

ENGLISH 496: DIRECTED READING APPLICATION

English 496 is a directed reading course open to advanced majors who want to study a topic or body of writing that falls outside of the department's course offerings. Students who wish to pursue this type of independent study must develop the course in consultation with a faculty member, whose research interests align with the student's interests. All directed studies must be approved both by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and by the Chair of the English Department.

Student Name _____

Student ID Number _____

Faculty Director _____

Semester _____

In the space below or in a separate attachment, provide a description of the proposed directed reading, including course topic, aims, and requirements. Also include a schedule of primary and secondary readings and other work.

Sample Proposal for ENG 496

Student Name and ID: Jane Doe

Faculty Director: Dr. English

Semester: Spring 2019

In this directed reading course, the student will be comparing nonfiction texts by and about spiritual early American women who were renowned as sinners or saints (and sometimes both) to more contemporary fictional representations. The goal will be to think about how spirituality intersects with historical understandings of gender and sexuality and to determine how those intersections continue to influence the ways American literature perceives good and bad women. The student will meet with the instructor every other week. For each meeting, the student will read the assigned texts and produce a brief response paper (1-2 pages). The student will also produce two 5+ page literary analysis papers, one on a text from the nonfiction literature unit and one on a text from the fiction unit. The student will tie these units and papers together in a final 15+ page research project.

Schedule:

Week 1: Anne Hutchinson, Anne Bradstreet, and Katherine Tekakwitha

Texts: Anne Bradstreet, *Collected Poems*
David D. Hall, ed., *The Antinomian Controversy, 1636-1638: A Documentary History*
Allan Greer, *Mohawk Saint*

Week 3: The Salem Witches and Other Sinful Women

Texts: Richard Godbeer, ed., *The Salem Witch Hunt: A Brief History with Documents*
Excerpts from Daniel E. Williams, ed., *Pillars of Salt: An Anthology of Early American Criminal Narratives*

Discuss Paper I and Secondary Research

Week 5: Paper I Due

Week 7: Nineteenth-Century Novels about Historical American Women

Texts: Catherine Maria Sedgwick, *Hope Leslie*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Week 9: Twentieth-Century Novels about Historical American Women

Texts: Maryse Conde, *I, Tituba*
Louise Erdrich, *Tracks*

Week 11: A Twenty-First-Century Novel about Historical American Women

Texts: Toni Morrison, *A Mercy*
Discussion of Paper II and Secondary Research

Week 13: Paper II Due

Discussion Final Paper Project
Select and Assign Additional Primary and Secondary Texts

Week 15: Draft 1 of Final Paper Due

Discuss Revision Plan

Finals Week: Final Paper Due