ENGLISH 4368  
Creative Writing Senior Thesis I & II  
Dr. Sara Henning  
Fall 2021

Contact Information:  
E-mail: henningsdl@sfasu.edu (this is the easiest & best way to communicate with me)  
Office: Liberal Arts North 263  
Office Hours: TR 2-4:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

Time  
Student will meet with professor at least once every two weeks, during a time arranged between student and instructor. These meetings may be conducted via Zoom (preferable method) or via email, depending on the arrangement with the professor. The professors’ comments may be made in a face to face meeting and/or typed & sent.

Course Description  
Two-semester progression of senior thesis, culminating in a well-crafted book-length creation of either poetry or prose.

Instructor of Record  
The instructor of record facilitates the coordination of students with professors, helps to arrange the readings for the second semester students, and creates advertisements for the readings.

Manuscript  
A prose manuscript must be between 70-150 pages, not including title pages & introduction. If the manuscript necessitates extra pages, chapters, etc., this may be done with the consent of professor.

A poetry manuscript must be between 48-64 pages, not including title pages & introduction. If the manuscript necessitates extra pages, poems, etc., this may be done with the consent of professor.

The manuscript must be arranged in a cohesive fashion, which has been discussed with the professor. The thesis must be revised, incorporating the edits agreed upon by the student and professor. The partial (Thesis One) or full (Thesis Two) manuscript must be approved by the professor before the final submission, and that approval must be sent to the instructor of record.

The hardcopy of the thesis must be spiral-bound. It cannot be loose leaf. It may be double-sided.
There must be a title page (your name, the thesis title, the date), table of contents, and an introduction (see attached), followed by the pages of the manuscript. The cover may look any way you wish, featuring illustrations, color, etc.

The manuscript should be in a consistent font with consistent spacing (other than use of typography). Titles should appear one point size bigger (14) and be in bold.

**Grading**

**Prerequisites for Thesis I**
- The student has 15 credits of creative writing (ENGL 4359 [Advanced Poetry Workshop], ENGL 4361 [Advanced Fiction Workshop], or ENGL 4362 [Advanced Non-Fiction Workshop], among them)
- The student has consent of project professor
- The student has consent of the Coordinator of Creative Writing

**Prerequisites for Thesis II**
- The student has successfully completed ENG 4368: Thesis I with a grade of “pass”
- The student has completed at least one half of project
- The student has consent of advising professor to continue
- The student has consent of Coordinator of Creative Writing to continue

**Learning Outcomes** for this senior level project are:
- Ability to discuss elements of craft in one’s own work
- Ability to discuss the influence of strategies used by professional, contemporary writers on one’s work
- The ability to improve a body of work through revision
- The ability to complete a finely polished full-length work

**Basic Requirements**
- All work MUST be turned in on the due date arranged
- All work will be graded on professional format, spelling, etc.
- All drafts must be *typed* via Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or compatible program
- Professional format for your genre must be followed (MLA).
- All comments by professors will focus on how well you employ the elements of craft and strategies to improve the project
- Basic fulfillment on the thesis does not guarantee an A. Work must reflect the standards of A work across the Creative Writing Program. It is a cumulative grade.
Thesis I (First Semester)

Graded Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Professionalism</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Meeting of Assignment Goals</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Drafts of Thesis Work</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision of at least ½ of Manuscript</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance (of meetings) 5%

The student will attend scheduled meetings with professor. If the meeting must be cancelled, notice must be given and an alternative meeting should be agreed upon.

Regular Meeting of Assignment Goals 30%

You will complete portions and projects during the meetings arranged by the professor. All previous material should be gathered in the first 2 weeks of the semester, so that prior work can be assessed. A new project will need a proposal to be delivered in the first 2 weeks. Afterwards, meeting assignments will include additional poems, stories, essays, or pages/chapters of novels and/or novellas.

Rough Draft 15%

A complete version of the manuscript (so far) should be given to your professor at least one week prior to finals.

Revision of Manuscript 50%

The first half of the manuscript should be turned in by a designated date during finals week.

The partial manuscript must be sent to the professor electronically before a grade can be entered.

NOTE: You may work/edit/revise materials from earlier classes (2307, 3359, 4359, 3361, 4361, 3362, 4362, 4365) for the thesis.
Thesis II (Second Semester)

Graded Activities

Attendance (of meetings) 5%
Regular Meeting of Assigned Goals 30%
Rough Draft (of second half) 15%
Public Reading 5%
Final Manuscript 40%
Introduction/Prefatory Statement to Thesis 5%

Attendance (of meetings) 5%
The student will attend scheduled meetings with professor. If the meeting must be cancelled, twenty-four notice must be given and an alternative meeting time should be arranged.

Regular Meeting of Assigned Goals 30%
You will complete portions and projects during the meetings arranged by the professor. Meeting assignments will include additional poems, stories, essays, or pages/chapters of novels and/or novellas.

Rough Draft 15%
A complete version of the manuscript (or the second half) should be given to your professor at least one week prior to finals.

Public Reading 5%
You must complete a public (or Zoom) reading of a portion of your thesis.

Final Manuscript 40%
Final edits must be completed by the first day of finals week. The manuscript must be arranged in a cohesive fashion. It should be presented spiral bound with a plastic or hard cover. There must be a title page, table of contents, acknowledgments, and introduction, followed by the manuscript.

To receive an A on the final (not the thesis itself), one must have proofread the manuscript for typos and consistency errors. Technical edits must have been made to the manuscript. If new typos/errors are present, you will be graded accordingly.

To receive an A in the course, the student must have met the other requirements listed.

The manuscript must be sent to the professor electronically before a grade can be entered.
Introduction/Prefatory Statement 5%

There must be a 5 page self-reflective introduction

1) discussing the progress the writer has made from 2307 (Introduction to Creative Writing) to the final project.
2) what has influenced this particular project (professional writers and their work, professional readings, other classes, other student writers, opportunities afforded in the program, etc.)

NOTE: You may work/edit/revise materials from earlier classes (2307, 3359, 4359, 3361, 4361, 3362, 4362, 4365) for the thesis.

University Policies

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/human/services/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Academic Integrity

Adhering to academic integrity standards at all times by producing your own work and successfully attributing others’ ideas to them is a necessary aspect of university communication. 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) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; 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 include, but are not limited to: (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 the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

Any appeals on academic integrity cases must be made within thirty days after the first class day of the next long semester. Students should appeal to the instructor first then to the chair if the situation is not resolved. Further appeals can be made to the dean and provost if necessary.

Please read the complete policies at: https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf
Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

1. The student will demonstrate close reading skills and recognize strategies used by professional creative writers.
2. The student will employ techniques and strategies for crafting carefully composed competent creative work in a variety of genres (fiction, poetry, literary non-fiction).
3. The student will articulate useful, critical editorial advice for peer writers.
4. The student will demonstrate strategic revision on completed creative work.
5. The student will compose and sustain a complete, polished manuscript of substance in the focus-genre.

Title IX Statement

Stephen F. Austin State University strives to provide an educational and work environment that affirms the rights and dignity of each individual. It is the policy of the university, in accordance with federal and state law, to prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship and veteran status. Additionally, Stephen F. Austin State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Unlawful discrimination based on sex includes discrimination defined as sexual harassment.

The Discrimination Complaints policy (2.11) and the Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Violence, Harassment, and Misconduct policy (2.13) outline the university's commitment and detail the procedures used to prevent, respond, and investigate complaints. It is the responsibility of the university president to ensure that SFA and all its constituencies comply with the provisions of this policy and with all federal and state laws, executive orders and regulations regarding non-discrimination.

The university prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct because such behavior violates the university's institutional values, adversely impacts the university's community interest, and interferes with the university's mission. The university also prohibits retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports or discloses a violation of this policy, files a complaint, and/or otherwise participates in an investigation, proceeding, complaint or remediation under this policy. Once the university becomes aware of an incident of sexual misconduct, the university will promptly and effectively respond in a manner designed to eliminate the misconduct, prevent its recurrence and address its effects.

Stephen F. Austin State University is dedicated to providing an environment of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in its programs and employment opportunities. The Title IX office supports the University’s commitment by offering training, programs and processes that promote an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment consistent with the SFA Way.

To fulfill its mission, the Title IX office:

- Coordinates the delivery of detailed educational programs and training concerning discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, interpersonal violence, and stalking;
- Recommends, develops, interprets and implements policies and procedures in support of non-discrimination;
- Oversees investigations into complaints of discrimination, harassment and sexual violence by promptly organizing an impartial administrative review and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that might be identified during the review of such complaints;
- Serves as the university's designated office responsible for coordinating the University's compliance with state and federal law, including, but not limited to:
  - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972,
  - Violence Against Women Act,
  - Campus SAVE Act.
- Works with the Office of the General Counsel to investigate and respond to external complaints (e.g. EEOC, OCR).

The many terms and definitions that surround sexual misconduct issues can be confusing and may create unintended barrier to reporting incidents of sexual misconduct.

It is important to remember, only those options clearly identified as confidential assistance can keep your information private. Generally, any person not identified as a confidential reporter is required to report an incident that is reported to
them. This requirement is intended to protect members of the campus community, visitors and guests from criminal and discriminatory behavior.

Accommodations

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 your instructors and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations, and no accommodations can be made except through the ODS. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Course Citizenship

Although students with disciplinary problems tend to be few and far between at the college level, if behavioral disruptions persist within a single class meeting (or, for that matter, across multiple meetings), the student in question will be asked to leave the class with a lowered participation grade and an absence recorded for the day.

Please make safe choices during the global pandemic. Wearing masks are encouraged, but optional.

Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

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Calendar

(suggested, may be altered with notice to the instructor of record by your professor)

Week One
Go over Syllabus/Policies. Discuss plan/progress so far. Set up meeting times.

Week Two
Discuss project and where the project needs to go. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems)

Week Three
NO MEETING. Send work via email. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems)
Week Four
Discuss work turned in. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems)

Week Five
NO MEETING. Send work via email. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems)

Week 6
Discuss work turned in. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems)

Week Seven
NO MEETING. Send work via email. Thesis One HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems) Thesis Two HW: Send manuscript so far.

Week Eight
Thesis One: Discuss work turned in. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems) Thesis Two: Discuss potential organization of entire manuscript. HW: Arrange manuscript.

Week Nine
NO MEETING.
Thesis One: Send work for next time.
Thesis Two: Send manuscript via email.

Week Ten
Thesis One: Discuss work turned in. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems) Thesis Two: Discuss revision of manuscript. HW: Start revision.

Week Eleven
NO MEETING.
Thesis One: Send work for next time.
Thesis Two: Finish revision.

Week Twelve
Thesis One: Discuss work turned in. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems) Thesis Two: Discuss final edits and introduction. HW: Finish final version of manuscript, editing poems, & introduction
Week Thirteen
NO MEETING
Thesis One: Send work to professor

Week Fourteen—Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen—Last Week of Classes
Thesis One: Discuss work turned in. HW: Write Assignment (story, pages, essay or 5 poems)
Thesis Two: Meet to discuss final edits & format.

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 coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive the WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.