



Graduate Course Syllabus

MFA 507: Advanced Studies in Literature

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Study classic and contemporary literature by exploring published authors' usage of creative-writing craft elements. Analyze the applications of these storytelling craft elements in published literature, and identify why the literature, as a cohesive whole, is successful. Develop individual approaches to the "writer's toolkit" by employing the craft elements of storytelling into personal works for advancing a career as a creative writer.

Course Outcomes

- Evaluate the author's use of craft elements in literature for informing writing
- Assemble a writer's toolkit of craft elements for use in future writing
- Develop strategies for incorporating craft elements in one's future work
- Explain how the craft elements identified in classic and contemporary fiction can be applied to one's own creative and professional writing
- Articulate how identifying genre tropes in literature assists in locating one's position within the literary landscape

Required Materials

In this course, you will be reading two novels from a [paired book list](#). You will need to choose and purchase your novels at the end of Module One. Because you will need these novels right away, you may purchase them as e-books directly from [VitalSource](#).

If this is your first time purchasing materials from VitalSource, refer to the [Getting Started with the VitalSource Store guide](#). For more information on accessing your books once you've purchased them, refer to the [Bookshelf Online Overview guide](#)

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor

via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	7	10	70
Journals	2	20	40
Book Groups	4	30	120
Knowledge Check	1	25	25
Writing Assignment	1	35	35
Toolkit Roundtable	1	40	40
Assignments	3	90	270
Final Project Submission	1	400	400
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and

discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction to Craft Elements 1-1 Before You Get Started 1-2 Discussion: Introduction to Craft Elements 1-3 Activity: Choose Texts (Non-graded) 1-4 Final Project Review
2	Strategies for Using Craft Elements 2-1 Before You Get Started 2-2 Discussion: Analyzing Craft Elements 2-3 Journal: Literary Genre 2-4 Book Group
3	Practicing Craft 3-1 Before You Get Started 3-2 Writing Assignment: Practicing Craft 3-3 Book Group
4	Genre Tropes and Theme 4-1 Before You Get Started 4-2 Book Group 4-3 Assignment: Compare and Contrast Paper
5	The Current Literary Landscape 5-1 Before You Get Started 5-2 Discussion: Literary Landscape 5-3 Journal: Book Review Prep 5-4 Book Group
6	Beginnings and Endings 6-1 Before You Get Started 6-2 Discussion: Beginnings and Endings 6-3 Assignment: Book Review 6-4 Begin Work on Example Use of Craft Element
7	Clarifying Craft Strategies 7-1 Before You Get Started 7-2 Discussion: Craft Strategies 7-3 Assignment: Toolkit 7-4 Reminder
8	Creating a Literary Vocabulary 8-1 Before You Get Started 8-2 Knowledge Check: Literary Terms 8-3 Toolkit Roundtable 8-4 Final Project Reminder

Module	Topics and Assignments
9	Role of Literature in the Outside World 9-1 Discussion: The Influence of Writers 9-2 Final Project Submission: Craft Element Toolkit
10	Professional Landscape 10-1 Discussion: Professional Landscape 10-2 ePortfolio (Non-graded) 10-3 Course Wrap-Up (Non-graded)

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008, Southern New Hampshire University does not discriminate on the basis of disability, including intellectual disability, in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor does it discriminate in employment in its programs or activities.

The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. A disability is a condition or impairment that impacts a “major life activity” or “major bodily function.”

- **Major life activities** include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.
- **Major bodily functions** include, but are not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. Disabilities include physical, medical (including pregnancy), mental health, and learning needs.

At the beginning of each term, or as soon as you become aware of a disability or accessibility concern, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC.

Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until acceptable documentation of a disability and its impact is received and an accommodation letter has been processed. If you are unsure whether your condition qualifies as a disability or accessibility concern, please contact the OAC for determination.

Contact Information:

Online Accessibility Center

Phone: 866-305-9430

Email: oad@snhu.edu

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

Student Work Samples

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please complete the [Student Work Sample Survey](#).