COURSE (Student Learning) OBJECTIVES:

♦ To discuss professional issues of concern to English majors
♦ To prepare for entrance into the job market and/or graduate school
♦ To create a portfolio that represents and evaluates the student’s college career
♦ To improve skills in research, writing, and critical thinking
♦ To demonstrate advanced library research skills
♦ To prepare and deliver an oral presentation and paper about an assigned topic
♦ To survey major theories of literary criticism and to use theories to guide discussion

Liberal Arts Core goal
♦ Mastery of the five LAC competencies (critical reading, critical thinking, oral communication, written communication, and information literacy) at a level appropriate for graduation.

TEXTS:
(Recommended texts, not required for class, but good to have on hand)

ASSIGNMENTS:
Senior Writing Portfolio Pass or Fail
Class Discussion Leader Pass or Fail
Readings journal 45% of the final grade
Research Essay 20% of the final grade
Mid-term exam 10% of the final grade
Final Exam 10% of the final grade
In-class presentation 15% of the final grade

*All assignments must be completed to earn a grade in the class.

Portfolio: Each student must also submit a portfolio of her/his college career work. The portfolio, and any assigned writing accompanying it, must be approved by the professors in order to pass this course. This portfolio will be evaluated by members of the English Department and is required of all who wish to graduate with an English major. **Without an approved portfolio, the student will not receive credit for Senior Seminar.**

Class Discussion and Leadership: English 460 is a Seminar course. As such, you are responsible for preparing for and leading discussion. See the class schedule to learn the days you are in charge. You should prepare a brief, formal comment regarding the readings and their main
claims and prepare 3-5 “thought-provokers,” i.e. questions that will guide class discussion. **Students who fail to participate as a Class Discussion Leader are subject to having their final grade lowered a full letter grade.**

**Readings Journal:** 15 journal entries in response to our class readings will be due (there are a total of 22 journal entry opportunities, and you can pick the 15 you want to do; there are **no** extra credit journal or “replacement” entries). See the class schedule for due dates. The journal entries will be approximately three pages long (MLA style, double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman) and will evaluate, critique, and respond to the assigned readings; some journal assignments may have assigned questions. Summaries of the readings should be minimal, and the emphasis should be one your response to the readings. Your journals should be insightful, thought-provoking, and polished in all particulars (that is, of grad-school quality). Grammatical and spelling errors are simply unacceptable. All entries must be typed. **NO LATE JOURNAL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Journal entries are due at the beginning of class and may not be submitted by e-mail.

**Research Essay:** You will use literary theory to analyze a selected text. The essay will be typed, should be 12-15 pages long, and must strictly follow MLA style. The assignment will be discussed more fully in class. Minimum of 10 sources beyond our class texts. **NO LATE RESEARCH ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Research essays are due at the beginning of class.

**Mid-term Exam:** The mid-term exam will cover what we have read and discussed during the first part of the semester. The exam will be comprised of identifications of paragraph-length responses.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will cover what we have read and discussed during the second part of the semester. The exam will be comprised of identifications of paragraph-length responses.

**In-class presentation:** You will be assigned a particular critical theorist and text to present to the class on a specific date. For this assignment you should provide to each member of the class (1) a formal and well-organized outline of the major tenets of her/his critical position; (2) an annotated bibliography; (3) a two-page summary/overview that demonstrates your close reading of the primary theoretical text; (4) a five page essay which utilizes that critic’s approach to illuminate a poem, song, or short story of your choice (also to be provided to the class), and (5) one copy on CD of your Power Point presentation for the professors. Your classroom presentation will be strictly limited to 20 minutes, and the assignment will be graded based on your oral presentation, the outline, the overview, and your brief essay. **DO NOT READ YOUR ESSAY ALOUD TO THE CLASS.** You should systematically and carefully introduce your material and lead a discussion of the critic and your interpretation of the chosen text. Minimum of 5 scholarly sources beyond our class texts. Please see the professor to reserve DVD/VCR/Power Point materials.

**ATTENDANCE:** As per the School of Humanities policy, attendance will be taken for all students. If a student misses, for any reason, 12 class periods for a MWF class, or 8 class periods for a TR class (or the equivalent of 4 weeks of class), he/she will fail the course. If a student misses class due to documented illness, death of an immediate family member, or participation in College sponsored activities, the student will be allowed to make up class work missed with no
penalties. However, the absence itself is NOT excused and WILL count towards the total
number of absences for the course. It is the student’s obligation to find out about missed
assignments and to make them up WITHIN ONE WEEK of the original absence. If the absence
results in missing a test or a quiz, the student must be prepared to take the test/quiz on the first
day he/she is back in class after the absence.

Attendance will be taken for all students. Any student who does not attend class during
the first 2 weeks of the semester will be administratively dropped from the class for non-
attendance. Enrollment status (full-time/part-time/etc.) may be affected by this withdrawal
which may impact billing and financial aid eligibility. Refer to the Refund Section of the catalog
for more detailed information.

A student who quits (desists) attending class and does not withdraw by the last day to
withdraw from the course with a W, will be assigned a grade of VF. A grade of VF carries hours
attempted and 0 quality points. Students who fail all courses due to non-attendance will be
administratively withdrawn from the college for the semester. The last date of class attendance
will be used to determine the date of the administrative withdrawal from the college. Financial
Assistance recalculations will be processed for students who are administratively withdrawn
from the college within 45 days of the date of determination. If a student is administratively
withdrawn from the college, financial assistance eligibility may be impacted. Class attendance is
limited to the instructor(s) of the course, registered students and official guests of the College.

Because this is a workshop-oriented class, each student's presence is vital to the success
of the class. After the fourth absence (2 weeks), the student will receive a warning from the
School of Humanities. After the eighth absence (4 weeks) the student will receive an “F” as a
final grade in accordance with C-N’s School of Humanities’ policy. Excessive tardiness can also
lower your final grade, along with being disruptive and inconsiderate to the class. Three tardies
of more than 10 minutes will equal one absence. If you are late, it is your job to notify the
instructor after class, or you will be marked absent. As reading and writing assignments will
often be given in class, it is your responsibility to contact your classmates when you miss a class
to find out if an assignment was given.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of someone else's materials (a book, an
article, another essay) without citing the source, or the use of another person's essay as one's own.
Also, all work must be original for this class. A plagiarized essay will receive a 0 (zero) as a
grade, and the student will receive an “F” in the class and be reported to the College. Academic
dishonesty may include, but is not limited to the following: giving or receiving aid on tests;
plagiarizing papers, assignments, book reviews; removing and/or copying test questions from
office files. Incidents of suspected dishonesty will be addressed by the course
instructor/professor with the department chair and/or the school dean. After hearing the student
and considering all the evidence sanctions will be assessed if guilt is determined. Academic
dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to, an immediate F and loss of credit
for the course and, upon a recurrence or gross dishonesty, expulsion from the College. Any
student who receives an F in a course due to academic dishonesty will not be allowed to drop the
course even if the F is assigned prior to the last date to drop a course with a W. Any finding of
academic dishonesty, and the sanction applied or recommended, shall be reported to the Provost
who shall assess any sanction more severe than the loss of credit for the course. A student may
appeal a finding and/or a sanction assessed to the Provost. Otherwise, no appeal shall be
allowed. For updates and questions related to this area, please contact the Provost Office.
TEXTING IN CLASS: Of course, cell phone texting in class is discourteous. However, if you feel the need to read or send a text during class you may do so; but, three points will be deducted from your final average in the class for each time you read or send a text.

C-N SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Any student with a special documented disability (sight, hearing, language, mobility, etc.) which may affect class activities should contact David Humphrey (Kathleen Manley Wellness Center) at 471-3268 and provide appropriate documentation.

GRADING SCALE:
A = 100 – 90; A+ = 98, A = 95, A- = 92
B = 89 – 80; B+ = 88, B = 85, B- = 82
C = 79 – 70; C+ = 78, C = 75, C- = 72
D = 69 – 60; D+ = 68, D = 65, D- = 62
F = Below 60