COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 602 represents the culmination of your experience as an English major. By the end of this course, you will have completed your project, demonstrating ample research proficiency, analytical competence, creative ability, and clear writing. Ideally, your work this semester will challenge you, but we hope you also find it illuminating, interesting—at times even exciting.

Recall that the Capstone experience is designed to move you from more traditional classroom experiences to independent study. Since your project is now more advanced than it was in 601, 602 will consist mostly of one-on-one meetings with your faculty mentor. Only occasionally, we will meet as an entire class; therefore, keep this class meeting time available throughout the semester. As in all courses, attendance and participation are important elements. Plan to attend all meetings. Absences will affect the quality of your project as well as your final grade.

OUTCOMES: English majors will demonstrate

1. the ability to discuss literature, including engaging in an exchange of ideas, and offering and supporting insights
2. the capacity to sustain controlled, critical arguments that analyze and synthesize a number of related texts
3. an understanding of the craft of writing, including concision, diction, grammar, and syntax
4. the ability to produce creative writing that shows an awareness of language, freedom from cliché, and an understanding of genre, style, and topic
5. the ability to identify and use a range of sources, including in-depth, peer-reviewed journal articles and books, suitable to the scholarly conversation on a particular topic, to evaluate and integrate source material, and to document accurately
6. an understanding of the literary tradition, the historical and cultural contexts of literature, and critical methods of reading
7. the ability to give well-planned, engaging presentations

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES

As you recall from English 601, one of the most important parts of Capstone is learning to meet deadlines while working independently. Please note the due dates listed below. Any assignments turned in late will be penalized 10% per day. In accordance with tenets of academic integrity at Westminster, plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and possibly the course. Your grade in English 602 will reflect your work on both the process and the product that constitute the capstone experience. Specific assignments and their corresponding values are as follows:
“Fall Harvest” of Summer Work (outcomes 1-6) due: Sept. 3 5%
5-10 pages of new material, including further analytical writing and an initial portion of creative material. See your 601 syllabus, also on D2L, for more info.

*Creative Writing Workshop Submission & Report (outcomes 1, 3, 4) 5%
Report due 24 hours before meetings w/ Dr. Ade the week of October 1.

First Draft (outcomes 1-6) due: Oct. 24 15%
30-40 pages of the critical paper (this may be a complete first draft of that work), plus a significant portion of your creative component.

Final Draft (outcomes 1-6) due: Nov. 28 70%

**Presentation (outcome 7) due: Dec. 5, 7, 13 5%

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**ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**

*CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: SMALL-GROUP ASSIGNMENT*

**Instructions.** This assignment is in three parts:

**Part One: Creative Writing Partial Draft**
You’ll produce 5 pp. (minimum) of new &/or revised creative work, which you will share with your group members and me. Please upload it to D2L/Discussions by midnight on Monday, September 24.

**Part Two: Group Meeting**
Agree upon a time and place to meet with your group. Prior to your meeting, carefully read each of your peers’ partial drafts of the creative. In order to carry out a discussion that effectively “workshops” each participant’s creative writing, you should assign the following roles to group members:

**FACILITATOR**
Each group needs one facilitator. This person is responsible for arranging the meeting and reminding participants that it’s going to happen. During the meeting, the facilitator is responsible for keeping discussion on track and requiring all members to substantiate their contributions to the conversation. In other words, facilitators will elicit specific examples that justify the group’s answers to the following questions:

A. **Impressions:** What is the creative work trying to do? With language? With structure? With theme?
B. **Strengths:** How and why is the work most successful?
C. **Weaknesses:** Where do you need to improve?
D. **Opportunities:** Where does the work suggest it might go next?
E. How do the creative and critical portions of the capstone inform each other?
F. What questions does your group have about the creative portion of capstone?
RECORDERS
Each group needs two recorders. They will be responsible not only for recording the group’s conversations re: the above questions but also for condensing and synthesizing those conversations into a summary. This summary should communicate clearly and specifically the overall results of your meeting. Recorders should divide up the labor and upload the summary to D2L 24 hours before your meeting with Dr. Ade.

NOTE: It is the facilitator’s job to advise Dr. Ade of any group member(s) who were unresponsive or didn’t participate in the group meeting.

Part Three: Group Conference with Dr. Ade
I will meet with you in groups to discuss this assignment the week of October 1. Upload a copy of your summary report on D2L before our meeting. Together, your partial draft and group work for this assignment constitute 5% of the overall course grade. To that end, the creative material you submit for this assignment should revise and/or develop upon your summer work in some significant way.

**FINAL PRESENTATION GUIDELINES: December 5, 7, & 13**

Please take approximately 10-12 minutes to present a portion of your capstone project. In addition to reading a portion of your capstone, your presentation should consist of the following elements, not necessarily in this order:

1. General overview of your project (thesis, critical approach, texts studied, creative component)

2. Contextualization of the part of your project that you are going to share (Where does it occur in the argument or creative component? What other information may be needed for the audience to understand what you are sharing?)

3. Discussion of process: You may want to share a bit about the process that you went through to write the capstone. What did you learn about the discipline, about writing, about yourself? etc.

After your formal presentation, there will be a few minutes for questions from the class; therefore, we will allow approximately 15 minutes per student.

This assignment is worth 5% of the overall course grade. I will use the following evaluation criteria:

**Content**
How well do you know your critical and creative material? How knowledgeably can you discuss the framework in which you situated your topic?

**Delivery**
Preparedness, Organization, Clarity, and Delivery (eye contact, professionalism, vocal projection and enunciation, posture)
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

(NOTE: Syllabus is subject to changes, swaps, drops and additions.)

**M Aug 27:** First Class

**W Aug 29:** (no class)

**F Aug 31:** (no class)

**M Sep 3:** “Fall Harvest” Summer Work due to D2L dropbox by midnight. Select a conference time on sheet posted on Dr. Ade’s office door.

**W Sep 5:** (no class)

**F Sep 7:** 1st Day of 20-minute conferences in Dr. Ade’s office, as scheduled. After meeting with Dr. Ade, please schedule a meeting with a librarian.

**M Sep 10:** 2nd Day (see 9/7 above)

**W Sep 12:** 3rd Day (see 9/7 above)

**F Sep 14:** 4th Day (see 9/7 above)

**M Sep 17:** Discussion of the creative writing workshop assignment and scheduling of upcoming group meetings. See pp. 2 3 above for details.

**W Sep 19:** (no class)

**F Sep 21:** (no class)

**M Sep 24:** Creative writing partial draft (5 pp.) due to D2L/Discussions by midnight.

~Group meetings (without Dr. Ade) to discuss creative work~

**W Sep 26:** (no class)

**F Sep 28:** (no class)

**M Oct 1:** Day 1: Small-group scheduled meetings with Dr. Ade to discuss creative work. (Group reports due to D2L at least 24 hours before meeting with Dr. Ade.)

**W Oct 3:** Day 2 (see 10/1 above)

**F Oct 5:** Day 3 (see 10/1 above)

**M Oct 8:** (no class)

**W Oct 10:** First Draft excerpt (including intro/thesis, plus 5 new pp. of material) due to D2L at least 24 hours before your upcoming small group meeting with Dr. Ade.

**F Oct 12:** (no class)
M Oct 15: Day 1: Small-group scheduled meetings with Dr. Ade to discuss critical work.
W Oct 17: Day 2 (see 10/15 above)
F Oct 19: Day 3 (see 10/15 above)

M Oct 22: (no class)
W Oct 24: First draft due to D2L by midnight.
Select a conference time on sheet posted on Dr. Ade’s office door.
F Oct 26: (no class)

** OCT. 27-30: FALL BREAK **

W Oct 31: (no class)
F Nov 2: (no class)

M Nov 5: 1\textsuperscript{st} Day of scheduled 20-minute conferences in Dr. Ade’s office to review first drafts.
W Nov 7: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Day (see 11/5 above)
F Nov 9: 3\textsuperscript{rd} Day (see 11/5 above)

M Nov 12: (no class)
W Nov 14: Discussion of the presentation assignment and final manuscript preparation.
Schedule an (optional) final conference with Dr. Ade, if desired.
F Nov 16: (no class)
M Nov 19: (no class)

** NOV. 21-25: THANKSGIVING BREAK **

M Nov 26: (no class)
W Nov 28: Final Draft due! Upload to D2L by midnight, and then . . . exhale.
F Nov 30: (no class)

M Dec 3: (no class)
W Dec 5: Day 1: Presentations
F Dec 7: Day 2: Presentations
Th Dec 13: (8–10:30 a.m.) Final Period (Day 3: Presentations)