ENGL 5390

English M.A. Thesis Writing

Semester: Fall 2020
Course number: ENGL 5390-002
Student: Andrew Markus

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Course Description
ENGL 5390 “Thesis Writing: Writing and revision of thesis for final submission to departmental committee and graduate dean. Prerequisite: ENGL 5389.

ENGL 5390 “Thesis Writing” (3-9 credits) This course is for students who are writing a Master’s thesis, which can consist of an analytical or creative writing final deliverable, depending on the track in which the student is enrolled (Literature or Creative Writing). Students work independently, according to the plan of the approved thesis proposal, under the direction of 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, and will submit drafts of the thesis as per the schedule outlined in the thesis proposal and until the thesis is successfully defended and approved by the committee, a process that must be occur according to university deadlines. Students are expected to produce 100-140 pages of formal writing. May be repeated up to three hours.

The goal for this course is to write your thesis under the direction of your thesis Director. You and your director will come up with a plan for its execution.

Required Readings
As per the student’s ENGL 589 Literature Review.

Requirements and Outcomes for ENGL 5390

1. Upon starting the course, you will have a completed and approved Thesis Proposal, which provides a detailed plan for your thesis.
2. A schedule of writing (drafting and revision) created in collaboration with your director.
3. A complete and strong draft presenting a cohesive argument
4. A revised draft based on the director’s feedback
5. Thesis Examination Application
6. Approval of Formatting
7. A successful thesis examination by your committee, which may result in further revisions.
8. A revised draft based on the committee feedback
9. Report of Thesis examination with committee’s signatures
10. Formatted and revised thesis delivered to the Graduate Office for approval.
11. a minimum of four copies of the thesis on 20# white paper, meeting all specifications of the
   thesis guide, and signed by each member of the thesis advisory committee.

Grading
According to university policy, your final grade for the course will consist of a letter grade only
(no plus or minus). If your grade is borderline, class participation, enthusiasm, and punctuality
can help your final grade; lack of participation, disrespectfulness, and tardiness can hurt your
final grade.

Academic Honesty
Acts of plagiarism and/or cheating are against university policy and can result in failure and/or
disciplinary action. According to the SFA policy manual, “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.” For more
specifics, please refer to the university’s policy on academic honesty:
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

Disability Services
SFA provides disabled students equal opportunity to participate in the courses, activities or
programs. See Disability Services in Human Services room 325 and at
http://www2.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Thesis Calendar for Fall 2020

- **Drafting schedule to be determined in collaboration with the student.**
- **Friday, October 16** - Complete Draft to Thesis Director
- **Friday, October 23** – Complete Draft to Committee
- **Friday, November 6**
  - Thesis/dissertation drafts to be completed and checked for graduate/doctoral students
    completing work for degrees in December 2020.
  - Applications for thesis/dissertation examinations are due.
- **Nov 9-17 DEFENSE**
- **Friday, November 20**
  - Last day to have a thesis/dissertation exam. Results of examinations to be filed by
    academic unit head.
- **Wednesday, December 16**
  - Deadline for final thesis to be submitted to appropriate offices
PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR ENGLISH M.A.

1. The student will be able to write well-organized, substantial, grammatically and syntactically clean essays on literary and/or related topics.

2. The student will be able to demonstrate retention of key contents of selected literary texts as well as key concepts and themes informing literary study.

3. The student will be able to analyze a literary text with respect to form, contextual, and thematic matters.

4. The student will be able to conduct sophisticated literary research involving a variety of primary and secondary materials and/or library catalogues and databases and properly document that research.

5. The student will understand and be able to apply both traditional (e.g., New Critical) and current (e.g., postcolonial, feminist) literary theories/critical methodologies.