

Spring 2021

## HSS 406-002: Lifelong Learning with Audiobooks

Carol Johnson

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**HSS 406 – English Capstone – Fall 2020**  
**Hybrid Synchronous, Thurs. 4:00 – 5:20 on Zoom**

**HSS 406 – 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. Students make in-depth oral and written presentations.

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**Office** –316 Cullimore  
**Hours:** online by email appointment

### **HSS 406 – Lifelong Learning with Audiobooks**

**Course Goals:**

In this course you will learn to:

- ◆ Find a genre of audiobooks you enjoy
- ◆ Sign up and pay for the audiobook app Audible
- ◆ Listen to books while engaging in physical tasks
- ◆ Oral presentations on the books you are listening to
- ◆ Research and review books on Audible
- ◆ Final presentation on book genres, summarizing your activities during the semester and featuring your favorite books

**Assignments & Grading:**

- ◆ **Attendance:** is **required** and is **graded:** 0-1 absences = 20 (highest score); 2 absences = 16; 3 absences = 12; 4 absences = 10; 5 absences 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.

**Final Grades:**

A = 93 – 100    B+ = 86 – 92    B = 80 – 85    C+ = 75 – 79    C = 70 – 74    D = 65 – 69    F = 0 – 64

**Main Assignments:**

- Class Participation (20%)
- Eleven (11) short weekly assignments, tracking your progress, (55% submitted via Canvas)
- Mid-term Book Review Presentation (10%)
- Final Genre Presentation (15%)

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Assignment Name and Description	Product	%
<p><b>Class Participation (20%)</b> – 0-1 absences = 20 (highest score); 2 absences = 16; 3 absences = 12; 4 absences = 10; 5 absences or more = 0. If you are absent due to illness or other problems, email me <i>before</i> class.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> attendance – being there – is the single most important thing in life.</p>	Attendance, all semester	20
<p><b>Favorite Books Essay (5%)</b> – Two or three paragraphs on the favorite books you have read during your life. If you are not a reader, write about your favorite type of movie / TV show / story type.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Review your past to find interests for the future.</p>	2-3 paragraphs	5
<p><b>Book List (5%)</b> – Review the selections on Audible and write down five books you may want to listen to this semester (four books or 50 hours are required). Include reference to the review ratings, book length and physical activities you plan to do while reading.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Start individualized plan for semester reading/listening activity.</p>	Fill out form, submit on Canvas	5
<p><b>Weekly Listening Form (9 x 5%)</b>– Listen to two or three hours of your book while engaging in some semi-mindless physical activity. Fill out the form and submit each on Canvas by Wednesday at 11:59. Weekly progress will be presented in class as well.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The goal of this course is to teach you to listen consistently, so I need to chart your progress.</p>	Fill out forms each week for 9 weeks	45
<p><b>Midterm Book Review Presentation (10%)</b> – Create a five-minute illustrated presentation on the book you are listening to. This will be presented in class.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Presentation experience, sharing your knowledge and opinions with others.</p>	5-minute presentation	10
<p><b>Final Genre Presentation (15%)</b> – Choose one genre you enjoy. Do some research and make a presentation on that genre, using details from the books you have listened to. Use whatever illustrations you can find.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Presentation experience, sharing knowledge and opinions with others, focused on genres of writing.</p>	5-7 minute presentation	15
<p><b>Extra Credit Assignment (5%)</b> – Write two book reviews and post to Audible. Copy the reviews into a Word document and upload to Canvas.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Learn to express your opinion in a public forum.</p>	2 reviews	(5)

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Course Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Thursdays

Date	Assignment Due (Weds. at 11:59)	Class Activity
1/21	Be ready to discuss your favorite books in class on Thurs. This will also be the subject for the first graded assignment, due 1/28.	Go over syllabus / grading. Introduce Audible and the student subscription. Discuss genres and how to find books and read reviews. Class introduces themselves and favorite books. Assign first graded assignment – favorite book essay.
1/28	Favorite book essay (2-3 paragraphs) due in Canvas.  Sign up for Audible and research books. Be ready to discuss books you may want to read in class on Thurs.	Check Audible signups. Everyone will verbally present one or two books they may want to read during the semester (4 are required). Assign Book List assignment with names, authors, lengths, and overall reviews.
2/4	Book List assignment due in Canvas – a list of 5 books you may want to read during the semester.	Read sample reviews in class from student work. Query class which books they will start with; breakout rooms.
2/11	Weekly Listening Form (WLF) #1 – listen to 2-3 hours of a book, fill out form and submit on Canvas.	Students report on initial listening experience; breakout rooms.
2/18	WLF #2	Presentation on <i>The Witness Wore Red</i> (polygamous cult); students report on readings; breakout rooms
2/25	WLF #3	Presentation on researching books online; students report on readings; breakout rooms
3/4	WLF #4  Mid-term Book Review Presentations (10%)	Mid-term Book Review Presentations
3/11	WLF #5	Mid-term Book Review Presentations
3/18	Spring Break	

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3/25	WLF #6	Presentation on <i>American Nations</i> ; students report on readings; breakout rooms
4/1	WLF #7	Presentation on <i>Size Zero: My Life as a Disappearing Model</i> ; students report on readings; breakout rooms
4/8	WLF #8	Presentation on my favorite genres; students report on readings; breakout rooms
4/15	WLF #9	Who knows?
4/22	Final Genre Presentations	Final Genre Presentations
4/29		Final Genre Presentations