

English Major Senior Capstone

The UP English major culminates in a senior capstone experience by way of **English 499: Senior Capstone Seminar**. The senior capstone seminar, offered each Spring, supports the development, research, drafting, and revision of each student's senior thesis project. The seminar includes a mix of whole-class meetings, small intensive writing group sessions, and one-on-one instructor conferences. At the end of the semester, students publically present their senior capstone projects. The seminar also provides opportunities for students both to reflect back on their English major experiences and to think ahead on how the English major can provide a foundation for post-graduate endeavors.

Senior capstone projects—about 20 to 30 pages in length—generally fall under the category of literary research. The seminar supports students as they develop questions, undertake research, and develop original arguments about literature and culture. Some students begin new projects in this course; others build upon papers written in previous English classes. For students who have experience in the genre (i.e., taken at least one creative-writing workshop and/or 311), creative senior capstone projects are permitted (most often creative non-fiction/personal essays). Creative projects also require research, as well as an analytical portion that reflects on process and genre.

In addition to the final capstone paper, drafts, and bibliography, **student work** for the seminar includes writing journals, informal writing that practices the skills of literary research, and a retrospective on one's English major career. **Readings** are mainly self-directed—depending on what primary and secondary texts students need to read for their projects—but shared readings include essays on literary study, short fiction to provide a shared text for skill-review, and excerpts from writing/research manuals.

Special note: In extraordinary cases, students may complete the capstone requirement by doing a 1-credit independent study (Eng 491) with an English faculty member. This requires a clear rationale and must be approved by the English department chair.

For more information about the Senior Capstone, contact Dr. Molly Hiro (hiro@up.edu)

Senior Capstone/Eng 499 Students and Project titles, Spring 2018

M. Brett Adams, "It Matters, It's Not Just Life" (creative writing)

Elizabeth Barker, "It's Time to Get Information: The History of Social Reform in Beyoncé's *Lemonade*"

Christina Beningfield, "Science in Literature: The Conflation of Empathy and Language of the Romantic Period"

Julia Boharski, "'I'm With Her': The Deconstruction of Binary-Formed Gender Dynamics in *Paradise Lost* and 'Bisclavret'"

Christian Chase, "Vonnegut's Post-War Masculinity: Modern Maleness in *Slaughterhouse Five*"

Delaney Cloke, "Victorian Women: Subverting the Marriage Plot"

Rebby Foster, "'An honest and uncensored attempt to turn feelings into words': Oppression and Asian American Theatre and Some Ways They Intertwine"

Sasha Foley, "Reading into Personhood: The Act of Storytelling in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*"

Keaton Gaughan, "The Personal is Political: Doing Queer Theory in the Flesh"

Haley Grant, "'To what you and I don't know': Considering Nonhuman Perspectives and Human Exceptionalism in Literature"

Janie Grosvenor, "Infidelity, Politics, and Progressing Black Masculinity in Jay-Z's '4:44'"

Ian Hannah, "Impossible Questions" (creative writing)

Blanche Minoza, "Good Grief: Mourning through Nature in Nicole Krauss's *The History of Love*"

Laura Misch, "'From the Most Unlikely Materials': The Domestic Art of Subversion in *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Minister's Wooing*"

Tayte Pollmann, "Uncertainties, Mysteries and Doubts: An Exploration of Objective Philosophy in the Poetics of Keats and Stevens"

Rylee Warner, "Unspoken Narratives Rising Up: Reading *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Lolita* During the Age of #MeToo"

Amanda Zazueta, "Lost and Found in London" (creative writing)