Senior Colloquium - Eng. 489 - Winter 2015
MW 12:00-12:50
Dr. Sutphin
L&L 358
403 E, ext. 3433 / sutphinc@cwu.edu
Handouts on Canvas
Office hours: M 2:00-3:00
W by appointment
ThF 11:00-12:00

Purpose of the course:

The senior colloquium is a capstone course designed to help you reflect on the written work you have done in your program and to revise the best of that written work for inclusion in a portfolio. The purpose of the portfolio is to document the range and quality of your reading and writing skills and experiences. In the case of literature and language students, the portfolio should illustrate that you have acquired a variety of strategies for interpreting texts, have developed skills which enable you to articulate those interpretations clearly and responsibly, and have acquired a knowledge and control of the language which enable you to compose various forms of discourse effectively. Interpretive skills should also be demonstrated by writing specialization students in at least one paper. In other portfolio entries writing specialization students demonstrate their skills in creative and/or technical work. In addition to helping you revise your own work, this course also provides an opportunity to gain experience discussing, evaluating, and editing work by your peers.

Requirements:

1. Compile and revise a portfolio of representative work.
2. Evaluate responsibly the work of your peers.
3. Edit at a proficient level (80 percent accuracy) a writing sample for basic errors in usage, spelling and mechanics.
4. Submit for evaluation your major program portfolio.
5. Complete a survey evaluating your major program for the department to use in planning and program review.
6. Participate with other class members in a course evaluation interview with the English Department chair and/or a member of the Undergraduate Committee.
7. Attend and participate in class sessions. Because we meet only two hours per week, your grade of “satisfactory” is seriously in danger if you miss class more than two class periods during the quarter. If you miss more than two class periods and/or you are behind in your work, you may drop 489 without petitioning by Feb. 20.
Passing the course requires that you fulfill the above responsibilities. Your portfolio is printed and bound if I evaluate it as “acceptable,” a “4” according to criteria in the rubric. I may consult other professors in making this evaluation. Even if your portfolio is finally not accepted for printing and binding, you will still pass the course if you have fulfilled the requirements listed above.

Avoiding Plagiarism: Be sure that any direct quotes you use are enclosed in quotation marks and accurately cited. If you paraphrase other writers’ ideas, be careful to cite their work.

If you need disability related educational accommodations, contact Disability Support Services at 963-2171. Please let me know about any accommodations made through DSS.

Contents of the Portfolio:

- The portfolio requires three assignments.
  - One of these assignments must be an analytical/interpretive paper on literature. To fulfill this requirement, papers that are “thesis driven” have the best potential. Analytical summaries, reviews, and take-home final essays will not be good choices unless they have strong theses. Preferably, this paper should come from course work beyond 302 and 303. You want your most sophisticated work in the portfolio.
  - The other two papers can be of the following types: 1) analytical/interpretive literary paper; 2) creative work (a short story, a collection of poems, a play, or creative nonfiction); 3) technical/professional writing; 4) a paper on linguistics, grammar, or history of the language.

- The papers must be appropriate to two different strands (categories) of the major and from three different courses taught by at least two different professors.
  - Literature and Language students: For example, you could have two analytical papers (one from the Critical Studies strand and one from Literature and Culture) and a collection of poems (Electives). Another example: You could have one analytical paper (Literature and History); a paper from Linguistics (English Studies), and a piece of technical writing (Electives). You have the option of including only analytical/interpretive papers in your portfolio as long as two of them relate to different strands.
  - Writing Specialization students: In addition to one interpretive paper from a literature course (for example, from Studies in Fiction), you could have a short story and a selection of poems (if the poems are short, six would be appropriate). You are allowed to have two pieces of creative nonfiction or two short stories, etc. Or for the second category, you could have a proposal, feasibility report, or other genre of technical/professional writing.

Option: If you have a minor, a fourth paper in the portfolio may be a paper written in your minor field of study. It must be endorsed by a professor in your minor program as an acceptable piece of undergraduate work. I will provide you with an endorsement form for the professor in your minor to fill out and sign.
Because the English Department uses the portfolios as an assessment tool, the three required papers must be work done in your English courses at CWU.

The anonymous senior survey is a requirement of the course but not part of the portfolio. It asks you to evaluate your experience with each of the program categories and to answer some general questions about the program(s). Near the end of the quarter, the English Department chair and/or a member of the Undergraduate Committee will visit our class to have a conversation with you about your experiences with 489 and your program(s).

If you have not already done so, review the work you have written for courses. Decide which papers you consider best and consult the portfolio checklist form to see whether you have at least one piece of work that meets the genre/strand/professor requirements for the portfolio. **For our next class meeting Mon., Jan. 12,** fill out a self-evaluation form on at least one of these papers and attach it to the paper. For Wednesday, Jan. 14, fill out and attach the self-evaluation forms for the other two entries. Fill out the portfolio checklist form, make a copy for me, and hand it in along with the two papers. Please **include the grade and all your instructors’ comments.** If your instructor wrote in pencil make sure the photocopy is dark enough to be legible. Keep in mind that your instructor was reading your paper in the context of a course and was grading you on your ability to respond within that context. Because you had been involved in the conversation the course offered, your instructor could fill in some gaps and follow lines of reasoning that a person outside of the conversation would not be able to do.

Think of your portfolio papers as having a wider audience. You can assume that the audience is highly literate and well informed, but lacking the experience of your course and the conversations in which you engaged within the course. Your revised portfolio paper needs to “stand on its own” in a way that the course paper did not. For that reason, it’s very important to record as precisely as you can what the original assignment was, so that readers in 489 will have a good idea of how well the paper fulfilled the assignment and how you might be able to go beyond the assignment, if necessary.

When you have chosen which papers to revise, keep in mind that it may be necessary to discuss a revision with the person for whose course you originally wrote the paper since she or he is likely to be well-informed on matters of content. **I will refer you to the original professor if I think you need to consult with him or her.** If I make a referral, **contact the professor early in the quarter to find out whether and when she/he is available to help you.** Waiting until the last minute, especially with a short quarter and a high enrolment, could mean that you will not finish your portfolio. **Please remember to return the last draft I have commented on when you turn in a new draft.**

**Mon., Dec. 12:**
1) at least one paper, creative work, etc. of the three you wish to revise for the portfolio (with instructors’ comments and grades)
2) a completed self-evaluation form for the above work
Items to hand in no later than

1) the other two entries (with comments and grades)
2) completed self-evaluation forms attached to each work
3) completed portfolio checklist form.

Schedule: Since winter quarter is short, stay on or ahead of schedule. You don’t need to wait for the due date to hand in a revision. If you have a revision finished on Thursday or Friday, for example, you can turn it in during my office hours. (It’s probably best not to leave drafts with comments in my mailbox; if they get lost, we have no way to replace the editorial work.)

If the class stays at the present enrollment, I will be able to give your papers close individual attention. However, you must be responsible for careful editing. Do not hand in revisions that are full of typos, grammar errors, and misspellings. Proofread carefully. I will not allow a paper with more than three of these types of errors to go into the portfolio.

Wed., Jan. 7

Introduction
Because the quarter is short and we have two holidays, you need to hand in at least one of your papers Monday, Jan. 12 in class with the completed self-evaluation form so that I can return it to you before the first workshop. The other two entries are due on Wed., Jan. 14 in class with the completed portfolio checklist form and self-evaluation forms.
If you can hand in all your work on Wednesday with instructors’ comments and the completed forms, please do.

Mon., Jan. 12

At least one paper (analytical paper, creative work, technical writing, linguistics/language paper) due
I can answer questions about filling out the forms in class. If you bring all the work you are considering, we can consult about which items would be best for the portfolio.

Wed., Jan. 14

The rest of portfolio materials due
Discuss sample poetry and rubric.
Some papers will be handed back.

Mon., Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Day

Wed., Jan. 21

Discuss sample paper and rubric.
More papers handed back
Everyone should have at least one paper returned to you by this day.

Mon., Jan. 26

Workshop on paper #1
Bring draft revision to class.
Additional papers will be handed back.
Wed., Jan. 28  Workshop on paper #1  
Bring draft revision to class.

Mon., Feb. 2  Grammar and punctuation practice test
Hand in revision of paper #1.

Wed. Feb. 4  Workshop on draft revision of paper #2.

Mon., Feb. 9  Workshop on draft revision of paper #2

Hand in revision of paper #2.

Mon., Feb. 16 Presidents’ Day

Wed., Feb. 18 Workshop on paper #3

Mon., Feb. 23 Workshop on paper #3

Web., Feb. 25 Grammar and punctuation test.
Hand in revision of paper #3.
Senior surveys handed out. Use the survey questions to review your 
course of study and think about what you want to discuss in the evaluation 
interview. (No one will see your survey comments until after you have 
received your grades; the secretary will check your name off a list, so I will 
know you have completed this assignment.) Turn surveys in to the English 
Department office by .

Mon., March 2 Consultations

Wed., March 4 Department chair meets with class

Mon., March 9 Consultations

Wed., March 11 Consultations

By Friday, March 13 at 3:00, your portfolio must be complete except for minor editorial 
corrections. You do not have to wait for this deadline to finish final corrections. If you 
finish early, you can take care of other obligations. I will be in touch with you Monday of 
finals week to deal with minor corrections, if necessary. As mentioned above, if there are 
up to three small errors, I will accept the portfolio.