Stephen F. Austin State University

English 460:090

Literary Publishing Internship

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Official Course Description:

Students will have the opportunity to create *Humid*, the undergraduate literary journal, or intern at *REAL*, the national literary journal of SFA, to participate in all facets of a magazine’s operation, from screening manuscripts and recording subscriptions through issue preparation. The internship places classroom writing workshops into skills acquisition, enabling students to carry real editing experience into graduate studies or into careers in professional writing or publishing. Prerequisite: ENG 261, either 359, 361, or 362, and permission of instructor.

_The literary magazine in America does awesome and vital work: in a culture dedicated to sweeping any trace of virtue up into the smokestack of big media, the literary magazine makes a home for the Good but Offbeat. Or the Wonderful, Present in Nascent Form. Not to mention the Wild But Undisciplined. Or, most importantly: That Which is Coming From Somewhere Previously Under-represented. In short, it allows for those products of our culture that have not put on the garb of the mainstream but are nevertheless vital. So as the garb of the mainstream becomes dumber and tighter and more dedicated to serving the status quo, the literary magazine protects the democracy, by protecting diversity. It does so by listening, and listening well, to the odd and unknown voices that come through its doors, which most often arrive without agents or industry contacts or lengthy impressive vitas. There are many truths, and a democracy had better hear them all, whereas our democracy, more and more, seems dedicated to hearing the same two or three over and over, especially if these two or three help the powers that be to move product. But a good literary magazine...has no agenda but joyfulness and, as such, is a hedge against stupidity and boneheadedness._

- George Saunders
Course Overview:

This course is designed as a practicum for students interested in literary publishing. The central focus for the course is the production of HUMID, the undergraduate literary journal at Stephen F. Austin State University; over the course of this semester, this class will solicit, screen and file manuscripts, handle rejection and acceptance letters, design, edit and publish a new volume of HUMID and, finally, orchestrate a launch party for the new issue. Also, we will discuss national literary journals and consider the merits, strengths, or weaknesses of such journals. Whether you are interested in graduate work or the world of editing and publishing—either as an independent publisher or a staff members for a larger press—this course will provide a foundation on which you can build.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s):

1. The student will demonstrate close reading skills and recognize strategies used by professional creative writers and editors.
2. The student will articulate useful, critical editorial advice for peer writers.
3. The student will demonstrate strategic revision on completed creative work.

Required Texts and Materials:

There are no required texts for you to buy for this course. Each student will be required to order a copy of a national literary journal (and look up two additional ones) and write a brief paper on the journals’ merits. More information is forthcoming. Additionally, students should find a new book of short stories, poems, creative essays—preferably from a small, independent press or a university press—to write a book review.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Attendance: Mandatory. Each student is allowed TWO absences; each absence thereafter will result in one full letter grade drop (final grade). If you miss more than FOUR classes, you will automatically fail the course. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for the material that was missed. If you must miss class on the date that an assignment is due, make sure to get the assignment to me beforehand.

2. Participation: Participation is crucial, given the primary objectives for this course. Each student will have a certain set of responsibilities, all of which are vital to the production of HUMID.

3. Paper on Literary Magazines: You will be asked to read and evaluate current issues of three national literary magazines and complete a review of them. This paper should be in MLA format and approximately 3-5 pages.

   The book review mentioned above will be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 1000.

4. Self-Evaluation: At the end of the semester, you will need to turn in a 3 page written account of what you feel you gained from this class in terms of skills and information about literary magazines.
**Grading Breakdown:**

- Attendance 30%
- HUMID Participation 30%
- Paper on Literary Magazines 15%
- Book Review 15%
- Self-Evaluation 10%
- Total 100%

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request
services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Schedule:

To be announced