

Senior Capstone: English Department

The English department Senior Capstone offers students the opportunity to reflect on their experience as English majors through analytical and reflective writing on their coursework and development while compiling a portfolio of their work. In particular, the portfolio capstone project enables students to develop a cohesive understanding of literary history and evolving critical conversations; in addition to reviewing their accumulated course materials (syllabi, readings, assignments, and notes), students also read works on literary history and English disciplines relevant to their chosen pathway through the English major. Students also read short works contextualizing and explaining the value and purpose of the e-portfolio as a learning practice. Widely recognized as a high impact practice, electronic portfolios are increasingly common pedagogical modes of assessing and deepening student understanding. Students undertaking the portfolio capstone elucidate how their elective courses enhanced their understanding of the field of English in ways that complement and extend the English major core, examining similarities and differences, integrating and synthesizing ideas, and connecting the intellectual currents that make up the discipline of English as a whole. In addition, students reflect on how they use and further develop the knowledge gained as English majors, whether in their future career or advanced academic endeavors, or as lifelong learners and cultural contributors.