ENG 495: Independent Study for Dakota Perry

Jane Austen’s World: Past and Present

Semester: Spring 2020
Course number: ENG 495
Meetings Wednesdays, time TBD

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Course Description
ENG 495: Individual instruction, conference and research for advanced students (SFA General Bulletin). Prerequisite: 12 semester hours of English and instructor consent.

ENGL 495 "Independent Study" (3 credits) allows students to construct unique plans of study in situations where no appropriate course is currently offered, in in cases where other constraints would prevent a student from graduating on schedule. Students work independently, according to the plan of the approved study proposal, under the direction of an instructor with expertise in that area. The student will meet regularly with the instructor throughout the semester, completing agreed-upon work to satisfy the course needs. Students are expected to produce 20-30 pages of formal writing. May be repeated up to three hours.

This independent study is dedicated to the study of Jane Austen as an author in her own time and the interest she still generates today. We will read four of Austen’s six major novels, as well as some of her “juvenalia.” Our will focus will be on Austen’s place as an author in Regency England and as a scholarly subject and popular author today. This will involve research into the current resources and activities of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) and the Chawton House in England. The last 25 years has witnessed an explosion of scholarship on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women’s literature and cultural history, and a boat load of scholarship is available on Austen. By the end of this study, you will be well versed in Austen’s importance to literary history, novel studies, and women’s writing.

Required Texts
Pride and Prejudice ISBN: 9780393976045
Mansfield Park ISBN: 9780393967913
Assignments
Reading Journal Reflections (7) - 35%
Web Resource Analysis – 15%
Annotated Bibliography - 15%
Research Project – 30%: (Essay Draft – 5%, Final Research Paper - 25%)
Final Reflection – 5%

Reading Journal Reflections
You will keep a reading journal in which to write reflections according the schedule provided in the calendar below. Your journal should trace one or two primary cultural themes, such as courtship, family relationships, the female role in provincial society, female education, money, or another theme of your choosing. More details will be provided in a separate assignment sheet.

Web Resource Analysis
You will conduct an analysis of the JASNA and Chawton House web sites, and write a 5-6 page report on your findings. More details will be provided in a separate assignment sheet. Details will be provided in a separate handout.

Research Project
The course will culminate with a research project on a topic of your own design that furthers ideas started in your reading journals. The goal of the research project is to develop a well-focused and researched academic argument on a theme found in at least two of Austen’s works. It will consist of three deliverables:
Abstract - 1 page
Draft – 7-8 pages, and
Final essay- conference-length, 9-10 pages. Details will be provided in a separate handout.

Grading
For each assignment, I calculate grades on a numeric scale first: I use a 10 point scale for quizzes, presentations, and in-class work, and I use a 100 point scale for tests, papers, and projects. Based on the numeric score, each assignment will also receive a letter grade, based on an A-F scale that uses plus and minus distinctions.

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.

All of your writing for this course should adhere to the rules of standard English grammar, punctuation, and spelling (American). Here is a general description of my letter grades:

A – 90-100% - This grade denotes superior composition, content, style, and mechanics; thoughtfulness, originality, and excellence in topic development, including vividly concrete details, insightful examples, and sophisticated analysis and synthesis of subject matter. Writing is mechanically pristine with only the smallest grammatical defects present (such as a missing comma or a single typo).
B – 80-89% - This grade denotes very good composition, content, style, and mechanics; thoughtful and adequate topic development; clear and complete details and examples; and consistency in style. Slight problems may be present in one or two areas, but the paper shows strength in others. The paper is not heavily impacted by mechanical errors.

C – 70-79% - This grade denotes acceptable content, but style, organization and mechanics are uneven and need revision, OR the composition is lacking in content and does not sufficiently consider the subject matter as evidenced by inadequate topic development and lack of concrete details, AND/OR the ethos of the writer is damaged by mechanical errors.

D – 60-69% - This grade represents below average, unsatisfactory work. On essays and written responses, the paper (whether through lack of effort, revision, editing, or some other reason) is not clear or focused. The paper is very uneven in its content, organization, and style. The meaning of the paper is obscured by mechanical errors.

F – Below 60% - The student did not do the work assigned. See me as soon as possible.

Late Work
If you are unable to turn in an assignment on time, you must make arrangements with me in advance of the due date. Otherwise, late work will be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but I will deduct 5 points for every day it is late.

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/.

Weekly Schedule
We will meet for 30-45 minutes once a week, on Wednesdays, via telephone at a time agreed. All other work will be done through the course d2l website as posted in the schedule below. Changes may be necessary as the course proceeds.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| 1    |       | Introduction  
Read the background from the following Norton Critical Editions:  
_Pride and Prejudice_: p. 257-262 (three short biographical pieces on Austen’s life) |
| 2    |       | Juvenalia PDF file.  
_Juvenalia PDF file. Reflection 1 due Fri. at midnight |
| 3    | 1/31  | Juvenalia PDF file.  
_Juvenalia PDF file. Reflection 1 due Fri. at midnight |
| 4    | 2/7   | _Pride and Prejudice_. Vol. I  
_Reflection 2 due Fri. at midnight_  
_Pride and Prejudice_. Vol. II  
_Reflection 3 due Fri. at midnight_  
_Pride and Prejudice_. Vol. III  
_Reflection 4 due Fri. at midnight_ |
| 5    | 2/14  | _Mansfield Park_. Vol I  
_Reflection 5 due Fri. at midnight_ |
| 6    | 2/21  | _Mansfield Park_. Vol II  
_Reflection 6 due Fri. at midnight_  
SPRING BREAK  
_Mansfield Park_. Vol III  
_Reflection 7 due Fri. at midnight_ |
| 7    | 2/28  | Web Site research  
Web Site Analysis due Fri. at midnight |
| 8    | 3/6   | _Mansfield Park_. Vol II  
_Reflection 6 due Fri. at midnight_  
SPRING BREAK  
_Mansfield Park_. Vol III  
_Reflection 7 due Fri. at midnight_ |
| 9    | 3/20  | _Mansfield Park_. Vol III  
_Reflection 7 due Fri. at midnight_ |
| 10   | 3/27  | Research for paper |
| 11   | 4/3   | Web Site Analysis due Fri. at midnight |
| 12   | 4/10  | Research for paper |
| 13   | 4/17  | Annotated Bibliography due Fri at midnight |
| 14   | 4/24  | Writing |
| 15   | 5/1   | Research Paper due Fri at midnight |
| Final| 5/5   | Course Reflection due at the scheduled Finals time |

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a general understanding of the cultural position of the female in early nineteenth-century England.
- Know the literary characteristics and the cultural function of the novel in England and how Jane Austen helped shape that tradition.
- Have developed a detailed understanding of the contents, contexts, literary elements, and authorial techniques in the assigned novels.
- Be able to describe Austen’s novels in detail in relation to several cultural themes.
- Have integrated relevant literary criticism into your own theories and arguments on Austen’s fiction.
- Have completed a tightly-focused, original research project that effectively integrates primary and critical secondary sources into a research plan, abstract, and article-length research paper conforming to MLA style.
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<th>The above goals ensure this course fulfills these Texas program learning outcomes:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The student will demonstrate the ability to read complex texts, closely and accurately.</td>
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<td>2. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend both traditional and contemporary schools/methods of critical theory and apply them to literary texts to generate relevant interpretations.</td>
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<td>3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of literary history in regard to particular periods of World, British and American literature.</td>
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<td>4. The student will demonstrate ability to effectively conduct literary research.</td>
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<td>5. The student will demonstrate the ability to write clear, grammatically correct prose for a variety of purposes in regards to literary analysis.</td>
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