Requirements of the Senior Thesis

Listen to a conversation between a student and his academic advisor.

S - Hi, sorry I am late, Professor Blaine.

P - No problem, Jim. So you’ve got some problems about your senior thesis requirement?

S - Yeah, I’~~ha~~ve got a couple of problems actually. So, the first thing is, you normally write it during the first half of the academic year, right? In your final year of studies?

P - Right.

S - But I have my student teaching ~~schedule~~ scheduled for that time – I ~~want~~ wanna teach high school English after graduation. So I really need to give that my full attention, and I just worry that I won’t be able to if I am ~~write~~ writing my senior thesis at the same time. I mean, ~~it~~ it’s supposed to be 35 to 50 pages. That’s a serious commitment.

P - You~~r~~’re right, but it really isn’t a problem.

S - Really?

P - No, a lot of English majors get ~~teach assertfication~~ teacher certification. So we have students like you do their senior thesis after their student teaching. It works out well, because many students want to use ~~the~~ a unit they taught as the basis of their paper. So you’ll just enroll in a thesis seminar for the second semester.

S - ~~Oh~~ Well, that’s a big relieve. But it brings us to my second problem. I’ve really ~~focus~~ focused my studies on ~~old~~ Old and Middle English literature. I am even thinking about doing a graduate degree with a concentration in that after I taught for a while. So I was hoping to do my senior thesis on ~~chorus~~ Chaucer, on the ~~- -~~ the Canterbury Tales, because that would obviously be useful if I do go on. But…

P - ~~Uh~~ Ahh, but ~~professor~~ Professor Johnson…

S - Exactly, ~~professor~~ Professor Johnson ~~has~~ is going to be taking a sabbatical(公休日) to do research ~~and~~ in France during the second half of the year. So, without him around, I am, uh, not sure how I ~~can~~ could do a senior thesis on the ~~– -~~ The Canterbury Tales(坎特伯雷故事集: 由8个短小精悍的故事组成，主要讲述人性和性之间复杂的关系). I mean, the focus ~~I’ve~~ of his teaching ~~in~~ and research is unique around here.

P - Yes, I understand. It would be difficult to do your paper without Professor Johnson around. ~~Hm~~ Hmm. ~~would~~ Would you allow me to try to sell you an alternate plan?

S - Well, you can try… But Chaucer’s ~~is~~ sort of my hero, if you know what I mean.

P - Well, I am teaching a course on the literature of the ~~–~~ Renaissance in the first half of the year. It’ll ~~will be~~ ~~mid of~~ meet late in the day, so it won’t interfere with your teaching. And I haven’t offered it in quite a while now, so I doubt you’ve ever ~~study~~ studied that period on the college level. (我很久都没有推荐过这门课了，我很怀疑你在大学课程有没有学过这段时期.)

S - No, I haven’t.

P - If you’d be interested in taking the course, I’d ~~would~~ be happy to give you supplemental readings. ~~and~~ And I’d ~~would~~ also be happy to be your advisor for your paper later on.

S - Well~~,~~ I’ve ~~have~~ never looked at that area before, but I’ve always ~~have~~ had an interest in ~~that~~ in it. So ~~it~~ that it does have a certain ~~of~~ appeal.

P - Well, if you do decide to go this route, I would make ~~this~~ that decision soon~~.~~ ,~~And~~ and I would use this summer productively. After all, this is not going to be like taking an intro course.