ENGL 4950: Senior Seminar

Please visit the following website for complete class information that includes all required texts, assignments, and a detailed semester reading schedule:

http://research.uvu.edu/Albrecht-crane/4950/main.html

COURSE INFO
Instructor: Christa Albrecht-Crane, Ph.D.
Class Info: Fall 2011, T 4-6:30, LA 102
Office: LA 126f
Office Hours: T 3-4, MW 12-1, and by appointment
Office Phone: 801.863.6286
Email: christaa@uvu.edu
Web: https://research.uvu.edu/albrecht-crane

Prerequisites: ENGL 3000, 3090, 3890; senior status recommended

COURSE GOALS
By the end of the course students will:
- make and know their own arguments for the relevance of literature in English and English majors in contemporary society
- reflect on and explore professional aspirations
- strategize ways of entering the careers of their choice
- increase confidence in their ability to present themselves professionally both orally and in writing
- prepare a professional application package to submit to job searches or graduate school applications
- prepare and submit a comprehensive senior portfolio for department assessment purposes

Overall, this course serves as the culmination of students' efforts and work as English Majors in the department. It thus presents an opportunity to reflect on and analyze one's engagements with English language and literatures over the course of study. I do not want the course to ask students to complete meaningless busy work but want to rather emphasize that the English major is a dynamic experience in which students and teachers create genuine learning communities that engage with questions about literature, texts, the profession, and life at large. So, while this class does require that students complete and submit a set of rather standard assignments, it also strives to embody and maintain part of the excitement and real curiosity that originally drew all of us into the discipline of English.

REQUIRED TEXTS
1. Please purchase at the bookstore the following course texts:

2. Please also download and print out a number of articles on the course web page.
GRADING
Your grade in this course is based on participation, eight papers or formal writing assignments, five informal exercises, and a final project. In particular, I will evaluate each component as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five Papers</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five Exercises</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Writing Sample</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Portfolio</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Evaluation</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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ATTENDANCE
Attendance is mandatory. Small group activities and class discussion will be emphasized. Research shows that what occurs during class is an important part of the learning process so your attendance is necessary. If you miss class, you need to talk to a classmate or two and get their notes, then talk to me if you have specific questions about what we covered. Excessive absences (more than one) will lower your grade. Missing more than three classes will result in your failure of the class. Attendance will be taken at the start of every class period, and late arrivals and early departures will count against you.

PARTICIPATION
Our class sessions will be structured almost exclusively around discussions. It will be more enjoyable for all of us (and you’ll do better) if you (1) attend class regularly, (2) do the required reading, and (3) be prepared to discuss what you’ve read.

Please be advised that this component of the course is quite important and that I take it very seriously. I strongly discourage “fluff” contributions and disruptions. I reserve the right to penalize students who, in my judgment, make repeated and obvious efforts to undermine quality discussion and/or to bolster their participation score with irrelevant comments.

MISSED WORK, LATE WORK, AND EXTRA CREDIT
No late work; no make-up work; no extra credit.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
Cell phones are to be turned off before you come to class. Refrain from using your cell phone for text messaging at all times while you're in class. In addition, please do not use laptop computers at any time during class. Class members should treat each other with respect and a productive attitude.

Information about STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES and the PLAGIARIAM policy for this class can be found on the on-line syllabus.

CONTACTING ME
I encourage you to visit my office, whether it is to address a specific concern or simply chat about the course. If you cannot meet during my office hours, I am happy to schedule another time to meet with you but you will need to talk to me ahead of time.

The best way to contact me outside of office hours is through e-mail. You may call me at my office during office hours.