

August Intersession 2026 Course Description

ENGL 30803 Professional Topics

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“Professional Development / Jobs Market Preparation”

Szwydky, Lissette

MTWRFS 10:00 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.

Textbooks Required:

- Katharine Brooks, *You Majored in What?: Mapping Your Path from Chaos to Career* ISBN 978-0452296008.
- Kathryn Linder, Kevin Kelley, and Thomas Tobin, *Going Alt-Ac: A Guide to Alternative Academic Careers* (2020), ISBN 978-1620368312.
- Susan Basalla and Maggie Debelius, *“So What Are You Going to Do with That?” Finding Careers Outside Academia* (2007). ISBN 978-0226038827.
- *Now, Discover Your Strengths: The revolutionary Gallup program that shows you how to develop your unique talents and strengths* (Gallup 2020). ISBN 978-0743201148.

Description:

What are the professional options for humanities, fine arts, and liberal arts alumni? What careers exist for English graduates outside of the conventional paths of teaching and publishing? This workshop will focus on preparing students to develop professional profiles and effective job application materials for a range of careers, including graduate school (for those interested). Readings will include book-length career guides and shorter web articles and blogs. We will cover strategies to make the most of academic time-to-degree in order to diversify career options. This course is for students in all fields, but especially arts and humanities. The course will focus on job applications for several careers including traditional teaching jobs as well as (optional) graduate school applications. All arts and humanities majors are welcome—similar advice and strategies apply for English, History, Philosophy, Theater, Communications, Art, and other liberal arts majors. Course assignments will be tailored for all degree programs/levels including BA, MA, MFA, and PhD students. Sample student blog posts and course reflections can be found at <https://theadaptivehumanist.wordpress.com/>

Essays, exams, and other major requirements:

Drafting and revising several job application documents including multiple cover letters and résumés with (3) different professional focus areas (optional graduate school application may be used as 1 professional focus area); active participation and peer review feedback; mock job interview; informational interview/career research poster presentation; professional web/LinkedIn presence; 2 reflective blog posts.

MA advisory code: Course is not coded but can fulfill an elective course requirement for English M.A. students.