

HSS 404 – Humanities Capstone, English – Fall 2023

035 - Tu. / Th. 10:00-11:20 – FMH 405 /// 037 - Tu. / Th. 11:30-12:50 – Culm 110

HSS 404 – Humanities Senior Seminar, English (*Prerequisites:* senior standing, completion of all lower division General Education Requirements): The capstone seminars allow students the opportunity to work closely with an instructor in a specific area of the instructor's expertise. Students will be required to bring together interests and skills developed in previous courses and make in-depth oral presentations.

Dr. Carol Siri Johnson
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Office –316 Cullimore
Hours: by email appointment

HSS 404 – Lifelong Learning with Audiobooks

--Subscription to Audible required—There is no final in this class--

Course Goals:

In this course you will learn to:

- ♦ Broaden your world view while doing physical tasks such as driving and exercising.
- ♦ Practice oral presentations and working in groups.
- ♦ Share your thoughts and ideas about stories and books with others.
- ♦ Research genres to find the types of stories and books you enjoy.

Assignments & Grading:

- ♦ **Attendance is required** and is **graded**: 0-1 absences = 20 (highest score); 2 absences = 18; 3 absences = 16; 4 absences = 14; 5 absences = 12; 6 absences = 10; 7 absences = 8; 8 or more = 0. If you are absent due to illness or other problems, email me *before* class.
- ♦ All grading will be done numerically (if an assignment is worth 10%, it will receive a grade from 1 to 10) which will be added at the end of the semester. Grades are **not** fully recorded in Canvas. Small assignments receive full credit after completion.

Misc. Rules:

No self-help or religious books allowed. If there is a movie made from a book, you must compare them during your presentation.

Final Grades:

A = 91 – 100 B+ = 86 – 90 B = 80 – 85 C+ = 75 – 79 C = 70 – 74 D = 65 – 69 F = 0 – 64

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Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to follow the [academic code of integrity policy](#). Any student in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade, suspension, or dismissal.

Assignment List

Assignment Name and Description	Length	%
Team Class Introductions – using the form, interview your teammate and write down the answers. You will present this material, introducing each other, on the second day of class. Purpose: getting to know each other; public speaking.	4-6 min.	5
Nonfiction Exercise – in class, research on Audible to find a nonfiction book that you may want to listen to. You will present your conclusions to the class. Purpose: reading book summaries and reviews on Audible; public speaking.	2-3 min.	5
Group Book 1 Presentation – with your assigned group, prepare a presentation on the book you chose. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. Purpose: group work; public speaking.	8-12 min.	5
Individual Book 1 Selection Presentation – using Audible, describe the books you were considering for your first individual book. Conclude by describing which book you chose and why. Purpose: vocalizing thought process; idea sharing; public speaking.	2-3 min.	5
Academic Paper Group Presentations – read the paper assigned to your group and prepare a summary presentation for the class. Purpose: summary of analytic reading; group work; public speaking.	8-10 min.	5
Individual Book 1 Presentation – prepare a presentation about the book you listened to. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. Purpose: synthesizing reading and research into a presentation; public speaking.	8-10 min.	10*
Individual Book 1 Review – write and publish an online review of your book in Audible. Submit a screenshot of the review to Canvas (due Oct. 28). Purpose: writing book reviews; participating in online forums.		5*

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Assignment Name and Description	Length	%
Group Book 2 Selection Process Presentation – with your group, describe how you chose a common book to listen to. End with a brief description of the book you chose. Purpose: vocalizing group decision-making process; public speaking.	4-6 min.	5
Chat GPT Generic Screenplay – with your group, select a genre. Then use ChatGPT to generate a brief screenplay in that genre. The group will read the play in front of the class. Purpose: using AI creatively; play reading with an audience.	8-10 min.	5
Group Book 2 Presentation – with your group, prepare a presentation on your book. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. Purpose: discussing books in groups; group research; public speaking.	8-12 min.	10*
Individual Book 2 / Podcast Selection Process Presentation – show the books or podcasts you were considering listening to for your second individual book/podcast. Conclude by describing which you chose and why. Purpose: vocalizing thought process; idea sharing; public speaking.	2-3 min.	5
Individual Book 2 / Podcast Presentation – prepare a presentation about your book. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. Purpose: synthesizing reading and research into a presentation; public speaking.	8-10 min.	10*
Listening Log Document Submission – using the form in Canvas, log your listening sessions, including the activities you are doing while listening. Upload to Canvas at the end of the semester. Purpose: documentation of listening activity.		5
Class Participation – 0-1 absences = 20 (highest score); 2 absences = 18; 3 absences = 16; 4 absences = 14; 5 absences = 12; 6 absences = 10; 7 absences = 8; 8 or more = 0. If you must be absent, email me <i>before</i> class. Purpose: most of the graded work takes place in class, so it is necessary to be there.		20

* Grades will include individual comments.

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Course Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Tuesdays		Thursdays	
Date	Class Activity	Date	Class Activity
9/5	Go over syllabus; download Audible; describe first group books; interviewing in teams for class introductions.	9/7	Team Class Introductions; check Audible. If time, start first book choice announcements.
9/12	Individuals announce first book choice; assign listening and Listening Log; make groups for first presentation.	9/14	Sample Book Review Presentation (<i>The Siege: 68 Hours Inside the Taj Hotel</i>); start nonfiction in-class exercise.
9/19	Finish nonfiction in-class exercise; group work session for presentations.	9/21	Go over syllabus again; show list of recommended books; group work session for presentations.
9/26	Group Book 1 Presentations	9/28	Individual Book 1 Selection Presentations
10/3	Sample Review Presentation (<i>The Witness Wore Red</i>); introduce academic papers; form groups to read and present.	10/5	Class off for listening.
10/10	Sample Book Review Presentation (<i>The Phantom of Fifth Avenue</i>); group work session for presentations.	10/12	Group Academic Paper Presentations
10/17	Individual Book 1 Presentations (9 per class)	10/19	Individual Book 1 Presentations
10/24	Individual Book 1 Presentations	10/26	Written Individual Book 1 Review due in Canvas Oct. 28; form groups for Group Book 2; work in groups to select book.
10/31	Group Book 2 Selection Process Presentations	11/2	Form groups for ChatGPT Generic Screenplay; work in groups to select genre and generate a text.
11/7	Individual grade conferences; groups practice screenplay.	11/9	ChatGPT Generic Screenplay
11/14	Group Book 2 Presentations	11/16	Individual Book 2 / Podcast Selection Presentations
11/21	Class off for listening.	11/23	Thanksgiving – no class
11/28	Sample Review Presentation (<i>American Nations</i>); progress statements on Individual Book 2.	11/30	Among Us
12/5	Individual Book 2 / Podcast presentations (9 per class)	12/7	Individual Book 2 / Podcast presentations
12/12	Individual Book 2 / Podcast presentations (last class)		