



Graduate Course Syllabus

ENG 549: Fiction Thesis Writing

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

ENG 529 and 24 credits completed

Course Description

In this course, writers produce work to include in their thesis and offer constructive feedback on class members' writing. They also continue to read and discuss published fiction from the English and American traditions. In addition, writers reflect on their creation and revision processes, not only describing their own craft, influences, and intentions, but also providing an overview of the thesis and a synopsis of their final work.

Course Outcomes

- Compose professional-level drafts that utilize elements of fiction and contribute to an original manuscript
- Analyze the literary influences relevant to one's own work and their significance to contemporary creative fiction
- Utilize the peer-review process for developing and maintaining a professional voice in critiquing works of fiction
- Analyze writing techniques found in published literary works of fiction for developing a personal voice and style
- Develop plans for submitting and promoting original works of fiction using digital technologies
- Revise original fiction works in progress based on the selected theme and genre for improving the product

Required Materials

Students are not required to purchase any learning resources for this course.

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	4	30	120
Module Ten Discussion	1	30	30
Peer Workshops	3	70	210
Journal	1	30	30
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	30	30
Milestone Two	1	60	60
Milestone Three	1	60	60
Milestone Four	1	60	60
Final Submission Part One	1	300	300
Final Submission Part Two	1	100	100
			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: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
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	From the Top: Beginning Your Thesis 1-1 Discussion: Introductions and Reading List 1-2 Final Project Review 1-3 Final Project Milestone One: Project Plan
2	Inciting Incident: Beginning the Writing Process 2-1 Discussion: Opening Say: First Sentences and Inciting Incidents 2-2 Final Project: Start Writing Fiction Thesis Writing Submission One
3	Mood and Setting 3-1 Final Project Milestone Two: Fiction Thesis Writing Submission One 3-2 Optional Discussion: Roundtable: Writing the Thesis
4	Voice and Style 4-1 Peer Workshop: Fiction Thesis Writing Submission One 4-2 Final Project: Start Writing Fiction Thesis Writing Submission Two
5	Digital Technologies in Creative Writing 5-1 Final Project Milestone Three: Fiction Thesis Writing Submission Two 5-2 Optional Discussion: Roundtable: Writing the Thesis
6	Strengths and Weaknesses 6-1 Peer Workshop: Fiction Thesis Writing Submission Two 6-2 Discussion: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Strategies for Improvement 6-3 Final Project Milestone Four: Start Writing Fiction Thesis Writing Submission Three
7	Literary Influences 7-1 Final Project: Milestone Four: Fiction Thesis Writing Submission Three 7-2 Journal: Your Thesis and Your Literary Influences 7-3 Optional Discussion: Roundtable: Writing the Thesis

Module	Topics and Assignments
8	Revision and Editing 8-1 Peer Workshop: Fiction Thesis Writing Submission Three 8-2 Discussion: Favorite Revision Strategies
9	Publishing Fiction 9-1 Final Project Submission Part One: Annotated Novel or Short Story Collection 9-2 Optional Discussion: Roundtable: Writing the Thesis
10	Traditional Versus Self-Publication 10-1 Discussion: Self-Publication vs. Traditional Publication: Pros and Cons 10-2 Final Project Submission Part Two: Reflective Essay

Course Participation

Course participation is required within the first week of the term for all online courses. *Participation* in this context is defined as completing one graded assignment during the first week of the course. Otherwise, students will be administratively removed for nonparticipation. Students who do not participate during the first week may forfeit their rights to be reinstated into the course. Students who stop attending a course after the first week and who do not officially withdraw will receive a grade calculated based on all submitted and missed graded assignments for the course. Missed assignments will earn a grade of zero. See the [course withdrawal policy](#) and the [full attendance policy](#) for further information.

Late Assignments

Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline except in extenuating circumstances.

- A penalty of 10 percent of the total value of the assignment will be applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted.
- Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Students must submit all assignments no later than 11:59 p.m. (in their own time zone) on the last day of the term. No assignments are accepted after the last day of the term unless an incomplete has been submitted. See the [incomplete grades policy](#).

There may be times an instructor makes an exception to the late assignment policy. Instructors may accept late work, including discussion board posts, with or without prior arrangement.

- Exceptions to the late policy on these grounds are left to the instructor's discretion, including whether the late penalty is applied or waived. Students should not assume that they will be allowed to submit assignments after the due dates.
- If an instructor finds that they are unable to determine whether an exception to the late policy would be appropriate without documentation, the collection and review of student documentation should be handled through the Dispute Resolution team in order to protect the student's privacy. In these cases, students should file a [Student Concern Dispute form](#) to have the circumstances reviewed.

If a student is experiencing (or knows they will experience) a circumstance, including pregnancy, that is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Title IX, they are encouraged to contact the [Online Accessibility Center \(OAC\)](#) as soon as possible to explore what academic accommodations might be offered. Instructors must honor all deadlines established through the OAC.

Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted the [ADA/504 Grievances Policy](#) (version 1.2 effective October 16, 2017), providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504 or the ADA.

For further information on accessibility support and services, visit the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) webpage.

Academic Integrity 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 integrity 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](#).

Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

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