

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of English

Special Problems Approval Form- English 7398
Graduate Studies in English

Student's Name (print): _____

I have arranged with (instructor) _____ to take English 7398 during the _____ semester.

Special Problems Courses offer students an opportunity to (1) conduct substantive research in a specialized area of scholarship with a view to developing a research area for the prospectus defense or (2) concentrate on a specific aspect of creative work with a view to developing the creative dissertation's critical foreword with an individual member of the faculty. Such courses should not overlap with or replace existing formal seminars or workshops within the graduate curriculum, but provide the means for students to devote time to an exceptional project that complements and builds on their previous coursework. For this reason, Special Problems Course should be taken later on in one's coursework, ideally in the final two semesters.

Special Problems Courses are weighted equally with formal classroom courses and consequently require substantial contact time with the faculty member (at least biweekly during the semester) since they fulfill degree requirements in a student's program. Depending on their structure, content, and goals, they could potentially satisfy any of the degree requirements in the doctoral program. Because they are weighted equally with graduate seminars and satisfy degree requirements, Special Problems courses are given letter grades and require an amount of reading and writing commensurate with formal courses. There should be a substantial final project.

The description of a Special Problems Course in literature should include a detailed reading list of literary and critical texts, a statement of the number and focus of writing assignments, the frequency of meetings, the amount of assignments and the specific degree requirement that the proposed course fulfills.

The description of a Special Problems Course in creative writing should include a statement of the number and focus of writing assignments; a list of literary and critical texts, where appropriate; the frequency of meetings; and the specific degree requirement that the proposed course fulfills. Doctoral students are allowed to apply a maximum of two Special Problems Courses to their degree plan.

Description of Proposed Special Problems course. Include (1) a description of the course, (2) proposed reading list, (3) the writing assignments including approximate length of each assignment, and (4) a brief notation about the frequency of your meetings with the professor. Attach an additional page or pages as necessary.

This course will fulfill the following requirement (fill in one of the category requirements for your degree, such as Elective, Lit Theory, Early Literature.)

Requirement: _____

Instructor Signature: _____

Director of Graduate Studies Signature: _____