Purpose of the class:

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. 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 enables you to compose various forms of discourse effectively” (Department of English Handbook for Majors and Minors). In addition to helping you revise your own work, the course also provides an opportunity to gain experience discussion, evaluating, and editing work by your peers.

Requirements:

1. Compile and revise a portfolio of representative work.
2. Evaluate responsibly the work of peers.
3. Achieve a passing grade or higher on a grammar test (80 percent accuracy is the goal) for basic errors in usage, spelling and mechanics.
4. Submit your major program portfolio for evaluation.
5. Complete a survey evaluating your major program for use by the department 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 via email.
7. Participate in class sessions on Discussions and other Canvas venues. Your grade of “satisfactory” is seriously in danger if you miss any assignments during the quarter.

Passing the course requires that you fulfill the above responsibilities. Your portfolio will be printed and bound if it is evaluated as “Acceptable,” a “4” according to the 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.
For the first class assignment:

Review the papers you have written for courses. Decide which papers you consider best (or consider to have the most potential). Papers that are “thesis driven” have good potential for portfolio papers. Analytical summaries and take-home final essays will not be good choices unless they have strong theses. Consult the checklist form to determine whether you have at least one piece of work that fulfills each of the categories required for the portfolio.

The portfolio requires three papers.

One of the papers must be an analytical/interpretive paper on literature.

The other two papers can be of the following types:
1) analytical/interpretive paper on literature
2) creative work (a short story, collection of poems, play or creative nonfiction) or a piece of technical writing
3) linguistics, grammar or history of the language paper.

The papers must be appropriate to two different strands (you can consult the university catalog for help) and from three different courses taught by at least two different professors. For example, you could have two analytical papers (one from the Literature and History Strand and one from the Literature and Culture Strand) and a collection of poems (Writing Elective). Another example: you could have one analytical paper (Literary Forms); a paper from Linguistics (Required Courses), and a piece of Technical Writing from the Writing Strand. You have the option of including only analytical/interpretive papers in your portfolio as long as two of them relate to different strands.

NOTE: Because the English Department uses portfolios as an assessment tool, the three required papers must be work done in your English Major at CWU. You will want these papers to demonstrate your best writing from your English Department Major courses (papers from classes early in your major may not be appropriate, i.e. ENG 263, ENG 302).

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 strands 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 ENG 489 and your program(s).

For the first assignment, due Wed, January 14th, gather copies of all the papers you are considering, and send me a list of your options in Assignment #1.

By Sun., January 18th, fill out the portfolio checklist form, and upload copies of the three papers you are considering for the portfolio. These papers should be graded and have all your instructor’s comments. If you only have hard copies, you will need to scan the
papers to make pdfs. Submit the portfolio checklist form, your papers, and self eval forms for each of your papers.

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 context of the class, your instructor could fill in some gaps and follow lines of reasoning that a person outside of the context would not be able to do. Think of your portfolio papers as having a wider audience now. You can assume that your audience is highly literate and well-informed, but lacking in the experience of your course and the conversations in which you engaged in 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 your fellow readers in ENG 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 now with revision.

When you have chosen which papers to revise, keep in mind that it may be necessary to discuss a revision with the professor for whose course you originally wrote the paper since she or he is likely to be well-informed on matters of context. I will refer you to the original professor early in the quarter to find out whether and when he/she is available to help you. Waiting until the last minute, especially with high enrollment in the class, could mean that you will not finish your portfolio.

Please remember to always turn in the previous commented-on draft when you turn in a new draft!

Class Schedule (this schedule may be updated during the quarter)

WEEK 1

Wed 1/7
Intro to class. Read all of material for this week (Course Design, Syllabus, Instructions for Week 1). Familiarize yourself with the forms in the Course Documents section.

Sun 1/11

POST: Class introductions on Discussions by Sunday before midnight.

DUE: Check-in with Professor.

WEEK 2

Wed 1/14

DUE before midnight: Assignment #1 in Assignments—see instructions in Assignments (list of papers).
Sun 1/18

DUE before midnight: From my feedback on your paper list please attach the following for Assignment #2 in Assignments:

1) completed portfolio forms
2) electronic files of three papers you are considering for revision (with instructor’s comments and grades)
3) completed self-evaluation forms, one for each paper

DUE before midnight: Check-in with Professor

WEEK 3

Wed 1/21
Read Sample Papers and Workshop Guidelines posted in WEEK 3 Module to prepare for Practice Workshop.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

Sun 1/25
Practice Workshop with sample papers in Discussions.

POST before midnight: Practice Workshop on Sample Papers. Post three comments in Discussions by Sunday before midnight.

DUE before midnight: Check-in with Professor.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

WEEK 4

Wed 1/28
Work on a revision of Portfolio Paper#1, using my feedback.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

Sun 2/1

POST before midnight: Revision of Paper #1 in Discussions.

DUE before midnight: Check-in with Professor.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).
WEEK 5

Wed 2/4
Workshop on Paper #1

POST before midnight: Write extensive comments on three different classmates’ Revised Paper #1 in Discussions, using Guidelines and following instructions in Discussions.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

Sun 2/8
Work on a revision of Portfolio Paper #2, using my feedback.

DUE before midnight: Check-in with Professor.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

WEEK 6

Wed 2/11
Work on a revision of Portfolio Paper #2, using my feedback.

DUE before midnight: Grammar and mechanics practice test in Assignments.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

Sun 2/15

POST before midnight: Revision of Paper #2 Discussions.

DUE before midnight: Check-in with Professor.

(Some portfolio papers will be returned with comments).

WEEK 7

Wed 2/18
Results of Practice Test available.

Workshop on Paper #2

POST before midnight: Write extensive comments on three different classmates’ Revised Paper #2 in Discussions, using Guidelines and following instructions in Discussions.
Sun 2/22

Work on a revision of Portfolio Paper #3, using my feedback.

**Due before midnight: Final Revision of Paper #1 in Assignments; please read instructions.**

**DUE before midnight:** Check-in with Professor

WEEK 8

Wed 2/25

Work on a revision of Portfolio Paper #3, using my feedback.

**Due before midnight: Grammar and mechanics test in Assignments.**

Sun 3/1

**POST before midnight:** Revision of Paper #3 in Discussions.

**Due before midnight:** Final Revision of Paper #2 in Assignments; please read instructions.

**DUE before midnight:** Check-in with Professor.

WEEK 9

Wed 3/4

Workshop on Paper #3

**POST before midnight:** Write extensive comments on three different classmates’ Revised Paper #3 in Discussions, using Guidelines and following instructions in Discussions.

Sun 3/8

Senior Surveys available in Assignments, please read Instructions.

Schedule evaluation interview with English Department chair, George Drake via email.
**DUE before midnight:** Check-in with Professor.

**WEEK 10**

**Wed 3/11**

**Due before midnight:** Final Revision of Portfolio Paper #3 in Assignments, please follow instructions.

**Fri 3/13**

Portfolio Revision Conferences via email.

**EXAM WEEK**

**Tues 3/17**

**Due before midnight:** Completed Portfolio Checklist

**DUE before midnight:** Check-in with Professor.

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Completed portfolios due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 3/19, in Assignments

I do not accept late homework, exercises, responses or assignments. Unless you have contacted me before class about a special circumstance, late assignments will count as missed.

All instances of academic dishonesty or plagiarism in this class will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize a paper, you will fail the class and be reported.

"Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should send me a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” from the disability Support Services Office as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students with disabilities without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171 immediately."