ENGL 300 - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES FOR ENGL MAJORS

Time 0200-0315p
Days TR
Sec 001
Faculty Payne, K
Class# 22501

Description: This class provides English majors with an overview of contemporary debates about professional matters including career paths for English majors; the utility and value of English degrees; the power of narrative in contemporary life; and the intellectual skills and talents that the English studies curriculum hones. As such, the class work ranges from traditional activities like reading, research, and discussion to practical applications such as interviewing guest speakers about specific professional practices (from job searches to resume writing). If you have been asking yourself, “What am I going to do with my English degree?” take this class. If your friends have been pestering you with comic asides about working indefinitely as a barista, take this class. If you see yourself as the next Rory Gilmore but you’re not sure how Rory got to be the successful bibliophile she is, take this class. Most of us in the English department, from students to professors, committed to study English because we love how reading stories, creative writing, literary research, and cultural and rhetorical analysis opens our lives to the experiences of others. The scholar Mark Edmundson goes so far as to claim that with the English major students can live a 1000 lives. Now is the time to harness the passions and interests that drove you to declare the English major and use them to identify your professional path.

The aim of the class is to identify what kind of work you value so that you (and every student in the class) can begin to chart out your intellectual biography, core educational values, potential career paths, internship opportunities, and more.

Teaching method: discussion, guest speakers and panel presentations, peer group work, short lectures.

Requirements: in addition to regular attendance and significant contributions to class discussions, students will compose a portfolio of work that includes: a literacy narrative (3-5 pages); research paper (5-7 pages); alumnus/alumna profile (3-5 pages); book review (2 pages); academic resume and cover letter; event report (1 page) and a statement of professional interests.