



Nanchang University
ENG31: Case Study in Literature Research
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 6

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course introduces students to basic concepts and methods that are essential to conduct research in the field of literature through case studies. Students will learn how to interpret gender and society demonstrated in classic literary works in a specific critical approach and gain a deeper understanding of practicing research.

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Be able to frame research questions and generate a research hypothesis;
2. Be able to find, manage and process information sources for a literary topic;
3. Be able to recognize the nature and purpose of research in literature works;
4. Develop the organizational strategies necessary for conducting a reasonable research;
5. Apply critical thinking skills to the analysis and evaluation of information and ideas from various sources.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

1. *The Craft of Research (4th edition)*, by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, William T. FitzGerald, University of Chicago Press, 2016

Other reading materials include:

1. *Sula* by Toni Morrison
2. *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf

Grading

•Tests	10%
•Presentation	15%
•Midterm	20%
•Literary Criticism Paper	20%



Letter Grade	Grade Points
High Distinction	85-100
Distinction	75-84
Credit	65-74
Pass	50-64
Fail	0-49

Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction to the course

I RESEARCH, RESEARCHERS, AND READERS

Definition of Research (Chapter 1)

(Begin reading *Sula* by Toni Morrison)

Class 2:

Roles Creating (Chapter 2)

Class 3:

Managing Inexperience (Chapter 2)

Class 4:

Case Study 1: Social Identity

II ASKING QUESTIONS, FINDING ANSWERS

From Topics to Questions (Chapter 3)

Test 1

Class 5:

From Questions to Problems (Chapter 4)

Class 6:

From Problems to Sources (Chapter 5)

Class 7:

Engaging Sources (Chapter 6)



Class 8:

III MAKING A CLAIM AND SUPPORTING IT

Making Good Arguments (Chapter 7)

Literary Criticism Paper 1 Due

Class 9:

Making Claims (Chapter 8)

Class 10:

Assembling Reasons and Evidence (Chapter 9)

Test 2

Class 11:

IV PLANNING, DRAFTING, AND REVISING

Acknowledgments and Responses (Chapter 10)

(Begin reading *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf)

Class 12:

Warrants Part I (Chapter 11)

Midterm

Class 13:

Case Study 2: Gender and Sexuality

Warrants Part II (Chapter 11)

Two Kinds of Arguments

Class 14:

Planning (Chapter 12)

Test 3

Class 15:

Drafting Your Report Part I (Chapter 13)

Class 16:

Drafting Your Report Part II (Chapter 13)

Class 17:

Revising Your Organization and Argument (Chapter 14)

Class 18:

Communicating Evidence Visually (Chapter 15)

Literary Criticism Paper 2 Due

Class 19:



Introductions and Conclusions Part I (Chapter 16)
Common Structures

Class 20:
Introductions and Conclusions Part II (Chapter 16)
Test 4

Class 21:
Revising Style: Telling Your Story Clearly Part I (Chapter 17)
Principles of Clear Writing

Class 22:
Revising Style: Telling Your Story Clearly Part II (Chapter 17)
Revision Strategy

Class 23:
Ethics of Research (Page 273)
Presentation: Telling Your Story Clearly

Class 24:
Review for Final
Final Research Paper due

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:



Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.