

English 4909 Portfolio

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Advisor: Prof. Penny Phoryerthots
Semester: Spring 2014

Essays Submitted

1. Methods of Literary Study (Engl.3906)

Title: "The Write Stuff in the Scarlet Letter"
Course: Engl.3906 Methods of Literary Study
Term/Year: Fall 2011
Instructor: Dr. Ima Smartipence

Selection/Learning Outcomes: This piece came from my first English course at UMD. I learned about literary terms, critical discourse, and how to make a persuasive argument using clear prose and evidence of various types by studying different critical approaches to Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter." Writing this paper also helped me understand the expectations for academic excellence in the English Major.

2. Close Reading

Title: "So Much Depends Upon the Whiteness of the Chickens"
Course: Engl.3502 American Literature 2
Term/Year: Spring 2012
Instructor: Dr. L. Beau Patchenpipe

Selection/Learning Outcomes: Writing this essay taught me how to focus on the details of a text. I learned that diction, meter, rhyme, prosody, and even punctuation contribute to the meaning of a poem. Who knew *so much* depends upon the red wheelbarrow glazed with rainwater beside the white chickens?

3. Research Paper

Title: "How to Wreck a Nice Beach You Sing Calm Incense"
Course: Engl.5821 HEL (History of the English Language)
Term/Year: Spring 2013
Instructor: Dr. Sherwood Laikaknapp

Selection/Learning Outcomes: This paper developed my research skills in the area of linguistics. I researched how and why a particular lexicon develops within an isolated community over a period of time, focusing the sport of surfing and Duluth's Cold Water Surf Club, and learned that many factors shape the way we use language.

4. Self-Selected Work (Best Work, Creative Work, etc.)

Title: "The Story of Eau"
Course: Engl.5116 Advanced Writing of Fiction
Term/Year: Fall 2013
Instructor: Prof. Frieda Songen-Miehart

Selection/Learning Outcomes: This work of creative fiction brings together themes from my favorite literature and my interest in how language shapes our perception of the world. The story is about the wife of a French voyageur that gets stuck in a terrible rainstorm with some chickens on an island in Lake Superior and learns how to surf.

5. Resume & Cover Letter

I'll be applying for jobs using my English Major in creative ways, such as working for a surf & skate catalogue. My English classes taught me how to read carefully, think critically, and write clearly. I've used these skills in my blog on surfing the Great Lakes and my research into surfer slang. These projects, and the others in my portfolio, display my ability to analyze the details of an object, a scene, and a text, and show that I could contribute to writing, editing, layout, and photo spreads. Someday I would love to open my own surf business, like that guy who owns and runs the Duluth Coffee Company. He was a UMD English Major too!