Bulletin Description: “Course include the research and writing necessary to complete the M.A. thesis proposal”

Course Justification: ENGL 5389 "Thesis Research" (3 credits) is for students who are starting research to initiate the M.A. thesis through the composition of a research proposal and preliminary drafting of thesis content. The student will work independently with a reading list provided by the thesis director (who is listed as the course instructor of record). The student will meet regularly with the director, and as needed with other members of the thesis committee, to discuss the progress of the formal research proposal, which must be completed and approved by the thesis committee during the semester, according to university deadlines. The student may also begin writing the thesis itself. Students are expected to produce 35-40 pages of formal writing, including the completed and approved thesis proposal and a first draft of at least one chapter.

Class Meetings: Throughout the semester, the student will meet with me on a regular basis to discuss his/her research as it pertains to the thesis. During these meetings, I will discuss readings, suggest additional source materials, and/or read drafts of the proposal and coming chapters. At the end of the semester, the student—in order to receive a passing grade—must have his/her proposal completed and signed off by the entirety of the committee.

Required Texts: TBD by individual projects.

Major Course Assignments:
Thesis Proposal: At the end of the semester, the student will have a completed and approved thesis proposal. This document will vary in length, but will fall between 15-25 pages. In the thesis proposal, the student will inform readers of the overall project, provide a review of literature that will display the student’s immersion in the background conversation necessary to complete the project, and, finally, provide a proposed outline of the chapters that will be found in the completed document.
Course Policies:

Attendance and Late Work:
The student will be expected to meet with me throughout the semester. These meetings should not be cancelled.

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.

Stephen F. Austin State University defines academic dishonesty as:

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

In terms of this class, any student caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically fail the course.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, Article II: B-6). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to penalties.

At this time, the university has also put into place certain COVID based requirements. For example, students are required to wear a face covering in particular areas. For our specific case, students are required to wear a face covering in classrooms and in academic buildings. This requirement can be found at http://www.sfasu.edu/fall2020. Finally, as stipulated by the university

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Withheld Grades:
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.”
For the complete policy, http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp

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 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