

MATE Capstone Project

ENGL 891 (MA Paper or Project)

Students choose a paper from one of their six courses to revise in conjunction with the faculty member who taught the course. It is expected that such revision would include a broadened research base and additional work beyond that required for the original paper/project. The paper should be about 5500-6500 words in length, and consist of original research (from primary literary sources, archival research, and/or critical secondary sources). The student develops the project under the primary supervision of a faculty member with whom the student has studied. A second faculty member (the "second reader") will also advise on the paper. The research paper should aspire to a standard that would be acceptable for submission to a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. The student and supervisor will meet to discuss the scope of the paper and to plan a program of meetings, writing, and revisions. Graduating essays must be approved by both supervisor and second reader by the end of the final semester. Students then must prepare a conference-level presentation (15-20 minutes), based on the paper, for the MATE symposium. The symposium takes place at the end of April, and is attended by colleagues and family/friends as well as the students' faculty advisors. Both secondary readers and first readers will ask questions on the student's presentation, research, and scope of inquiry.