

**HSS 404 – Humanities Capstone – Fall 2024**  
**066 - Tu. / Th. 8:30-9:50 FMH 108**

**HSS 404 – Humanities Senior Seminar**, (*Prerequisites:* senior standing, completion of all lower division General Education Requirements): Learn to explore the world by listening to audiobooks as you engage in your daily routine. We will listen to one audiobook in common, then choose three others, sharing experiences in oral presentations and classroom discussion. Attendance and a subscription to Audible are required.

**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:

- ◆ Expand your world view while doing common tasks such as driving, cleaning 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

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.

## HSS 404 – Humanities Capstone, English – Spring 2025

### Assignment List

Assignment Name and Description	Length	%
<b>Nonfiction Exercise</b> – in class, research on Audible to find a nonfiction book that you <i>may</i> want to listen to. Prepare a presentation that lists at least three books and conclude with the one you would choose and why. <b>Purpose:</b> reading book summaries and reviews on Audible; public speaking.	2-3 min.	5
<b>Group Book 1 Presentation</b> – with your assigned group, prepare a presentation on the first group book you chose. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. <b>Purpose:</b> group work; public speaking.	8-12 min.	5
<b>Individual Book 1 Selection Process Presentation</b> –research on Audible to find a fiction book that you want to listen to. Prepare a presentation that lists at least three books and conclude with the one chose and why. <b>Purpose:</b> vocalizing thought process; idea sharing; public speaking.	2-3 min.	5
<b>One-Act Screenplay</b> – with your group, select a genre. Then use ChatGPT to generate a brief screenplay in that genre. Your group will read the play in front of the class. <b>Purpose:</b> using AI creatively; genre exploration; play-reading with an audience.	8-15 min.	5
<b>Individual Book 1 Presentation</b> – prepare a presentation about the book you listened to. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. Include a screen capture of your published review. <b>Purpose:</b> synthesizing reading and research into a presentation; public speaking, writing online book reviews.	8-10 min.	15*
<b>Group Book 2 Selection Process Presentation</b> – with your group, describe how you chose a common book to listen to. Describe each book you considered and end with the book you chose and why. <b>Purpose:</b> vocalizing group decision-making process; public speaking.	4-6 min.	5
<b>Group Book 2 Presentation</b> – with your group, prepare a presentation on your book. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. <b>Purpose:</b> discussing books in groups; group research; public speaking.	8-12 min.	10

## HSS 404 – Humanities Capstone, English – Spring 2025

Assignment Name and Description	Length	%
<b>Individual Book 2 Selection Process Presentation</b> – research to find a fiction book that you want to listen to. Prepare a presentation that lists at least three books and conclude with the one chose and why. <b>Purpose:</b> vocalizing thought process; idea sharing; public speaking.	2-3 min.	5
<b>Future First Book Selection</b> – students will work in groups to research and discuss possibilities for future class first group books. The group should make a presentation of all the books they considered and the one they recommend. <b>Purpose:</b> group work, public speaking, choosing books for future semesters.	4-6 min.	5
<b>Stuck-in-a-Cabin Listening List</b> – you are going to be snowed in, for a month, alone with no internet. Choose three audiobooks to bring with you. Prepare a document with their Audible image, author, length and description. Write a paragraph about why you chose each book. Submit this document online in Canvas. Also prepare a slide show with the same information, to present to the class. <b>Purpose:</b> researching, formatting, writing and presenting.	3-4 pages; 4-6 min.	5
<b>Individual Book 2 Presentation</b> – prepare a presentation about your book. More details about the presentation are in Canvas. <b>Purpose:</b> synthesizing reading and research into a presentation; public speaking.	8-10 min.	15*
<b>Class Participation</b> – 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. <b>Purpose:</b> most of the graded work takes place in class, so it is necessary to be there.		20

\* Grades will include individual comments.

## HSS 404 – Humanities Capstone, English – Spring 2025

### Course Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Tuesdays		Thursdays	
Date	Class Activity	Date	Class Activity
1/21	Go over syllabus; download Audible; describe first group books; interviewing in teams for class introductions	1/23	Team Class Introductions; students announce first book choice; make groups for first presentation
1/28	Sample Book Review Presentations, inc. <i>The Siege</i> ; in-class team exercise (choosing books for long drive)	1/30	Non-fiction Presentation; demonstrate and assign Non-fiction exercise; group work session for presentations.
2/4	Class off for listening.	2/6	Present nonfiction exercise; group work to finalize presentations.
2/11	Group Book 1 Presentations	2/13	Individual Book 1 Selection Presentations
2/18	Form groups to start One-Act Screenplays; work in groups	2/20	Class off for listening.
2/25	Work in groups to finalize One-Act Screenplays.	2/27	One-act screenplay readings
3/4	Individual Book 1 Presentations (8 per class)	3/6	Individual Book 1 Presentations
3/11	Individual Book 1 Presentations	3/13	Form groups for Group Book 2; work in groups to select book.
3/18	Spring	3/20	Break
3/25	Assign Stuck-in-a-Cabin exercise; Group Book 2 Selection Process Presentations	3/27	Class off for listening.
4/1	Stuck-in-a-Cabin exercise presentations; written document due in Canvas	4/3	Class off for listening.
4/8	Individual Book 2 Selection Presentations; group work session to finalize group presentations.	4/10	Group Book 2 Presentations
4/15	Class off for listening.	4/17	Create Future First Book Selection groups, group work
4/22	Future First Book Selection Presentations	4/24	Class off for listening.
4/29	Individual Book 2 presentations (8 per class)	5/1	Individual Book 2 presentations
5/6	Individual Book 2 presentations (last class)		