English 5000: Introduction to Methods and Issues in English Studies

1. Catalogue Description
   a. 5000 ENG
   b. Introduction to Methods and Issues in English Studies
   c. (3-0-3)
   d. F or S
   e. Intro Method Eng
   f. An introduction to critical approaches, research methods, and current issues in English studies. Required in first year of enrollment.
   g. Prerequisites: Graduate standing. The course may also be taken by a senior whose grade point average is 2.75 or higher, with permission of the instructor and the Dean of the Graduate School.
   h. Fall 2004

2. Objectives and Evaluation of the Course
   a. objectives
      To prepare students for graduate coursework in English.
      To explore critical and theoretical approaches in literary and composition studies.
      To introduce students to research methods at the graduate level.
      To acquaint students with current issues and controversies in the profession of English.
      To engage students in critical thinking, evaluation, and synthesis.
   
   b. evaluation
      Three bibliographic projects: 20%
      Annotated bibliography: 20%
      Paper proposal: 20%
      Panel presentation: 10%
      Final: 20%
      Class participation: 10%

   c. NA
   d. NA
   e. NA

3. Outline of the Course
   The class will meet weekly, for a total of fifteen three-hour classes.

   Unit I: Library research

   Week 1: Introduction to the course. History of the profession; using the library.

Unit II: Composition studies

Week 3: Hand in bibliographic project #2. Read Baron, “Language, Culture and Society” in Gibaldi; composition approaches and pedagogy: readings from Graves.

Week 4: Composition theory: readings from Villanueva and Tate et al. Oral presentations.

Week 5: Composition research methods; readings from Bloom et al. Oral presentations.

Unit III: Literary theory and research


Unit IV: Professional opportunities and issues: the canon, cultural studies, careers

Week 10: Hand in annotated bibliography on a literary work or composition issue of your choice. Professional organizations, conferences, and writing tasks: proposals, abstracts, papers, reviews, grant applications, conference papers.


Week 14: Panel presentations: [Each panel of 3-4 students will select an issue that interests them—e.g., technology in the classroom; e-texts; the job market; canon formation; curricular developments at the high school or college level, etc, each student on the panel will report on her/his reading as it relates to that issue.]

Week 15: Panel presentations continued.

4. Rationale

a. Purpose and need: This course gives graduate students in English an introduction to advanced studies in literature and composition. The department currently offers no graduate course that fulfills this purpose. By providing an introduction to the theoretical issues, research methods, and career opportunities associated with their chosen field, the course will offer graduate students a chance to clarify their own interests and goals and to acquire the skills and theoretical sophistication their graduate coursework will require.

b. The level of the reading, writing, and research in this course warrants graduate-level credit.

c. This course is not similar to any existing graduate course. English 4950 offers an overview of bibliography and literary history but does not introduce students to the theoretical and research issues raised by graduate-level study.

This course will be a requirement for all graduate students in English beginning in Fall 2004.

5. Implementation

a. Faculty Member(s) to whom the course may be initially assigned: Drs. Hoberman, Hanlon, McGregor, Raybin, Bazargan. The instructor will have the option of inviting a colleague to co-teach one of the four units.

b. There will be no additional cost to students.

c. Required texts and supplementary materials:


6. Community college transfer: NA

7. Date approved by the department __February 24, 2003________

8. Date approved by the College Curriculum Committee __April 2, 2003________

9. Date approved by CGS __April 29, 2003________