ENGL 495 - Senior Project in Literary Studies / Writing
General Guidelines and Proposal Approval Form

As an English major at Drexel, you will develop and present an independent project during your senior year. This project will be a capstone to your career at Drexel: it will reflect your work as a major, prepare you for the next stage of your academic or professional career, and give you an opportunity to work closely with faculty who are experts in their fields.

The senior project will be a substantial work on a topic of your choice in Literary Studies or in Writing. Ideally, the project should build from your experience in the major and should advance your post-graduation goals. For example, the senior project could be a literary argument that extends previous critical discussion; innovative research and analysis on a contemporary development in the field; a portfolio of original creative work accompanied by revisions and commentary.

The senior project is an independent study requiring approval and special registration. These guidelines are meant to achieve uniformity in terms of organization, general requirements, and timely completion of the Senior Project. Specific details will be decided with the individual Project Director.

In general, a Senior Project should be:

- a typescript of 20-25 pages on a topic in Literary Studies or in Writing.
- intellectually stimulating, original and substantial in terms of research, creativity and execution.
- appropriate in terms of documentation and citation of sources (projects will typically follow the MLA Style: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html).
- a quality product appropriate for an academic or professional audience beyond Drexel that could be submitted to prospective graduate schools or employers.

Graduating students will present their Senior Projects to the faculty and other students on the Tuesday of finals week of the quarter in which they graduate. Please note that the presentation is an integral component of your project. (**see Guidelines for Presentation, p. 3**).

Preparing for the Senior Project

Even though you will work on the Senior Project actively during your last year, you should start thinking about it and preparing at the start of your junior year. Taking notes addressing the questions below will help you consider, and ultimately decide, what you would like to explore in your Senior Project.

- What topics, questions, issues do you find interesting?
- What ways of writing and researching are most productive for you?
- If you're considering scholarly analysis, what fields and topics have most intrigued you?
- If your co-op relates to your course of study, which one of its elements might help you frame the topic of your senior project?
- What topics might help you move toward some of your goals after graduation?
- What faculty members have you studied with – and which one could be your Director?
  Note: Both the Project Director and the Reader must be full-time members of the Department of English & Philosophy.

Preparing the Proposal

Note that all the steps outlined below must be completed by the end of **week five of the quarter before students are registered for the Senior Project.** For example, if you're planning to graduate in the spring, you'll need to start working on your project in the fall; have your proposal approved and be registered for ENGL 495 by week 5 of winter quarter; during spring quarter, you will complete your work on your Senior Project and will then present it on the **Tuesday of Exams Week.**

During Fall Quarter of their expected graduation year, students should consult with a full-time faculty member of the Department of English and Philosophy and ask her/him to act as director. The Director can then suggest a Reader. Both the Project Director and the Reader must be full-time members of the Department of English & Philosophy. You will need to develop a proposal that clearly describes your project, presents its main ideas and purpose, and includes: necessary background; the research and/or work needed to complete the project; and a timeline for completion. This proposal should be approximately 750-1,000 words plus an additional preliminary bibliography.

Once your proposal is approved, print the **Approval Form** below; fill it out, sign it, have it signed by your Project Director and Reader, and then submit it to the Director of English Programs. You will then be registered for ENGL 495, Senior Project. Here's the timeline:

First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter
Approach potential Project Director; discuss project; and decide on a Reader.	Work on final draft of your Proposal; once it's approved, complete the **approval** form for Senior Project.	Work on the Project; be sure to follow specific guidelines from your Director and meet with them on a regular basis.
You must secure a Director and Reader by **Week 4.**	Submit the Proposal Approval form to the Director of English Programs no later than **Week 5.**	Present a final draft of your Project to your Director by **Week 7**. All revisions must be completed by **Week 10**.
Start developing your Proposal by **Week 5.**	If a revision is needed, meet with the Program Director to discuss details.	Present completed senior project to peers and faculty - on the **Tuesday of Exam Week.**
Meet with your Director to discuss the Proposal by **Week 8.**	Make sure you're registered for Spring Quarter for ENGL 495.	**Happy Graduation!**

Guidelines for Presentation

Presentations are held on the **Tuesday of exam week**. Once you have completed the project, you will present your work to both faculty and students. Your presentation should be no more than ten (10) minutes, to be followed by about five (5) minutes of question and discussion. The goal for any project presentation is to accurately represent your work and its significance. Follow these Guidelines:

To prepare:

- Choose the most salient aspect of your work.
- Have a clear outline of the most significant aspects of your work for the presentation.
- Time your presentation – limit of ten (10) minutes.
- Practice and rehearse your delivery before the presentation day.
- Although it is not required, it is recommended that students prepare a slide deck to highlight key ideas and concepts.

When you present:

- Do not read directly from your work to introduce and frame your project (you may use notes, but use them only as a guide—make eye contact with and engage your audience).
- Present the overall arc of your argument, and then focus on specific evidence and sections of commentary.
- Share your work with the audience by reading one or two brief selections of your writing; read slowly and clearly, giving expression to the intended content of your work.

Grades and Senior Project Archives

Once the Senior Project is completed and graded, the Project Director will send an electronic copy to the Director of English Programs and submit to the Registrar a final grade for ENGL 495. All projects will be archived.

See next page for the Senior Project Proposal Approval Form

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Proposal Approval

A copy of the proposal must be attached to this form. Note that the proposal should clearly describe your project, present its main ideas and purpose, and include necessary background, the research and/or work needed to complete the project, and a timeline for completion; the proposal should be approximately 750-1000 words plus an additional preliminary bibliography.

Students will not be registered for ENGL 495 until their proposal has been approved by the Senior Project Director, the Reader, and the Director of English Programs.

Name _____

Student number _____

Term graduating _____

e-mail address _____

Campus address _____

Campus and/or cell phone numbers _____

Project Director _____

Reader _____

Tentative title of project _____

_____

**Signatures must be obtained by the end of the fifth week
of the quarter *before* the project's expected completion.**

_____   _____
Student   Date

_____   _____
Project Director   Date

_____   _____
Reader   Date

_____   _____
Gabriella Ibieta, PhD   Date
Director of English Programs