Fall 2023

HSS-404 (035-037): English Seminar: Lifelong Learning with Audiobooks

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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   **Office** –316 Cullimore
cjohnson@njit.edu   **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

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***

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 *before* class. **Purpose:** 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 – Fall 2023

Course Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Date	Class Activity (Tuesdays)	Date	Class Activity (Thursdays)
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 (*The Siege: 68 Hours Inside the Taj Hotel*); 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 (*The Witness Wore Red*); introduce academic papers; form groups to read and present.	10/5	Class off for listening.
10/10	Sample Book Review Presentation (*The Phantom of Fifth Avenue*); 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 (*American Nations*); 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)		