English 5367-063:
Guided Independent Study
Spring 2025

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sidey
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Office: CAS 243
Office Hours: T/R 9:45-10:45; T 12:30-1:30, and by appointment
Section: 061—this class meets in person and/or via Zoom

Course Overview
The Guided Integrative Study (GIS) is a required course and the capstone of the UT Tyler English Master's program. The course must be taken during a long semester—either spring or fall; it is not offered during the summer. A detailed description of this course, with expanded instructions for projects, is posted on the EGSA Canvas page in the GIS module.

This is a research-based course and thus there is no textbook.

The Semester Preceding the GIS: Do the Following

Recruit a GIS Committee no later than the 13th week of the semester preceding your GIS.
Secure a director and a reader as early as possible. A GIS Committee consists of two graduate faculty members whose names appear on the Approved List (see the EGSA website). Ask one member to serve as the GIS director and the other to serve as the GIS reader. Unless requested to do otherwise at the suggestion or with the permission of the director, the reader will participate only in evaluating the exit examination and the course paper.

Complete the GIS Permission to Enroll Form after April 1 of the preceding semester or November 1 of the preceding semester but no later than the 13th week of the semester preceding your GIS.
The form is located on the EGSA website. Email the form to the Graduate Advisor at englishma@uttyler.edu. Upon receipt of the form, the graduate advisor will review your degree plan and verify that you are eligible to enroll.

After verification of eligibility, the graduate advisor will forward your approved Permission to Enroll Form to the Department of Literature and Languages' administrative assistant Mrs. Carter at shelbycarter@uttyler.edu. Mrs. Carter will then email you an individual course code for enrolling in your GIS section.

Enroll in ENGL 5397 GIS
To enroll, use the individual course code assigned to you by Ms. Cater. Enrollment for fall semesters is in April/May. Enrollment for spring semesters is in November/December.

Provide your GIS director with a tentative reading list of approximately 20 works pertinent to the intended GIS research topic no later than the 15th week of the semester preceding your GIS.
If you are using a seminar paper from an earlier graduate course as a springboard for your GIS paper, you may include texts cited in that paper. Submit the list of sources to your director who will forward it to your reader if needed.

GIS Components and Due Dates During the Semester of the GIS
Due dates may be somewhat modified by your director.

Week 1 or 2: Submit the Proposal
In conjunction with your director, submit a short paper proposal/plan (approximately 250-500 words) for developing a GIS course paper if you are expanding and refining a seminar paper from a previous graduate course. OR, submit a brief paper proposal/plan for composing an original paper if you elect to write a new paper based on previous graduate English coursework rather than expand an earlier paper.

Week 5: Submit the Annotated Bibliography
Submit a working annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography typically consists of at least 20 texts that include primary sources and scholarly secondary sources such as books, book chapters, and scholarly articles.

Week 7: Submit the Lit Review
Submit an 8-10 page polished draft of the historical-bibliographical essay (literature review).

Week 10: Submit a Draft of Exam Questions/Draft of Paper
Submit an initial draft of five self-generated prompts/questions for the take-home GIS exit exam.

Provide a substantive draft of an in-progress GIS paper if requested by your director.

Week 11: Submit the Final Draft of Exam Questions
In conjunction with your director, submit the final draft of five potential prompts/questions for the take-home GIS exit exam.

Week 12 (Spring semester) or Week 11 or 13 (Fall semester): Check on Exam Approval
The week before your scheduled GIS exit exam contact your director to ascertain if you have approval to sit for the exam.

Week 13 (Spring semester) or Week 12 or 14 (Fall semester): Write the GIS Exam
An electronic copy of your GIS exit exam will be sent via email at 5:00 pm Friday of the exam weekend. Make certain that you know how to contact your director in the event that you fail to receive the examination.

Week 13 in the fall semester typically falls on Thanksgiving Break. In consultation with your director, the GIS exam may be scheduled for either Week 12 or Week 14 during the fall semester. Scheduling the exam in Week 12 allows more time for completing the GIS paper.

Week 14 (Spring semester) or Week 13 or 15 (Fall semester): Submit the GIS Exam
No later than 8:00 am Monday, submit an electronic copy of your completed GIS exam in your GIS Canvas shell. Your director will notify your reader when your exam is submitted.

Week 15: Submit the GIS Paper
Submit the final draft of your GIS course paper.

Final's Week: Submit the GIS Portfolio
Via email, submit a clean ELECTRONIC COPY of the completed GIS Course Portfolio to the Director of English Graduate Studies at englishma@uttyler.edu. The Portfolio should include: the GIS paper proposal, annotated bibliography, historical-bibliographic essay, five finalized exam prompts, copy of completed GIS exit exam, and the GIS course paper.

Course Grade Calculation

GIS Paper Proposal	0% - approval required to proceed
Annotated bibliography	15%
Historical-bibliographical essay	15%
Exit examination	30%
GIS paper	40%

There is no extra credit work in this course.

Grade Scale
A 90% to 100% of possible points
B 80% to 89% of possible points
C 70% to 79% of possible points
D 60% to 69% of possible points
F   0% to 59% of possible points

Missed Work
If you see that you will miss, or you do miss, class work due to an illness or a significant life event, contact me ASAP. I will discuss the situation with you to determine if you can keep up with the class. Documentation may be required.

For relevant UTT policies, see the UTT policy on "Class Attendance/Excused Absences," and the UTT policy on withdrawals including "Medical Withdrawal/Course Load Reduction."

Contacting Me
A Canvas message is the most effective way to contact me. Per the UTT Email Policy, I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Canvas messages and emails should provide a succinct overview of the topic and should have complete sentences and reasonably correct grammar.

Required UTT AI Statement
UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool.

Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI Use in this Course
All GIS components should be written by you. Do not use AI to write or edit your GIS components. You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) to find sources. You can also use AI to develop assignments that you will discuss in your GIS. For example, in your GIS you may discuss assignments that teach students to use AI ethically and productively. Using AI to test these assignments is okay.

Any use of AI tools must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, following APA or MLA guidelines, including the specific version of the tool used. In consultation with your director, you may be required to include the exact prompts that you used to test assignments and the AI tool's complete response as an appendix.

Because AI-generated content is not necessarily accurate or appropriate, you must assess the validity and applicability of any submitted AI output. You will not earn full credit and may fail an assignment if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work.

Academic Dishonesty

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention. For the UTT definition of "academic dishonesty," see "University Policies and Information" in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Required UT Tyler Policies & Information

See "University Policies and Information" in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

GIS Component Due Dates

Component	Due	Week
Project Proposal	Friday 1-24	Week 2
Annotated Bibliography	Friday 2-14	Week 5
Literature Review	Friday 2-28	Week 7
Draft of 5 GIS Exam Questions	Friday 3-21	Week 10
Final draft of GIS Exam Questions *	Friday 3-28	Week 11
Write the GIS Exam	5:00 pm Friday 4-11 to 8:00 am Monday 4-14	Weekend of Week 13
GIS Exam **due at 8:00 am**	Monday 4-14	Week 14
GIS Paper	Friday 4-25	Week 15
GIS Portfolio	Friday 5-2	Final's Week

*Week of Spring Break

Key Dates
Jan 27   Census Date
Mar 17-21   Spring Break
Mar 31   Last Day to Drop (UTT Drop Policy)

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: "The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students."