

EN601-01: Introduction to Graduate Studies: Bibliography and Research

Instructor Information

Professor: Cheryl Blake Price

Email address: cprice7@una.edu

Office: Willingham Hall 215

Office phone: (256) 765-4488

Office Hours: M 2-4pm or TR 1:30-4:00pm

Course information

Class location: Stevens 402

Meeting times: M 6:00-8:45pm

Class Description:

Emphasis on contemporary methods and aims of literary research; special readings designed to familiarize students with a wide range of available source materials and research techniques. Required of students seeking a master's degree in English. Open only to those students in the Master of Arts in English program.

Course Goals and Objectives:

- Learn about English studies as a discipline
- Become familiar with research methods, including how to find and evaluate sources
- Learn about job opportunities for students with graduate degrees in English
- Generate an original interpretation of a work of literature
- Work as a team to complete a large research project
- Hone editing, research, and critical thinking skills through the annotation project

Required Material:

Adams, Charles Warren. *The Notting Hill Mystery*. British Library P.

Assessment:

Annotation Project: 50%

Research Paper on Theme: 10%

Weekly Assignments: 30%

Progress Reports: 10%

Official Grade Scale:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 63-69

F: Below a 63

Course Policies:

Attendance:

Attendance and participation are essential for doing well in this course. Students absent for two weeks (4 M meetings) cannot get an A in the course; after four absences, students' final grades will be deducted one-third of a letter grade for each additional absence unless they have an appropriate excuse for the absence. After four weeks of absences (8 total), students are ineligible to pass the course whether or not the absences are excused. Excused absences include religious holidays, letter-supported athletic

events, or serious illness (with appropriate documentation). I will consider attendance issues on a case-by-case basis and these will be decided at my discretion. I do not make a distinction between “excused” or “unexcused” absences: you have four, use them wisely. You are responsible for making up all missed work in a timely manner. In-class participation and assignments (like the progress reports) cannot be made up.

ADA:

Any student who is has a disability and who can benefit from any adjustments to the classroom should speak with me. If you haven’t already, you should also contact the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (333-1970) for assistance with accommodations.

TITLE IX:

The University of North Alabama has an expectation of mutual respect. Students, staff, administrators, and faculty are entitled to a working environment and educational environment free of discriminatory harassment. This includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic and intimate partner violence, stalking, gender-based discrimination, discrimination against pregnant and parenting students, and gender-based bullying and hazing.

Faculty and staff are required by federal law to report any observations of harassment (including online harassment) as well as any notice given by students or colleagues of any of the behaviors noted above. Retaliation against any person who reports discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. UNA’s policies and regulations covering discrimination and harassment may be accessed at www.una.edu/titleix. If you have experienced or observed discrimination or harassment, confidential reporting resources can be found on the website or you may make a formal complaint by contacting the Title IX Coordinator at 256-765-4223.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, or “us[ing] someone else’s work without giving proper credit to the originator,” is a serious offense in any academic setting. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual writers. We will discuss proper use of sources this semester, and I expect that you will employ the strategies we discuss. If I find evidence that you have deliberately committed any form of plagiarism, such as obtaining a paper from an online paper mill or fraternity file, having someone else write a paper for you, or paraphrasing or copying from an outside source without acknowledging the source, I will penalize you according to University policy, which usually means a failing grade for either the assignment or the class. Please keep this in mind as you do your work for this class.

Computer Policy:

Usually there will be time in class to work on your annotation project. You should bring a laptop or tablet to help facilitate your work during this time.

Syllabus Change Policy:

Each group of students is unique and, in order to facilitate your specific educational needs, I may have to adjust the syllabus and/or weekly schedule. If I need to do this, I will let you know and will not change anything that has the potential to negatively affect your grade.

Assignments:

Annotation Project:

Each student will be assigned a section of *The Notting Hill Mystery* to transcribe and annotate. On Canvas there is a document that outlines the types of annotations needed for the project. Your target audience for the annotations should be advanced undergrad and graduate students. There is no minimum or maximum number of annotations required—students are expected to do a thorough and accurate job while not overwhelming the reader with unnecessary annotations. Your project will be graded on the accuracy of the transcription and the quality and necessity of your annotations. The transcription and annotation must be completed on Googledocs. Students will also be expected to contribute to the bibliography with sources they find related to the novel.

Progress Reports:

Each week you will meet with another student in the class (on a rotating basis) to discuss your progress on the annotation project. Each student will go over their progress, allowing their partner to read and review their work (you will need to bring in a laptop or tablet so you can access your Googledoc). Each student should discuss their annotations with their partners, including the things they are proud of and the places they are having difficulty. Note your partner's progression and the quality of their work and problem solve with them if needed. By the following Wednesday, you will need to fill out a short (a 10 question Google form) about your partner's progress. You must attend class to complete this assignment, because the in-class meeting is critical to the evaluations. 50% of the grade comes from the evaluations of your peers and 50% comes from your completion of your peer's evaluations. There are 10 evaluations in total.

Weekly Assignments: About every week (12 total) you will have a short weekly assignment that complements the course topic/reading. Each prompt outlines the requirements for that week's assignment and the form the answer should take.

Mini-Research Paper:

You will choose one theme (a list of themes you can sign up for will be provided) for the topic of your mini-research paper. The paper should be 5-7 double spaced pages and should focus on your assigned theme across the entirety of *The Notting Hill Mystery*. Think of this paper as explaining one of the following: a) how your theme operates in the novel b) how the novel is affected by your theme or c) how background on your theme helps the reader understand some aspect of the novel. Your target audience is advanced undergrads and grad students. Approach your essay as supplemental material that could help other student-readers understand different facets of the novel.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: What is English Studies?

M 8/24: Introduce course syllabus and materials. Have read Chapter 1 “What is Literature, what is a text?” (1-9) from *Introduction to Literary Studies* pdf on Canvas. You should also read/review Chapters 2 (“Major Genres in Textual Studies) and 3 (Periods of English Literatures) as needed. Discuss what studying literature at a graduate level entails. Short tutorial on Googledocs.

Week 2: Beginning Annotations

M 8/31: Have first chapter of *The Notting Hill Mystery* and review the document “Annotation Types TNHM” on Canvas. Weekly Assignment #1 (Mark potential annotations for first chapter). Assign chapters for annotation. Go over resources available.

Week 3: Labor Day—No class

M 9/7: No class

Week 4: Theory Refresher

M 9/14: Have read all of *The Notting Hill Mystery* and Chapter 4 “Theoretical Approaches to Literature” (73-100) in *Introduction to Literary Studies* pdf on Canvas. Weekly Assignment #2 due (Theoretical Perspective Paper)

Week 5: Issues in Scholarly Editing

M 9/21: Have read “MLA Guidelines for Editors of Scholarly Editions,” “The Art and Craft of Editing (Parts 1 &2)” and “Types of Editions”. Weekly Assignment #3 due (Reflections on Editing). Progress Report #1 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 6: Locating and Using Resources—Primary Sources

M 9/28: Have read UCLA’s guide to primary sources. Weekly Assignment #4 due (How to find primary sources). Have transcription of your section completed by this date. Progress Report #2 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 7: Locating and Using Resources—Databases

M 10/5: Check out the library’s resource page for Literature and Languages. Weekly Assignment #5 due (Database Review). Progress Report #3 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 8: Locating and Using Resources— Journals

M 10/12: Weekly Assignment #6 (Journal Review). Progress Report #4 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 9: MA Degree Plan

M 10/19: Have read the “Degree Requirements and Master’s Handbook” and “The Culture of a Graduate Program.” Weekly Assignment #7 due (Planning your degree path). Progress Report #5 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 10: Get to Know Your Field

M 10/26: Weekly Assignment #8 due (Explore your field assignment). Have read “The Seminar Paper” pdf online. Progress Report #6 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 11: PhD Programs

M 11/2: Have read “The Structure of a Graduate Degree.” Weekly Assignment #9 due (Report on a PhD program). Progress Report #7 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 12: Community College Teaching

M 11/9: Have read Rob Jenkins’ “How the Job Search Differs at Community Colleges” and “Raising Ambitions: The Challenge in Teaching at Community Colleges.” Weekly Assignment #10 (Exploring Community College Jobs). Guest speaker Meredith Sides. Progress Report #8 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 13: Four-Year Faculty Positions

M 11/16: Have read Berube’s “Humanities Unraveled” and “The Real Life of a Tenure Track Faculty Person” and Schuman’s “Thesis Hatment.” Weekly Assignment #11 (Exploring University Faculty Jobs). Also look at the Literature Job Wiki. Progress Report #9 due by midnight Wednesday of this week.

Week 14: Alt-Ac Jobs

M 11/23: Have read “Going Alt-Ac: Where to Begin” and “Alt-Ac Realities.” Annotation Project due. Progress Report #10 due by midnight Wednesday of this week (students self complete this one).

Week 15: Conferences

M 11/30: Have read “Attending Conferences” and Weekly Assignment #12 (Find a Conference)

Mini-essay due on our final exam date.