

Department of English**Course:** English 7990**Course Title:** Directed Readings for English Teachers**Instructor:** Varies**Prerequisite:** Enrollment in final semester of the M.Ed. or M.A.T. Program

Catalog Description: This capstone course involves a study of no fewer than ten works in the English discipline, which will culminate in a guest lecture, a portfolio, a written exam, and an oral exam; each counts for 25% of the final course grade. The student will work in conjunction with a committee chosen from the English graduate faculty; however, the course will be completed primarily as an independent study. Through the process, the student will develop methods of independent inquiry and self-directed study.

Course objectives: The student, in conjunction with a faculty member chosen from the English graduate faculty to be the major professor, will determine areas of weakness, career objectives and expectations, and academic interests. Using this information, the student and major professor will determine what area or areas will be represented on a list of no fewer than ten book-length works or their equivalent. The student, the student's major professor, and one other member of the English graduate faculty will then draw up the reading list. The student will demonstrate competence over the list by completing both a written and oral examination, by presenting a fifty-minute guest lecture, and by developing a portfolio, which the student may elect to use to meet partially the criteria of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Methods of Instruction: The student will work independently under the direction of two members of the English graduate faculty, one of whom will be the major professor who will have responsibility for coordinating the committee and reporting the final grade. Each committee member will advise and direct the student, determining and approving the reading list, recommending beneficial secondary works, checking the student's progress, reviewing the student's portfolio, critiquing the guest lecture, providing practice experiences for the exams, and evaluating the oral and written exams.

Evaluation: The student must demonstrate competence determined by both committee members in all four of the evaluation tools: the written exam, the oral exam, the lecture, and the portfolio. The portfolio will consist of items such as the following: the reading list, reader responses to each work on the list, ideas for teaching a representative sample of works from the list, analysis of secondary criticism suitable for teaching the works on the list, and class notes related to the works on the list that will help in teaching those works.

Course content:

Week 1 Determine major professor and meet with committee to draw up reading list.

Week 2 Complete 1st book on list; complete reader response; submit to committee for feedback.

Week 3	Complete 2 nd book on list, complete reading response; consult with faculty to finalize reading list.
Week 4	Read theory/auxiliary readings on list and complete responses; consult with major professor to schedule exams and guest lecture; choose topic for teaching unit #1 (for the guest lecture) and begin working on that; work on researched essay #1 (on guest lecture topic).
Week 5	Complete 3 rd book on list; complete reading response; complete revised draft of researched essay #1.
Week 6	Complete 4 th book on list, complete reading response; complete teaching unit #1A (targeting college students).
Week 7	Complete 5 th book on list; complete reading response; draft guest lecture lesson; begin research for researched essay #2.
Week 8	Complete 6 th book on list, complete reading response; submit guest lecture plans to committee and to the host professor.
Week 9	Complete remaining theoretical/auxiliary readings and responses; complete work on teaching unit #1B (targeting high school students); begin work on teaching unit #2.
Week 10	Offer guest lecture in a professor's class (real date will be set by student and committee); complete guest lecture self-reflection; continue work on researched essay #2.
Week 11	Complete 7 th book on list; complete reading response; complete researched essay #2
Week 12	Complete 8 th book on list; complete reading response; complete teaching unit #2; begin studying for exams; work on compiling portfolio
Week 13	Complete 9 th book on list; complete reading response; work on portfolio; study for exams.
Week 14	Complete 10 th book on list; complete reading response; complete portfolio; study for exams.
Week 15	Take written and oral exams, submit portfolio to committee.

Knowledge Base:

- A. Required texts—Varies by student as explained above.
- B. Supplemental readings—Varies by student as explained above.

General Expectations:

Attendance: Students are responsible for meeting with **and communicating with** the faculty members on their committee. Failure to do so in a timely manner may result in failure of the course.

Incompletes: Incompletes are awarded only when a student is doing satisfactory work, but for non-academic reasons beyond the student's control, is unable to meet the full requirements of the course.