course is complete. Offered on an ongoing basis, as this is, at a minimum, a two-term research and writing project.

Course Outcomes

- Develop unique original claims regarding a specific topic in literature supported by a synthesis of personal and scholarly analyses and arguments
- Illustrate how a literary thesis operates within an appropriate historical and contemporary literary framework
- Explain how original claims regarding a specific topic in literature are supported by appropriate literary theory, terminology, and theoretical analysis
- Illustrate effective peer collaboration through review of literary theses regarding organization, mechanics, and focus
- Revise literary theses to improve organization, mechanics, and focus to fit within appropriate conventions and standards

- Develop presentations designed for promoting personal literary theses to an appropriate professional audience

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation

Bryan Greetham

Palgrave Macmillan

Second Edition

2014

ISBN: 978-1-137-38978-7

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment’s due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	3	25	75
Journal Assignments	2	50	100
Literature Review	1	50	50
Structural Outline	1	100	100
Peer Review	1	75	75
Rough Draft	1	75	75
Final Project 1: Peer Review Reflection	1	75	75
Final Project 2: Thesis Submission	1	300	300
Final Project 3: Presentation Submission	1	150	150
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2
C-	70–72	1.67
D+	67–69	1.33
D	60–66	1
F	0–59	0
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
IP	In Progress (past end of term)	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Resuming the Journey: Introductions and Plans 1-1 Discussion: Welcome to the Course 1-2 Edited Literature Review Submission
2	Beginning Drafting: Work in Context 2-1 Discussion: Contribution 2-2 Journal: Instructor Conference
3	Continuing Drafting: The Standards of Professional Publication <i>How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation</i> , Part 6 (pp. 239–264) 3-1 Discussion: Standards of Professional Publication 3-2 Structural Outline
4	Concluding Drafting <i>How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation</i> , Part 8 (pp. 329–352) 4-1 Open Discussion (Non-graded) 4-2 Journal: Instructor Conference
5	Peer Review, Part One 5-1 Discussion: Formal Peer Review 5-2 Rough Draft: Submission
6	Peer Review, Part Two <i>How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation</i> , Part 10 (pp. 371–387) 6-1 Open Discussion (Non-graded) 6-2 Final Project 1: Peer Review Reflection Submission
7	The Finish Line: Submission of Final Draft 7-1 Final Project 2: Thesis Submission
8	The Victory Lap: Thesis to Presentation 8-1 Final Project 3: Presentation Submission

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008, Southern New Hampshire University does not discriminate on the basis of disability, including intellectual disability, in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor does it discriminate in employment in its programs or activities.

The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. A disability is a condition or impairment that impacts a “major life activity” or “major bodily function.”

- **Major life activities** include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.
- **Major bodily functions** include, but are not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. Disabilities include physical, medical (including pregnancy), mental health, and learning needs.

At the beginning of each term, or as soon as you become aware of a disability or accessibility concern, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC.

Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until acceptable documentation of a disability and its impact is received and an accommodation letter has been processed. If you are unsure whether your condition qualifies as a disability or accessibility concern, please contact the OAC for determination.

Contact Information:

Online Accessibility Center

Phone: 866-305-9430

Email: oad@snhu.edu

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).