

University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Graduate Program

Course Title: MA Research Essay in English Literature I

Course Number: INGL 6891

Credits: 3 credits

Course Description: Study and development of the research methods and sources necessary for the successful writing of a Research Essay in English-language literature and culture. Special emphasis is placed on archival and bibliographical research in literature, creative writing, literary history, oral literature, and performance. The focus on print, electronic, fieldwork, and experiential research varies in relation to the nature of the chosen theme of the essay. Students enrolled in “Research Essay in English Literature I” receive full-time student status. (This course replaces the MA thesis course.)

Weekly contact hours: The course involves supervised independent study. The student’s adviser will establish a weekly meeting schedule for consultation.

Course Objectives:

1. to place the student in direct contact with the research, critical, creative, and/or historical methods necessary to the writing a substantial essay or creative project in the field of English-language literature and culture.
2. to identify resource centers, archives, and sites for bibliography and experiential sources for research, critical, and creative writing studies.
3. to create awareness of journals, periodical, memorabilia, and other serial sources of information for research and for future publication.
4. to develop skills and access necessary for electronic research.
5. to create an interactive environment in which the student produces a substantial written text to be read and graded by her/his adviser and two additional readers.

Required Work:

Annotated Bibliography with a minimum of 20 entries (the exact number of entries will be determined by the nature of the student’s project in consultation with the course advisor/committee)

An original, publishable-quality **Researched Essay** of 20-30 pages in length (the exact length of the essay will be determined by the nature of the student's project in consultation with the course advisor/committee)

Final Presentation of the research project in conversation with the committee.

Course Outline:

Weeks 1-3: The student identifies the subject of study and begins to establish an extensive bibliography using both print and web sources.

Weeks 4-6: With the area defined, research and literary methods are discussed. A thesis statement and overall outline of the project should be evident at this time.

Weeks 7-9: The bibliography should now be well developed. Any fieldwork or experiential research should be under way. The thesis statement expands to cover the full outline of the essay.

Weeks 10-12: The research/bibliography (with annotations) now enters its final phase of development. A completed draft of the research essay should be submitted at this point, and problem areas such as unavailable sources, difficulties in writing, unfinished research, etc. will receive specialized attention.

Weeks 13-15: Final preparation and presentation of the research essay with the completed bibliography. The Adviser and two additional faculty readers evaluate the materials submitted.

Methods of Evaluation: The course functions as an independent study project and requires direct and active participation in all phases of research, writing, and presentation.

Essay	(50%)
Bibliography/Research Process	(30%)
Final Presentation for approval	(20%)

Grading System: Aprobado (PS, PN, PB), No aprobado (NP)

Principal Text:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th ed. MLA. 2009.

MLA Handbook - The Definitive Guide to Writing Research Papers.

www.mlahandbook.org/