

# The Capstone CLASS

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What English Composition/English M185 is like

Lots of possible genres and topics

What to start thinking about now

Conversation

# How to satisfy the PWM capstone requirement

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## **One writing capstone course, cumulative portfolio course, or internship course:**

- ENGL 195CE: Community and Corporate Internships in English
- ENGL 197: Individual Studies in English
- ENGL 199: Directed Research or Senior Project in English
- ENGL/ENGCOMP M185: Professional Writing Capstone



# Important People in the PWM

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- Michael Cohen, *Faculty Coordinator for Writing in the English Majors & the Professional Writing Minor*  
[cohenm@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cohenm@humnet.ucla.edu)
- Sara Hosegera, *Curriculum Coordinator, UCLA Writing Programs*  
[shosegera@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:shosegera@humnet.ucla.edu)
- Steph Bundy, *Undergraduate Advisor, Department of English*  
[MyUCLA MessageCenter \(Advising Unit: English\)](#)

# This Spring's M185 Instructors

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- Dana Cairns Watson (PWM capstone instructor, spring 2021, '22, '23, '24)
- Amber West (PWM Capstone instructor, Spring 2022, '23, '24)
- Maja Manojlovic (PWM Capstone instructor, Spring 2023)
- Laurel Westrup (130E, Writing for Arts and Entertainment, W 2020 and onward; 131B, Writing for Business and Social Policy)

We're important too!

# The class itself

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- Sets some (helpful!) intermediate deadlines for you
- Emphasizes voice—developing your own!
- Emphasizes the writing process
- There *are* assigned readings (so some work beyond that for your own project)
- Half or more of the class time is focused on student writing
- Requires giving a *short* talk at Undergraduate Research Week



## Maja Manojlovic

- Arts and Media (painting, film, video games, & VR/AR)
- Digital Humanities (multimodal projects)
- Environment, Climate Change, and Nature
- Mindfulness, Health, (Alternative) Medicine
- Memoir and Personal Narratives
- Urban Humanities
- Technology (Digital, AI)

## Amber West

- Lyric Essay and Hybrid Forms
- Feminist Studies
- Intersections of Gender, Race & Class
- Nonprofit Writing
- Public Humanities

These are our special interests, but your project is not limited by these, and you can sign up for any one of our sections.

## Dana Cairns Watson

- Public & Academic Science & Technology
- Engineering and Architectural Design
- Food: Agriculture, Culture, Science, Health
- Indigenous Science and Science Ethics
- Environment, Climate Change, and Nature
- Literary analysis
- Economics

## Laurel Westrup

- Arts and entertainment (esp. film and music)
- Food and Travel
- Technology
- Sports
- Multimodal projects
- Research projects
- Professionalization



# What can you produce in the capstone class?

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**WE DO IT ALL**

(Well,  
Almost)

## EXCEPTIONS:

No fiction!

No screenplays!

No poetry!

No blogs!

(But you can write  
a newsletter with  
a coherent topic.)



## JUST A FEW IDEAS

A public science essay in the style of a magazine such as *Harper's* or *New Yorker*

Conduct a series of **interviews** and write an article on, say, the student experience of science or English majors at UCLA

A fairly extensive academic or magazine article on literature, film, social media, sports, e-gaming, e-museums, or other entertaining or artistic media

A **profile** of someone interesting

A Podcast

A **proposal** for change

A **tabletop exhibition** of artifacts (or a more expansive collection) with the accompanying writing

An academic research or review article

A **multi-modal project** based on UCLA's oral history project

A **business proposal**, including customer research and industry analysis



# Following up about the Capstone Archive

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The English Dept has a **private** archive of all the capstone projects. This is a requirement for all UCLA Minors.

But we are still trying to create a **public archive** for the capstone projects of *only those students who want to make them public in this way.*

It will be placed here, alongside other student work:

[https://escholarship.org/uc/english\\_ucla](https://escholarship.org/uc/english_ucla).

**In the meantime, you can contact Dana, make an appt, and see a few examples of past Capstone projects that students have been willing to share.**

If you just want an **idea** of these projects,  
let me tell you a bit about these

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- “Westwood: A Tale of Two Donut Shops” by Sophie Yoakum
- “Space Matters: How Physical Space Fosters a Sense of Community” by Zoya Sihota
- “Improving the UCLA English Major Experience” by Amanda Schuler
- “Hills” by Emilio Corona
- “Fairy Tales: Enduring Appeal Through Formula and Structure” by Louise Lin



Ideally, you will have a pretty good idea of what you want to do before Spring quarter begins

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Why?

So you can begin work right away.

Why is that necessary?

So you can write a draft in the first half of the class and improve it in the second.

# What to start thinking about **right now**

- 1. Your broader, broader goals!**
  - 2. What needs to be communicated?**
  - 3. What topics do you want to explore?**
  - 4. Questions you hope to ask and answer**
- a. Audience (and register)
  - b. Tone
  - c. Deliverable
  - d. Model texts and favorite writers
  - e. General disciplinary perspective
  - f. General attitude or tempo
  - g. Your goals for the text



# Group Work

## probably in three breakout rooms

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- So, let's talk. Who do we have here? What are your interests?
- I'll put you in groups for a conversation, brainstorming session.
- Maybe you want to get contact info and keep in touch, helping each other think about this project.

# Q & A

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- Or maybe you've had a great idea you'd like to share!
- You can do that now, or contact us:
  - [dcwatson@ucla.edu](mailto:dcwatson@ucla.edu)
  - [amberwest@ucla.edu](mailto:amberwest@ucla.edu)
  - [mmanojlo@g.ucla.edu](mailto:mmanojlo@g.ucla.edu)
  - [lwestrup@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:lwestrup@humnet.ucla.edu)