

ELIT 490 Senior Project INTRODUCTION – FOR ALL OPTIONS

Options

In the Senior Project, students pursue independent study in one of four categories: Academic Paper; Creative Writing; Translation; Drama Performance. In the Autumn Semester of Year 4 each student chooses a topic which is of particular interest to them, and then develops the project over the course of the Spring Semester. Each student works with a supervisor who provides feedback and guidance on the student's ideas, on the scope of their project, on the writing process, and on drafts of their work or preparation of the final performance for the Drama option. However, the onus is very much on the student to seek this feedback and guidance.

Choice of Supervisor/Information about changes to ELIT 490

A meeting will be held early in the Fall semester with all faculty members and students who will be taking the ELIT 490 course in the following Spring semester. The meeting will provide information about changes to ELIT 490 and enable students to ask any questions they may have. During the Fall Semester, students may approach any member of ELIT or any other department for advice about their project. In week 10 of the Fall Semester, students will submit a 100-word description of their topic along with a declaration of the project type and title. Once the department acquires the full list of titles and topics, faculty members will hold a meeting to assign a supervisor to each project, which will be announced in Week 13.

Procedure/Methodology

During the Spring Semester, all Senior Project supervisors have one office hour each week which is specifically set aside for their supervisees (at their discretion, supervisors may agree to meet supervisees at other times). In these tutorials feedback is given orally; drafts of students' work are not 'marked' by the supervisor, and students should not email drafts of their work (or ideas about the performance for the Drama option) to their supervisor and then await feedback. Instead, students bring hard copies of their work to tutorials for discussion, and take detailed notes during these tutorials. This system of oral feedback provides students with transferable skills which are of use both in employment (such as, for example, when writing reports) as well as in postgraduate study (when a great deal of feedback from supervisors is oral rather than written). As well as having one supervisor, students are also assigned one other reader, who may be external to the department, where appropriate.

Presentation and Grading

At the end of the Spring Semester, each student's work will be assessed by the supervisor and the reader. For all students who have chosen to work on Academic Paper, Creative Writing, and Translation projects, the final grade is based on marks received in two areas: preparation and research (worth 30%, and marked by the supervisor alone) and the written project itself (worth 70%, and marked by the supervisor and the reader). For those who choose the Drama Performance option, the grade is divided as follows: 70% for the drama performance, to be evaluated by the supervisor and the reader, and 30% for the preparatory work/tutorial discussions, to be evaluated by the supervisor alone.

Aims/Learning Outcomes

As well as having the opportunity to work on a topic that is of particular interest to them, in the Senior Project each student develops the following key transferable skills: working independently; defining, developing, and completing a project; carrying out research; taking notes during one-to-one discussions; implementing oral feedback in written work/dramatic performance; presentation skills; self-reflectively evaluating one's own work.