The study of English allows students to explore the critical role language and literature play in the shaping of human culture and social experience. Department courses cover a variety of national, regional, and diasporic literary traditions; acquaint students with a range of genres and cultural practices, including poetry, prose, drama, film, and mixed or emerging media; and employ a range of critical and methodological approaches. All foster skills of critical analysis, interpretation, and written argument and expression. By cultivating a sophisticated awareness of linguistic and literary representation, and by encouraging the ability to read critically and write persuasively, the English major provides students with intellectual and analytical skills that they can draw upon to follow a wide range of paths.

COURSES AND COURSE-NUMBERING
100-level Courses

At the introductory level, the department offers a range of writing-intensive 100-level courses which focus on interpretive skills as well as skills in writing and argumentation. All 100-level courses are designed primarily for first-year students, although they are open to interested sophomores, juniors, and seniors. A 100-level course is required for admission to most upper-level English courses, except in the case of students who have placed out of the introductory courses by receiving a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in English Literature or of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level International Baccalaureate English exam.

200-level Courses

Most 200-level courses are designed primarily for qualified first-year students, sophomores, and junior and senior non-majors, but they are open to junior and senior majors and count as major courses. Several 200-level courses have no prerequisites; see individual descriptions for details. 200-level Gateway courses are designed for first- and second-year students who are considering becoming English majors, or who are interested in pursuing upper-level course work in the department. All Gateway courses are writing-intensive. First-year students who have placed out of the 100-level courses are encouraged to take a Gateway course as their introduction to the department.

300-level Courses

The majority of English Department courses are designed primarily for students who have some experience with textual analysis, and are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. First-year students who wish to enroll in a 300-level course are advised to consult the instructor.

400-level Courses

400-level courses are intensive, discussion-oriented classes. Limited to 15 students, 400-level courses should be attractive to any student interested in a course that emphasizes student initiated independent work. Majors considering Honors work and who wish to prepare for it are urged to take a 400-level course before senior year.

ADVISING

All students who wish to discuss English Department offerings are invited to see any faculty member or the department chair.

Prospective majors are particularly encouraged to discuss their interest with faculty as early as possible. In the spring of the sophomore year, newly declared majors must meet with a faculty member to discuss the Major Plan. Declared majors will be assigned a permanent advisor shortly after they declare the major.

MAJOR

Major Plan. Shortly after declaring the major, all English majors must complete a short written plan for how they intend to complete the major. In this plan, students should consider how they can most fruitfully explore the broad range of genres, historical periods, and national and cultural traditions that literature in English encompasses, and how they wish to focus upon a particular intellectual interest within English. Students are encouraged to begin discussing the Major Plan with a faculty member as soon as they become interested in the major; junior majors must meet with faculty advisors to revisit Major Plans as they register for courses. There will also be informational meetings and web resources available to assist new majors in developing the Major Plan.

Students majoring in English must take at least nine courses, including the following:

Any 100-level English class. Students exempted by the department from 100-level courses will substitute an elective course.

At least one 200-level Gateway course (grouped at the end of the 200-level course descriptions). Gateway courses are designed for first- and second-year students contemplating the major or intending to pursue more advanced work in the department; these courses focus on analytical writing skills while introducing students to critical methods and historical approaches that will prove fruitful as they pursue the major. (Note: a Gateway course can fulfill a Literary Histories or Criticism requirement as well as the Gateway requirement.)

At least one Criticism course (identified in parentheses at the end of the course description). A course fulfilling the criticism requirement entails a sustained and explicit reflection on problems of critical method, whether by engaging a range of critical approaches and their implications or by exploring a particular method, theorist, or critic in depth. (Please note that when a Criticism course is also listed as satisfying the Literary Histories requirement, the course may be used to satisfy either requirement, but not both.)

At least three courses at the 300-level or above.

At least three courses designated as Literary Histories. Literary Histories courses concern the emergence or development of a specific literary tradition or problem and/or its transformation across multiple historical periods. Literary Histories are identified by LH-A, LH-B, or LH-C in parentheses at the end of the course description.

LH-A: courses dealing primarily with literature written before 1800.

LH-B: courses dealing primarily with literature written before 1900 but not included in LH-A (courses on literature from 1800-1900 and some surveys).

LH-C: courses dealing primarily with literature written after 1900.
Of the three Literary Histories courses required for the major, at least two must focus on literature before 1900 (LH-A or LH-B), with at least one of these focusing primarily on literature before 1800 (LH-A).

For further clarification, please see the English Department website at english.williams.edu.

Courses Outside the Department

The department will give one elective course credit toward the major for a course taken in literature of a foreign language, whether the course is taught in the original language or in translation. Such a course may not be used to satisfy the department’s Literary Histories, Criticism, or Gateway requirements.

STUDY AWAY

Majors who plan to study abroad should be proactive in understanding how this will affect their plans for completing major requirements. Such plans should be discussed in advance with the student’s advisor as well as the department’s academic assistant. Approval of departmental credit for courses taken off-campus must be obtained in advance from the department chair.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in some cases, if appropriate course information is available in advance (e.g. syllabi and/or course descriptions), though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, and complete syllabus including readings/assignments. In most cases we require syllabus, readings, and assignments. The one exception is the Oxford Program. We need only the title and description for that particular program.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes, for most programs we allow only two electives towards the major. Again, the exception is the Oxford Program where we allow four.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Yes.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes, students cannot receive credit for the Gateway requirement. It is difficult to receive credit for our criticism requirement as well.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

Yes. Students must be aware that if they do not take a Gateway before their study away they will have to do it when they come back. Likewise for our criticism requirement.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

This happens most often when the student does don’t come to see the Chair before they leave or if they change their plans once they are away at their program.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN ENGLISH

The English Department offers three routes toward honors: a creative writing thesis, a critical thesis, and a critical specialization. Candidates for the program should have at least a 3.5 average in courses taken in English, but admission will not depend solely on course grades. Formal application to pursue honors must be made to the director of honors (Emily Vasiliauskas) by April of the junior year.

All routes require students to take a minimum of ten regular-semester courses (rather than the nine otherwise required for the major). Students doing a creative writing thesis must, by graduation, take at least nine regular semester courses, and, in addition, take English 497 (Honors Thesis) and English W31 (Senior Thesis, winter study) during senior year. Students writing a critical thesis must, by graduation, take at least eight regular-semester courses, and, in addition, take English 493 and English 494 (fall Honors Colloquium and spring Honors Thesis) and English W31 (Senior Thesis, winter study) during senior year. Students pursuing a critical specialization must, by graduation, take at least eight regular-semester courses, and in addition, take English 493 and English 494 (fall Honors Colloquium and spring Honors Thesis) and English W30 (Senior Thesis: Specialization Route, winter study) during senior year.

Creative Writing Thesis
The creative writing thesis is a significant body of (usually) fiction or poetry completed during the fall semester and winter study of the senior year, and usually including revised writing done in earlier semesters. (With permission of the honors committee, the thesis may be undertaken during the winter study period and the spring semester of the senior year.) Requirements for admission include outstanding work in an introductory and an advanced workshop (or, in exceptional cases, not including poetry or fiction, a substantial body of work in place of an advanced workshop), a recommendation from one of the creative writing teachers (who will then act as thesis advisor), and the approval of the departmental honors committee. A creative thesis begun in the fall is due on the last day of winter study; one begun in winter study is due the third Monday after spring break. The methods of evaluation are identical to those for critical projects (but their page limits do not apply).

Critical Thesis
The critical thesis is a substantial critical essay written during both semesters as well as the winter study period of the senior year. It must consider critical and/or theoretical as well as literary texts. The thesis is normally about 15,000 words (45 pages); in no case should it be longer than 25,000 words (75 pages). The proposal, a 3-page description of the thesis project, should indicate the subject to be investigated and the arguments to be considered, along with a bibliography. The finished thesis is due on the third Monday following spring break. After the critical thesis has been completed, students publicly present their work.

Critical Specialization
The critical specialization route is a series of forays into a broad area of interest related to work undertaken in at least two courses. At least one of these courses must be in the English Department, and both need to have been taken by the end of fall term in senior year. The specialization route entails: (1) a set of three 10-page essays which together advance a flexibly related set of arguments; (2) an annotated bibliography (5 pages) of secondary sources, explaining their importance to the area of specialization; (3) a meeting with the three faculty evaluators (one of whom is the advisor) during the last two weeks in February to discuss the trio of essays and the annotated bibliography; (4) a fourth essay of 12 pages, considering matters that arose during the faculty-student meeting and reflecting on the outcome of the specialization. The 3-page proposal for the specialization should specify the area and range of the study, the issues likely to be explored, and the methods to be used for their investigation. It should also describe the relation between previous course work and the specialization, and include a brief bibliography of secondary works. The first two papers are due by the end of fall semester; the third paper is due at the end of winter study; the bibliography is due mid-February; and the final paper is due the third Monday after spring break.

Applying to the Honors Program
All students who wish to apply to the honors program are required to consult with a prospective faculty advisor and the director of honors before April of the junior year. Prior to pre-registration in April, candidates for critical theses and specializations submit a 3-page proposal that includes an account of the proposed project and a bibliography. Students applying to creative writing honors submit a brief proposal describing the project they wish to pursue. Decisions regarding admission to the honors program will be made by the end of May. Admission to the honors program depends on the department’s assessment of the qualifications of the student, the feasibility of the project, and the availability of an appropriate advisor.

When pre-registering for Fall classes of their senior year, students who are applying to critical honors should register for the Honors Colloquium as one of their four courses.

Progress and Evaluation of Honors
While grades for the fall and winter study terms are deferred until both the honors project and review process are completed, students must do satisfactory work to continue in the program. Should the student’s work in the fall semester not meet this standard, the course will convert to a standard independent study (English 397), and the student will register for a regular winter study project. A student engaged in a year-long project must likewise perform satisfactorily in winter study (English W30 or W31) to enroll in English 494 in the spring semester. When such is not the case, the winter study course will be converted to an independent study “99.”

Students are required to submit one electronic copy to the department academic assistant at pmalanga@williams.edu. Students should also give a final hard copy to their thesis advisor. Both the electronic copy and the hard copy are due on the dates applicable to the type of project pursued (see the above descriptions of each type of project for the due dates). All honors projects are evaluated by the advisor and two other faculty members. The colloquium director, in consultation with the advisor, gives the first semester grade, and the advisor determines the student’s second semester grade in honors, while the two external readers recommend to the department that the project receive Highest Honors, Honors, or no Honors. Honors of any kind are contingent upon satisfactory completion of courses in the major during the senior year. Highest Honors are normally awarded only to students whose performance in both the honors program and regular courses in the major has been exceptional.

ENGL 104 (S) Creative Non-fiction (WS)
In this course we will read some of the most prominent practitioners of creative non-fiction—writers like John McPhee, Joan Didion, Malcolm Gladwell,
Susan Orlean, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Michael Pollan, Zadie Smith and Oliver Sacks. Students will also write in a variety of non-fiction modes—explainers, profiles, essays, memoirs. We will probe the border between invention and fact and consider the ways that narratives are constructed.

Class Format: workshop

Requirements/Evaluation: four short exercises of three pages or less; three longer assignments of five pages; and a final assignment, which is a revision and expansion of an earlier essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Four short exercises of three pages or less; three longer assignments of five pages; and a final assignment, which is a revision and expansion of an earlier essay. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01 TBA John E. Kleiner

ENGL 105 (S) American Girlhoods (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AMST 105 WGSS 105 ENGL 105

Primary Cross-listing

The image of the girl has captivated North American writers, commentators, artists, and creators of popular culture for at least the last two centuries. What metaphors, styles of writing, ideas of "manners and morals" does literature about girls explore? What larger cultural and aesthetic concerns are girls made to represent? And how is girlhood articulated alongside and/or intertwined with other identities and identifications, such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality? These are some of the issues we will explore in this course.

Requirements/Evaluation: at least 20 pages of writing; short, more informal writing assignments; GLOW posts; class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 105 (D1) WGSS 105 (D1) ENGL 105 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students do at least 20 pages of writing (4-5 papers) and are required to revise several papers. We also devote significant class time to talking about successful academic writing. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course considers the construction of girhood in the United States along the axes of race, gender, sexuality, class and more, and the literary history of who, in various moments in America, has even been allowed to claim the privileges of and/or be burdened with the idea of being a girl. It examines how girhood is represented in relation to (in)equity and power and what kinds of literary and cultural forms writers utilize to illuminate these differences.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 106 (S) "Make it New": The Modernist Experiment (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 105 ENGL 106

Primary Cross-listing
In her essay "Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown" (1924), Virginia Woolf proposed that around 1910 "human character" itself had suddenly changed, rendering existing conventions "in religion, conduct, politics, and literature" no longer adequate to express the new age. "And so the smashing and the crashing began. Thus it is that we hear all around us, in poems and novels . . . the sound of breaking and falling, crashing and destruction." This course will explore the effort of artists in the decade or so before and after World War I to "make it new." We will read work by Conrad, Yeats, Frost, Pound, Joyce, T.S.Eliot, Mansfield, Woolf, Faulkner, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams and others, and chart the range of innovative narrative and formal strategies Modernist writers adopted in their efforts to represent consciousness, experience, memory and the objective world more fully and accurately in an era of massive social, political and technological change. We will also consider some non-print media, including developments in the visual arts from the post-impressionists through to the surrealists, the work of the Bahaus, and early experiments in film.

Requirements/Evaluation:  active class participation; three papers rising from 3-7 pages; three two-page reading responses

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 105 (D1) ENGL 106 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Three papers rising from 3-7 pages; three 2-page reading responses. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 107  (F)  Temptation  (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 106  ENGL 107

Primary Cross-listing

We want most those things we can't--or shouldn't--have. Or, to put it another way, it is when limitations are placed on our actions by law, religion, or the facts of our own biology that we experience desire most acutely. In this course, we will examine fictional narratives, lyric poems, and philosophical meditations in which people are tempted to act against their better judgement. Free will, ambition, temperance, suspense, despair, and repression will be our conceptual preoccupations. We will get to know such writers and artists as Homer, Euripides, Ovid, Augustine, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Laclos, Mozart, Freud, Frost, and Scorsese.

Requirements/Evaluation: Four five-page papers, in-class presentation, thoughtful participation in discussions

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: First-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 106 (D1) ENGL 107 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write four five-page papers, each of which will receive timely and extensive written feedback from the instructor. Students will be invited to discuss their papers with the instructor at the draft stage.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 110  (F)  Ruined America: New American Dystopian Novels  (WS)

Dystopian novels have become commonplace. But why now? Why do we seem to be experiencing a heightened anxiety over apocalypse? We will consider two types of dystopian visions--those that present a post-apocalyptic world, and those that conjure up wrecked societies out of current evils. Both types present the world we know now as either lost or full of losers. As we visit a variety of recently imagined American dystopias, we will focus
on the ethical dilemmas imposed by prospects of our diminished state: the inevitable issues of class, and the divisions of race and gender; the prospects of anarchy and political oppression; and the threat of technology to our identity and our environment. The class will also focus on techniques to improve your critical reasoning and analytical skills with the goal of writing interesting and well-argued essays.

Class Format: The course will be taught remotely.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two five-page essays, and one final 10-page essay, as well as several short writing assignments. Active seminar participation.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: First-year students

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: The class is primarily design as a writing intensive. I plan on assigning two five-page essays and one 8-10 page essay. The shorter essays will be graded with comments, and either be peer reviewed, or short passages will be selected for class discussion and revision. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1  MWF 8:15 am - 9:30 am  Alan W. De Gooyer

ENGL 111  (S) Poetry and Politics

"Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world" wrote Shelley in his 1821 "Defence of Poetry," countering the widely held view of poetry's airy irrelevance to the material progress of humanity. His claims are echoed a century and a half later in Audre Lorde's "Poetry is Not a Luxury,"; in which she argues that poetry is a vital and essential part of her own political struggle as a Black lesbian feminist. But when W.B. Yeats--himself a very politically involved poet--writes in 1917 that "from the quarrel with others comes rhetoric; from the quarrel with ourselves comes poetry," he implies that poetry would suffer from too much involvement with the "quarrel with others" that is politics, becoming, perhaps, something more like advertising jingles for political dogma. And when W. H. Auden writes in 1939 that "poetry makes nothing happen" he appears to locate poetry's value precisely in its irrelevance to politics as such. This course will focus on the vexed relationship between poetry and political struggle, reading predominantly poetry and poetics (writings about poetry) of the last two centuries in an effort to answer the questions: what can poetry do for politics? what does politics do for (or to) poetry? Is poetry essential to political struggle, or do poetry and politics mix only to the detriment of both, producing, on the one hand, bad poetry, and on the other, mere distractions from the "real" work of politics? The primary goal of the course is to make students better readers of poetry, and better readers and writers of argumentative prose.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: graded essays, final in-class team project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01  TBA  Alison A. Case

ENGL 112  (F) Introduction to Literary Criticism  (WS)

What determines meaning? How we interpret is inevitably inflected by our own priorities and preoccupations, by the contexts in which we read, by literary and other conventions, and by the historical and personal circumstances of a work's composition, as well as deriving from the particular words
of a text and from the mutable life of language itself. So how to go about the task of reading literature well, and reading critically? This course will focus on key introductory methods and critical approaches, and is intended to develop your skills in reading, writing about, discussing and interpreting literary texts. Our readings--mainly short fiction and poetry, along with selected introductory work in critical theory--will invite increased self-consciousness about literary form, the functions of criticism, and the process of reading and interpretation. In the last weeks of the course, we will read longer texts, including at least one play and one novel.

Class Format: Our class meetings will be conducted remotely, but with the seminar group regularly broken into small discussion sections. As the semester progresses, I will consider moving to in-person teaching for the discussion sections as conditions on campus clarify.

Requirements/Evaluation: Three papers rising from 3-6 pages, discussion board postings, and contribution to class discussions.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: First-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Three papers, rising from 3 pages for the first, to 6 pages for the last. Postings on Glow discussion boards for all class meetings. Extensive written feedback on longer papers, plus the option of revision.

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1 MWF 10:40 am - 11:30 am James L. Pethica

ENGL 113 (F) The Feminist Poetry Movement (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: WGSS 113 ENGL 113 AMST 113

Primary Cross-listing

Feminist poetry and feminist politics were so integrated in the 1960s and 1970s in America that critical essays on poets, such as Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde, appeared in the same handbook that listed such resources for women as rape crisis centers and health clinics. This course will map the crucial alliance between feminist politics (and its major cultural and political gains) and the feminist poetry movement that became a major "tool" for building, organizing, and theorizing second-wave feminism. In order to track this political and poetic revolution, we will take an interdisciplinary approach that brings together historical, critical, and literary documents (including archival ones) and visual products (through the Object Lab of the Williams College Art Museum) that recreate the rich context of the period and help us consider the important social nature of aesthetic production. At the center of the course will be writings of major poets of the period, as well as anthologies and feminist periodicals that published their work and created a significant forum and shared space for women to articulate the politics and poetics of change. These periodicals and anthologies will also help us track the diversity of the feminist poetry movement and its intersection with issues of race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. Ultimately, we will want to consider how poetry serves as an important tool for thinking through questions of power and injustice and what role it plays in creating necessary imaginative space in the world for expression, critique, and change.

Class Format: discussion, some lecture, project work in archives and art gallery

Requirements/Evaluation: three analysis papers (4-5 pages), creative (1-2 pages), discussion posts (5 pages), curated final project (archival exhibit with 7-page paper), presentations

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first years

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 113 (D1) ENGL 113 (D1) AMST 113 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Writing skills taught through a series of assignments evenly spaced throughout the semester: weekly p/f discussion posts, three four-to-five-page graded papers, one creative assignment, and a final digital research project (10-page equivalent; peer reviewed). Students receive
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course examines the effects of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality on both poetry and the movement and how women negotiated their differences within the movement, as well as in response to the dominant patriarchal culture. This course employs critical tools (feminist theory, archival research, poetics, close reading, comparative approaches) to help students question and articulate the social injustices that led to the poetry and poetics of the Women's Liberation Movement.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses EXPE Experiential Education Courses WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses WGSS Theory Courses

ENGL 114  (F)  Literary Speakers  (WS)

The general purpose of this course is to develop students' skills as interpreters of poetry and short fiction. Its particular focus is on how--and with what effects--poets create the voices of their poems, and fiction writers create their narrators. We'll consider the ways in which literary speakers inform and entice, persuade and sometimes deceive, their audiences. Readings will include texts from various historical periods, with particular emphasis on the twentieth century (including works by James Joyce, Henry James, Vladimir Nabokov, Robert Frost, Toni Cade Bambara, Raymond Carver, and Seamus Heaney).

Class Format: This course will be taught remotely.

Requirements/Evaluation: 4 or 5 papers, of varying lengths, spaced throughout the term (about 15-20 pages total); detailed feedback will be provided on each paper, along with opportunities for revision. There will be no examinations in this course.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and then sophomores who have not yet taken a 100-level course in English

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: There will be 4-5 papers assigned, spaced evenly throughout the term, ranging in length from 1-2 pages to about 5 pages. Detailed feedback will be provided on each paper. There will be opportunities for revisions, and for conferences before and after each paper. At least two classes during the term will be specifically devoted to issues related to paper writing.

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1  MWF 10:40 am - 11:30 am  Stephen  Fix

ENGL 115  (F)  The Literature of Sports  (DPE)  (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 115 ENGL 115

Primary Cross-listing

The ubiquity of the sporting event, the athlete as hero, the athlete as failure, the crowd, the fan, the stadium, and all of the complex conflicts therein have long been the subjects of some of the finest writing in America and throughout the world. Writers have used sport as a context through which to explore and examine ideas such as beauty, the sublime, tragedy, politics, race, class, sexuality, and gender. This course will focus on poetry, fiction, and non-fiction invested in the public spectacles and private revelations of sport ranging from the poetics of praise to issues of urbanism, colonialism, globalization with readings by Pindar, Rankine, CLR James, Baldwin, Hemingway, Oates, DeLillo, and many others. This course will be taught online in a synchronous format.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be expected to complete a number of short (5 pages or less) papers during the semester and one longer paper (8-10 pages) at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course.

Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 115 (D2) ENGL 115 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will focus on literature about sports that addresses, among other topics, civil rights activism, gentrification, race dynamics and race relations both inside and outside of the USA, American exceptionalism, sociocultural construction of emotional displays, mental health, religious conflict, and anti-blackness.

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1  MW 10:00 am - 11:15 am  Rowan Ricardo Phillips

ENGL 116  (F)(S)  The Remix: Adaptation and Revelation  (WS)
This course explores the ideas of remaking and adaptation. We examine twentieth and twenty-first-century fiction, poetry, film, and hybrid texts that interact with subject matter stretching from Greek mythology to New World castaway stories to global pandemics. What is the nature of the work they attempt? What is lost and gained in these re-visions? In response to these questions, emphasis is placed on critical reading and writing (and rewriting), as well as on research skills. Works considered throughout the term come from, among others, John Keene, Anne Carson, J.M. Coetzee, Alfonso Cuarón, Steve McQueen, and Natasha Trethewey.

Requirements/Evaluation: at least 20 pages of writing; GLOW posts; class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who do not have a 5 on the AP and/or have not previously taken a 100-level English class

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will do at least 20 pages of writing (4 papers) and will be required to significantly revise one paper. Students will also provide two detailed editorial responses to the work of another student. Significant class time will be spent covering strategies for effective and persuasive academic writing. Throughout the semester, students will receive written feedback from the instructor with specific suggestions for revision and improvement.

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1  MWF 8:15 am - 9:30 am  Ricardo A Wilson

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01  TBA  Ricardo A Wilson

ENGL 117  (S)  Introduction to Cultural Theory  (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 117  COMP 117

Primary Cross-listing
This course has a clear purpose. If you had signed up for a course in biology, you would know that you were about to embark on the systematic study of living organisms. If you were registered for a course on the American Civil War, you would know that there had been an armed conflict between the northern and southern states in the 1860s. But if you decide you want to study "culture," what exactly is it that you are studying? The aim of this course is not to come up with handy and reassuring definitions for this word, but to show you why it is so hard to come up with such definitions. People fight about what the word "culture" means, and our main business will be to get an overview of that conceptual brawl. We will pay special attention to the conflict between those thinkers who see culture as a realm of freedom or equality or independence or critical thought and those thinkers who see culture as a special form of bondage, a prison without walls. The course will be organized around short theoretical readings by authors ranging from Matthew Arnold to Constance Penley, but we will also, in order to put our new ideas to the test, watch several films (Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Silence of the Lambs, The Lord of the Rings) and listen to a lot of rock and roll. Why do you think culture matters? Once you stop to pose that question, there's
no turning back.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: four formal writing assignments totaling 20 pages (three full essays + one lead-in assignment), informal writing twice weekly, class attendance and participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 117 (D1) COMP 117 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write three five- to seven-page papers, on which I will provide extensive feedback. Before writing their first papers, students will submit theses and introductions, which I will help them refine. We will hold three extra writing sessions, to discuss how best to organize arguments. Students will write informally before every class.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA Christian Thorne

ENGL 119  (S)  Missed Encounters  (DPE)

Although we all entertain the dream of reaching directly across boundaries of personal and cultural difference, such exchanges remain inseparable from fantasies of otherness. Those fantasies can be as reductive as a stereotype, but they can also be enormously nuanced and self-revealing—as rich as literature itself. We will study the missed encounter—the encounter in which the element of presupposition and fantasy is vividly apparent—in cultural contexts from the first English accounts of the inhabitants of Virginia to race relations in contemporary African fiction; we will consider such encounters in other contexts as well, including sexual relations, the relations between young and old, even the relation between past and present. But in every case, we will keep our gaze trained on what such events tell us about the nature of fantasy and the place of fiction. The course will consider novels, drama, film, opera, and non-fiction, works such as: Coetzee, Waiting for the Barbarians; Harriot, "Report of the New Found Land of Virginia"; Conrad, Heart of Darkness; Stephen Crane, "The Blue Hotel"; Nadine Gordimer, The Pick Up; Herzog, "Aguirre"; Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice; Puccini, Madame Butterfly; Huang, M. Butterfly; Austen, Pride and Prejudice; Gyasi, Homegoing; and theoretical writing, including texts by the psychoanalytic critic, Jacques Lacan.

Requirements/Evaluation: 20 pages of writing in the form of frequent short papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students who have not taken or placed out of an English 100-level class

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course fulfills the spirit of the DPE requirement by engaging diverse cultural contexts in order to explore the ways in which political, racial, and sexual identities are staked on forcible assertions of difference which at once constitute power and erode it from within. Through discussion and critical writing, students will develop analytical tools and skills to interrogate these effects of social power.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 120  (F)(S)  The Nature of Narrative  (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 120 COMP 111

Secondary Cross-listing
Narrative--storytelling--is a fundamental human activity. Narratives provide us with maps of how the world does or should or might work, and we make sense of our own experiences through the narratives we construct ourselves. This course examines the nature and workings of narrative using texts from a wide range of literary traditions, media, and genres. Readings may include Western and Asian classics (Homerian epic, The Tale of Genji, medieval Chinese narrative), novelistic fiction ranging from nineteenth-century realism to postmodern experimentation (Tolstoy, Garcia-Marquez, Toni Morrison), and visual literature from film and drama to graphic memoir (Mizoguchi Kenji, David Mamet, Art Spiegelman, Alison Bechdel). We will also read some short works of literary theory from around the world to help us broaden our idea of what literature can be and do. All readings in English.

Class Format: The FALL version of this class will have a hybrid format: on-campus students will meet in a classroom during the scheduled class slot (observing campus distancing protocols), while off-campus students participate simultaneously via Zoom. Off-campus students must be able to Zoom in during the scheduled class times.

Requirements/Evaluation: Regular attendance and participation in class; two mid-length writing assignments, and a re-write, plus several shorter assignments over the course of the semester.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Students considering a major in Comparative Literature

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 120 (D1) COMP 111 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Multiple writing assignments that build upon each other, including drafts and revisions, with substantial individualized feedback on writing from the instructor.

Attributes: FMST Related Courses

Fall 2020

SEM Section: H1  WF 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm  Christopher A. Bolton
SEM Section: H2  MR 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm  Christopher A. Bolton
SEM Section: R3  WF 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm  Sarah M. Allen

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01  TBA  Sarah M. Allen

ENGL 123  (S)  The Short Story

The reading for this course will consist entirely of short stories by such writers as Poe, Hawthorne, James, Doyle, Hemingway, Faulkner, Gilman, Chopin, Cather, Toomer, McCullers, O'Connor, Borges, Nabokov, Kincaid, Saunders, Diaz, and Shepard. We will read one or two per class meeting; at the end of the course, we'll be reading one collection, probably by Raymond Carver. Reading short stories will allow us to pay close attention to the form of our texts, and to paragraphs, sentences, and words. The premise of the essays you will write is that short stories and short essays are both arts based on controlling the release of information and meaning, and that studying the two genres together will have reciprocal benefits for reading and writing.

Class Format: class meetings will be devoted almost entirely to discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: grades will be based on the five formal writing assignments, with rewards for improvement, plus class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken a 100-level English course; then sophomores who have not taken a 100-level English course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year
When Plato designed his ideal republic, he excluded theater from it, arguing that indulging in the charms of theatrical representation would make men poor governors of themselves and thus threaten the integrity of fledgling Greek democracies. In the twentieth-century, however, the work of younger artists and playwrights as diverse as Bertolt Brecht and Antonin Artaud provocatively suggested that theater itself could remedy the ills that Plato thought it aggravated by restoring to the people the productive power that the passively on-looking masses had ceded to the charisma of dictators. Today, as rapid changes in media daily transform the way in which we experience the world and understand our place within it, artists, critics, and philosophers continue to draw on the terms of historical debates about theater in attempts to understand the political significance of technologically enhanced forms of global spectatorship, asking what becomes of the traditional roles of viewers and directors on the new world-stage, in an age when revolutions are triggered by cell phone images, but advertising campaigns are also customized to consumers based on automated scans of private information like email. In this seminar, students take a historical approach to these urgent contemporary questions, analyzing the politics of theater in literature, criticism, film, and philosophy from antiquity to the present.

Requirements/Evaluation: three papers of increasing length and complexity, one of which you will revise, totaling 20 pages of finished writing, and a portfolio of interpretive questions

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 125 (D1) THEA 125 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: The seminar includes extensive discussion of writing strategies throughout, frequent writing assignments, substantive feedback on writing assignments, and revision in response to that feedback.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 128 (S) Reading Asian American Literature

Cross-listings: COMP 128 ENGL 128 AMST 128

Secondary Cross-listing

Though the category and term "Asian American" came about as a result of political struggle in the 1960s, what we now call Asian American writing in English began in the nineteenth century and has played a significant role in every American literary "movement" from Modernism, realism, protest literature to various avant-gardes, the graphic novel, and digital poetries. This course closely reads a sampling of texts in a variety of genres and styles-produced by writers from various Asian American ethnic groups-from the late nineteenth century to the present and contextualizes them historically, both domestically and globally. We will examine the material, cultural, political, and psychic intersections of larger structural forces with individual writers and texts. Along the way, we will interrogate the notion of "Asian American"--its contradictions, heterogeneous nature, and our assumptions--and its relation to the idea of "American." Some questions we will ask: "Why have Asian Americans and Asian American writers and writing so often been viewed as 'foreign' or 'alien' to the American body politic and the English-language literary tradition?" "How might Asian American writing be linked to other English-language texts in the Asian diaspora?"

Requirements/Evaluation: six 2-3 pp. papers, participation (attendance, discussion, GLOW posts), and a final project (the final project is 7-9 pages: either a creative project or an analytical paper)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: prospective AMST or ENGL majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
ENGL 129  (F)  Twentieth-Century Black Poets
Cross-listings:  ENGL 129  AFR 129

Primary Cross-listing
From Langston Hughes to contemporary poets such as Angela Jackson and Claudia Rankine, African American poets have been preoccupied with the relations of poetry to other traditions. Vernacular speech, English poetry, jazz and other musical forms, folk humor, and African mythology have all been seen as essential sources for black poetry. This course will survey major poets such as Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Countee Cullen, Robert Hayden, Gwendolyn Brooks, Amiri Baraka, Jackson, and Yusef Komunyakaa, reading their poems and their essays and interviews about poetic craft. We will ask how black poetry has been defined and whether there is a single black poetic tradition or several.

Requirements/Evaluation:  several short papers, a 15-page final paper
Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit:  14
Enrollment Preferences:  first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course
Expected Class Size:  14
Grading:  no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

ENGL 130  (S)  Writing for the Humanities  (WS)
Cross-listings:  COMP 130  ENGL 130
Secondary Cross-listing
Compelling academic prose is a rare beast. In this course we will investigate what makes for good academic writing and how we can produce it ourselves. We will begin with words, then progress to sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Our reading will be close, our writing closer. Topics include the following: Are adverbs incredibly important? When is less more, and when isn't it? Is your garden English, or is it Chinese? What is the "uneven U" and why does it work? How does your audience affect how you write? In addition to reading writing about writing by Orwell, Fish, Tufte, Hayot, and (inevitably) Strunk and White, we will look closely at academic prose out in the wild, both good and bad. This course is for anyone who is interested in exploring in more depth the craft of writing, whether you have always considered yourself a "good writer" or struggle to fill a single page (or both). Our focus will be on academic writing for the humanities, but the skills we will develop are relevant to many other contexts as well.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Regular attendance and active participation in class; writing assignments ranging in length from sentences to essays of varying length (500 words to 5-7 pages).
Prerequisites:  None
Enrollment Limit:  12
Enrollment Preferences:  First- and second-year students
Expected Class Size:  12
Grading:  yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D1)  (WS)
ENGL 131  (F)  All About Sonnets  (WS)
Fourteen lines in a fixed pattern. When Sir Thomas Wyatt introduced the sonnet to England in the 1500s with his translations of Petrarch, the form quickly became entrenched in English, and has been in regular use ever since. Originally penned as expressions of idealized love, sonnets soon expanded to address other kinds of emotionally intense relationships—to God, Nature, art, a particular place, the State, oppressors—while still, obsessively, returning to love in all its myriad forms. This makes the sonnet, deeply personal though it is, also a kind of pocket-sized literary tradition, as each new generation of poets extends, disrupts, and comments upon the whole history of sonnets. “A sonnet is a moment’s monument,” wrote D.G. Rossetti (in, of course, a sonnet)—speaking of the sonnet’s tendency to offer just a snapshot of the poet’s mental and emotional state—but the tradition of producing numbered sequences of sonnets can also string those moments into a kind of narrative. Similarly, while the sonnet is founded in strong feeling, it is also obsessed with logic, delighting in logical argumentation, contradictions and paradoxes. This course will focus on a broad range of sonnets, historically, geographically and thematically, as well as criticism and theory relating to sonnets. Studying sonnets that are variously inspiring, devastating, and lol funny, we will become Sonnet Experts, while developing broadly useful skills in careful reading, concise writing and sound argumentation. Poets will include Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Keats, Elizabeth Barret Browning, DG and Christina Rossetti, Claude McKay, Edna St. Vincent Millay, John Berryman, Seamus Heaney, Vikram Seth, and many, many more. No prior experience with poetry is presumed.

Class Format: first week in regular class meetings, followed by weekly tutorial meetings in pairs
Requirements/Evaluation: five tutorial essays 3-5 pages; five responses to partners tutorial essays; 10 sonnet paraphrases and/or “prose sonnets;” thoughtful participation in tutorial meetings
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: Bi-weekly short analytic papers (1000 words) which will be critiqued in tutorial meetings and revised as needed. Bi-weekly critique of partner's paper. Regular sonnet paraphrases and or “prose sonnets” that will be critiqued for linguistic precision and succinctness.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 132  (F)  Black Writing To/From/About Prison  (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: WGSS 132  ENGL 132
Primary Cross-listing
This introductory course considers the disproportionate incarceration of African Americans as it is represented on the page. Keywords for meditation and analysis include blackness, gender, prison, justice, freedom, and abolition. Each reading and class discussion will aid students in developing rigorous and nuanced understandings of these terms. The primary project in this course is the development of open letter writing skills. This epistolary form allows both for the intimate engagement of individual, familiar contact and the deft inclusion of targeted eavesdroppers in order to raise the consciousness of listeners and affirm the value of personal relationships. Course texts will include letters to and from prison; documentaries; selections from anthologies like If They Come in the Morning and Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex; autobiographies like that by Malcolm X, Walidah Imarisha, and Assata Shakur; poetry by Ericka Huggins, Huey Newton, and Terrance Hayes; and critical interventions by scholars like Nikki Jones, Victor Rios, Michelle Alexander, and Angela Davis. We will also look at contemporary groups organizing around abolition and prisoner support including Critical Resistance, Photos From Solitary, and TGJJP (Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project).

Class Format: discussion, engagement with guest speakers, engagement with Special Collections
Requirements/Evaluation: four open letters developed with critical feedback (4-5 pages), a twice weekly question diary, an organization report and presentation, a collectively decided project

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 132 (D1) ENGL 132 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Open letters are a mainstay of black literature allowing for intimate engagement of the individual and the deft inclusion of targeted eavesdroppers to raise the consciousness of listeners and affirm the value of personal relationships. Students will learn to write letters with purpose to facilitate a felt relationship to the topic; enhance writing skills including achieving clarity and aesthetic value; practice curation of references. Four 5-page letters with rigorous feedback to sharpen form.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class studies the historical development of mass incarceration of black folk from its roots in American slavery and white supremacist policy. This class also studies the impact of the prison industrial complex on transgender and queer folk in reproducing gender binaries and sexual abuse in and outside prison walls. The politics of prison abolition and gender self determination present critical interventions into the hegemonic structures of normalized racial dominance and gender oppression.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 133 (F) Shakespeare’s Uncertain Ends

We've come to expect that the heroes of Shakespeare's tragedies learn something. Othello, Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth, and all the others, are supposed to achieve some kind of clarifying self-knowledge as a reward for their terrible suffering. After all, the heroes' flaws are revealed and their delusions are exposed so that they can eventually understand what has happened to them and why. They are meant to learn from their suffering. Or so we'd like to think. But the plays don't always cooperate with our desire for some compensating enlightenment. We don't always come away with a clear sense that Shakespeare's tragic heroes have arrived at a true self-recognition; in other words, they don't always fully grasp how their fate is implicated in their character. Nor are we granted an obvious, edifying moral to compensate for the misery we witness. What, then, do we discover at the end of a Shakespeare tragedy?

Requirements/Evaluation: three essays (two 5-page essays and one 10-page essay), short writing assignments, class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 135 (F) Vengeance

For almost three thousand years revenge has been a central preoccupation of European literature. Revenge is inviting to literary and dramatic treatment partly because of its impulse towards structure: it traces a simple arc of injury and retaliation. A injures B, and B retaliates against A. But retaliation is never easy or equivalent, and there is always a volatile emotive mixture of loss and grievance that stirs up ethical ambiguities that are seldom resolved. Vengeance also fascinates because it is so paradoxical. The avenger, though isolated and vulnerable, can nevertheless achieve heroic grandeur by coming to personify nemesis. And yet the hero is always contaminated by trying to make a right out of two wrongs--and he usually has to die for it. Driven by past events, cut off from the present, and wrapped up in stratagems for future reprisals, the avenger's actions are almost always compromised by impotence or excess. At best, revenge is "a kinde of Wilde Justice"--a justice that kills its heroes as well as its villains. We will look at as many stories of vengeance, across as wide a range of cultures and media, as possible. Readings will include Sophocles' Electra, Dante's Inferno, Shakespeare's Hamlet and The Tempest, Chalderon de Laclos' Dangerous Liaisons, and Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five, as well as several short stories and films.
ENGL 136  (S)  Slavery and the Making of a Literary Tradition

Cross-listings: AFR 136  ENGL 136

Primary Cross-listing

How has the subject and iconography of slavery continued to preoccupy the American literary and cultural imagination? In this course, we will examine the transatlantic circulation of ideas regarding race, nation, citizenship, self-mastery, agency, and freedom in colonial and antebellum America and consider how these debates have continued to the present. We will read such authors as Phyllis Wheatley, Harriet Jacobs, Harriet Wilson, William Faulkner, Mark Twain, and Toni Morrison. Forms will include poetry, slave narratives, novels, advertisements, broadsides, pamphlets, and other ephemera. We will also view cinematic representations of slavery, such as WGN's *Underground*, the adaptation of Solomon Northrop's *12 Years a Slave*, and Issa Rae's parody "Due North" in *Insecure*.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, four short papers totaling about 20 pages
Prerequisites: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 138  (S)  What is a Self? Investigations in Literature, Philosophy, and Psychology  (WS)

The experience of having a self (or a subjective point of view) informs and colors literally everything we think, see, and feel. And yet what, exactly, is a self? Is it the unchanging essence of who we are as individuals? Or is it the historically contingent product of ever-changing cultural and political forces (like the media, gender norms, and ideologies about race, to name just a few)? Or, perhaps, is the belief that we have a self just one big illusion, as the Buddha suggested millennia ago and as modern philosophers and scientists have argued in their own different ways more recently? In this class, we'll explore the deep mystery of human existence that we call "the self" or "subjectivity," looking at various attempts to capture, represent, and explain it. Our investigations will be wide-ranging, looking at examples from literature, philosophy, religion, and psychology. Works we'll study include: Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air*, and theoretical writings on the self by Plato, Thoreau, Sartre, Bruner, and Nelly Rosario, among others. Students who genuinely find the experience of the self puzzling and fascinating will get the most out of this class. Bring an open mind about what it is to have a mind in the first place.

Requirements/Evaluation: four analytical papers totaling 20 pages; active class participation; participation in other short writing assignments
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)  (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: Four 5-page essays in multiple drafts. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 139 (S) Living a Feminist Life (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: COMP 139 ENGL 139 WGSS 139

Primary Cross-listing
The course invites students to consider the range of ways in which "knowledge" about women's, femme's and non-binary lives has been constructed in text, and how this knowledge determines and impacts the we have and make. The first half of the course is organized around a deep reading of Sara Ahmed's recent theoretical book, Living a Feminist Life, while the second half of the course will examine a spectrum of women's life writing—poetry, music, journalism, theory, and memoir—to discover how text continues to shape feminist lives, and how femmes' lived experience in turn shapes feminist discourse. Course materials for the second half of the semester will be generated in part through discussion and students' suggestions. Key texts will include Jamaica Kincaid's A Small Place, Audre Lorde's Sister Outsider, Djamila Boupacha's memoir, Ana Lily Amirpour's film A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night, Sara Ahmed's Living a Feminist Life, Valerie Solanas's SCUM Manifesto, and bell hooks's Teaching to Transgress. In their writing for this course, students will consider how their own intimate relationships—with parents, partners, children, neighbors, or friends—can become sites of feminist activism, and sources of strength and knowledge to be carried into the broader world of public engagement and intervention. In the final weeks of the course, we will collectively interrogate the (false) boundary between writing and living as modes of feminist praxis.

Requirements/Evaluation: five short written assignments and one final research project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 139 (D1) ENGL 139 (D1) WGSS 139 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: This course will center writing and research skills with at least one session per week devoted to ladder development and revision. Five short papers (3-4 pages) with one revision (5-6 pages) as well as a bibliography and final research paper (12-15 pages).

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will examine the generative intersectional site of feminism, antiracism, and anticapitalism to provide an alternative introduction to feminist thought, writing, and practice. The syllabus centers women and femme writers of color.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 140 (S) Introduction to Creative Writing
The controlling conceit of this class is that the different genres of creative writing are cross-fertilizing, even if you imagine yourself to have a strong proclivity toward one. Though much of our energy will go into producing new work—poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction—we will also look at published work through a combination of approaches: seminar style discussions, as well as mini-lectures and craft essays that will guide your writing in each genre. The instructor will be the primary respondent to your work, although you will also become comfortable reading and critiquing one another. There will be at least one workshop-format class per genre. This course does not fulfill the writing skills requirement, because of its emphasis on creative rather than analytical writing, and because I don't require revisions. Nevertheless, you will be writing a lot, ten to fifteen pages in each genre, as well as peer responses.

Requirements/Evaluation: though students will be required to produce at least 30 mixed-genre pages, this is not a WS class, because of its emphasis on creative rather than critical writing
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students who have not taken a creative writing course; students who received an AP 5 in Literature are eligible
Expected Class Size: 19
ENGL 146  (S)  Campus Life: The University and the Novel

What is college for? To a significant number of writers from roughly 1945 onward, one answer seemed to be: college is the perfect setting for a novel! The Campus Novel, as it is known, mines the rich, frequently zany dramatic terrain that emerges when large groups of young people try to live and learn together in a closed environment. Filled with the absurdities of academic and collegiate life, the scholarly and sexual intrigues of the college campus, Campus Novels also are microsociologies of college: not just reflections of, but reflections upon, the institutional contexts of the American university. This course will introduce students to the Campus Novel (and its cousin, the Campus Movie), as a way to explore the history and meaning of liberal arts education in the American University from roughly the post-World War II emergence of mass higher education through co-education, multiculturalism, and the rise of the corporate university. Fictional lab reports upon experiments in living, works dedicated to figuring out what and whom a liberal arts education is for, these novels will be our own guides to an exploration of these questions. Likely texts: Amis, Lucky Jim, McCarthy, The Groves of Academe, Delillo, White Noise, Donna Tartt, The Secret History, Zadie Smith, On Beauty, Dave Eggers, The Circle, and films such as Breaking Away, School Daze, and The Social Network.

Requirements/Evaluation: four to five essays, totaling approximately 20 pages, regular and substantial contributions to our collective inquiry in the seminar room

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 147  (S)  Buddhist Literature

Cross-listings: REL 133  ENGL 147  ASST 133

Secondary Cross-listing

This course introduces students to the diverse literary culture of Buddhist Asia. Through close readings of particular influential Buddhist texts, we will analyze not only what the texts say and mean, but also learn about the "social life" of these texts--i.e., what is the socio-historical context of these texts, who are the intended audience, what is the relationship of these texts with their particular communities, how do these communities engage with their texts, including how texts have been translated, taught, worshiped and ritualized. We will also explore the materiality of these texts, which is as diverse as the languages in which these texts are written. Alongside an exploration of materiality requires that we reflect on what counts as "text". Moreover, by sampling different genres of Buddhist texts (e.g., philosophical, historical, narrative, grammatical, cosmological, astrological, magical), we will discuss what makes them Buddhist and what makes them literary. The Lotus Sutra, the Heart Sutra, the Dhammapada, and Vessantara Jataka are just some of the texts we will study in this course. No prior knowledge about Buddhism is required.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance and active participation 20%; Short writing assignments 25% (i.e., a one-page, single-space, critical response based on the class reading x 5 total); Mid-term exam (in-class: identification terms and short essay) 25%; Final project and presentation 30% (the final grade includes initial consultation with the instructor regarding topic selection, annotated bibliography, project outline, final presentation, and final written report).

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: REL, ASST, and ENG majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 150 (F) Expository Writing
Writing clearly is the most important skill you can learn in college. Do you suffer from writer's block? Do you receive consistent criticism of your writing without also learning strategies for how to improve? This course is for students who want to learn how to write a well-argued, intelligible essay based on close, critical analysis of texts. We will derive our method for mastering the complex art of writing from Atul Gawande's bestselling book, *The Checklist Manifesto*. In addition to sharpening your skills in reading, note-taking and literary analysis, this class will give you tools for generating drafts, peer editing, revising, and polishing your writing. The majority of the readings for this course will be literary essays, mostly contemporary, mostly American. (This course and English 152 focus more directly on basic expository writing skills than the other 100-level classes in the English department.)

Requirements/Evaluation: five papers totaling at least 20 pages; evaluation partly based on improvement and effort

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, especially students with demonstrated need for help with analytical writing

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 150 (S) Expository Writing
This course is designed to improve your essay-writing skills. We will try to figure out how to write effective college essays in an assortment of disciplines, and get away from the one-size-fits-all template you remember from high school. We will learn how to write introductions that grab you, exposition that thrills you, climaxes that fill you with suspense, and conclusions that feel both surprising and inevitable. We will also read short stories in this class, both as source material for analysis and interpretation, and for story-telling techniques that we can steal. There will be weekly writing assignments, leading up to a twelve- to twenty-page final project.

Requirements/Evaluation: four of five papers totaling at least 20 pages; evaluation partly based on improvement and effort

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, especially students with demonstrated need for help with analytical writing

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 151 (S) Reading and Writing Science Fiction (WS)
This course will explore some of the themes and techniques of modern science fiction by examining a range of published stories, while at the same time making some new stories of our own. Writers of fiction and non-fiction often watch each other with suspicion, as if from opposing sides of an obvious frontier. Though the goals of both forms of writing—the disciplined articulation of brainy thoughts and mighty feelings—are similar, there is a tendency in both camps to think their methods different and exclusive. The conceit of this class is to imagine that constructing a plot and constructing an argument, say, are complementary skills, and that the tricks and techniques of one type of writing can profitably be applied to the other. With this in mind, the class is made of two strands twisted together—a creative writing workshop and a course in critical analysis. There will be short weekly assignments in both types of writing, as well as two larger projects: an original science fiction short story and an interpretive/analytical essay. Assigned readings will include stories and essays by Terry Bisson, Octavia Butler, Samuel R. Delany, Karen Joy Fowler, Carol Emshwiller, and John Crowley, among many others.
Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class and about thirty pages of writing, both critical and creative; two 12- to 20-page writing assignments (short story and analytical/interpretive essay), with revisions; half-dozen shorter writing assignments, plus written responses

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: This course will require two long writing assignments, twelve to twenty pages, one critical and one creative, each of which will go through an extensive revision process. In addition, I will assign a half-dozen shorter assignments of both types (critical and creative) and single-page critical responses to all workshopped assignments, for a total of thirty or so pages of required writing. A crucial component of the course will be its attention to writing style, strategy, and organization.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 152 (S) Direct Action & Other Political Acts in Black Cultural Texts (DPE) (WS)

This is an expository writing course meant to aid students in developing stronger college essay writing skills. This will be accomplished through engagement with the central theme of black direct action described in political, cultural, and artistic texts of the last two centuries. The course will train students to write strong thesis statements, develop close reading skills, sharpen keyword usage, and create empathetic writing relationships. This course also takes black direct action as its organizing principle by asking students to consider how we become agents in both our writing and our lives. Forms of cultural production to be examined in this course include slave narratives, memoir, speeches and open letters, zines, poetry, op-eds, short stories, novels, film and television, visual art, and criticism.

Requirements/Evaluation: daily writing (Monday-Friday), three original essays (4-5 pages) and two extensively revised essays (4-5 pages), final portfolio, consistent engagement during class sessions

Prerequisites: permission of English department Administrative Assistant Pat Malanga

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: while this class is organized around a theme (black direct action), it is strictly meant for students who are trying to improve their essay writing skills; those who do not need assistance with writing should not enroll in this course

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Daily writing every Mon/Tu/We/Th for 15 min per day; Fri written reflections on the daily writing including a self-assessment of patterns, strengths, and weaknesses that week; 3 original essays (4-5 pages); 2 extensively revised essays (4-5 pages) including a letter describing revision choices; submission of a final portfolio of 2 of the 5 essays including a letter describing student's growth. Timely feedback on writing skills from instructor with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class explores the self-determined actions of black individuals, communities, and movements in the United States confronting and dismantling white supremacist power relations. Histories of racial violence, trauma, and subjugation are examined from the point of view of black intervention with special attention to the intersections of strategy, tactic, and literary genre in imagining, achieving, or re-committing to the work of freedom, from slavery to the present.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 153 (S) Androids, Cyborgs, Selves (WS)

Cross-listings: STS 153 ENGL 153

Primary Cross-listing

In this expository writing course, we will analyze and argue about how near-human and partly human bodies appear in fiction and film. When do these bodies improve the spaces in which they appear? When do they threaten them? How are they gendered, how are they raced, and why? What do they
desire? Authors in different cultural and technological contexts have imagined not-quite-human selves for different ends and in different ways. Together we will develop our ideas on these topics in clear, strong prose. We will also ask how artists have cast human identities into foreign materials and media, and study the distortions and revelations that result. During museum visits at WCMA, students will use examples of self-portraiture, electrified bodies, and aspirational bodies to explore the representation, imitation, and abstraction of selves. Because this is an expository writing seminar, we will spend half or more of our class time discussing and practicing writing skills.

Requirements/Evaluation: five response papers (500 words); four essays (1200-1500 words, each in two drafts); class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 153 (D2) ENGL 153 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: This expository writing course is dedicated to facilitating real improvement in students' written work. Students write five response papers and four five-page essays (in two drafts) over the course of the semester, receiving substantial instructor feedback on all. Students will practice: drafting, revising, and responding to critique; writing appropriately for given occasions and audiences; grounding their writing in close, analytical reading; and acknowledging sources.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 154 (F) Imagination and Authority

A course on the subject of who gets to write about what when it comes to fiction. Among the questions we'll be taking up: What are the outer boundaries of those imaginative acts that should be attempted? The central goal of this course is to teach you how to write a well-argued and interesting analytical paper. We will spend most of our class time actively engaged in a variety of techniques to improve your critical reasoning and analytical skills, both written and oral. Though the skills you learn will be applicable to other disciplines, this is also a literature class, designed as well to prepare you for upper level courses in the English Department.

Requirements/Evaluation: four to five papers totaling at least 20 pages; revisions, student teaching, written and oral comments, final portfolio

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first year students, especially students with demonstrated need for help with analytical writing

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 156 (S) New American Fiction (WS)

The goal of this course is to teach you how to write a clear, well-argued, and interesting analytical paper. We will spend most of our class time actively engaged in a variety of techniques to improve your critical reasoning and analytical skills, both written and oral. Though the skills you learn will be applicable to other disciplines, and a central purpose of the course is to improve all aspects of your writing, this is a literature class, designed partly to prepare you for upper level courses in the English Department, so we will, therefore, spend equal time on the interpretation of literature, in this case, contemporary American fiction, examining the very, very recent (last thirty years) developments in American fiction. We will read short stories and novels by writers such as Danielle Evans, George Saunders, Mia Alvar, Mary Robison, Karen Russell, Nam Le, ZZ Packer, among others.

Class Format: format tbd

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation, written and verbal comments on published and peer work, five essays (2-5 pages each, most in multiple drafts, including a final radical revision of an essay of the student's choice).

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: First-Year students
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: Five essays ranging from 2-5 pages each, most in multiple drafts. Students will receive extensive written comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement, and may choose to meet with the professor individually outside of class as often as possible. Students will also comment (verbal and written) on published work and their peers’ drafts, operating under the assumption that becoming a better writer involves becoming a better reader.

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA Karen L. Shepard

ENGL 157 (F) Reading the 'Inferno' (WS)
This is an expository writing course, but also a journey through hell---more precisely, through Dante’s Inferno. Over the course of the semester, as we wind our way through the underworld, we will consider the circumstances of the damned, their guilt, their punishments, and the overall aims of Dante’s extraordinary vision. How and why are the condemned sentenced to an eternal afterlife in this underground kingdom of cruelty? What are we to make of the poem’s humor and malevolence, and how are we to understand its vast architecture? In writing about the fate of these sins and sinners we will focus on techniques to improve your critical reasoning and analytical skills with the goal of writing interesting and well-argued essays. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Requirements/Evaluation: four short 3-page essays and one 6- to 8-page essay
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: The class is primarily design as a writing course. I plan on assigning series of three-page essays, one every other week, as we work our way through Dante's Inferno at the rate of three or four cantos per week. These shorter essays will be graded with comments, and either be peer reviewed, or short passages will be selected for class discussion and revision. This should provide sustained and structured feedback to the students. A final extended essay of six to eight pages will required.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 158 (S) Expository Writing: Contemporary Linked Stories (WS)
In this expository writing and writing intensive course, we will read and write about six collections of linked short stories about altered states of mind and body, immigrant experiences, and the magic of everyday life. We will examine linked stories as a form organizing narratives that can stand alone, but that resonate powerfully with one another, sharing themes, settings, and sometimes even characters. Texts may include Denis Johnson’s Jesus’ Son, Jumfa Lahiri’s Interpreter of Maladies, Junot Díaz’s Drown, Helen Oyeyeme’s What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours, Carmen Machado’s Her Body and Other Parties, Amy Bonnafons’s The Wrong Heaven, and Ruth Joffre’s Night Beast. Class time will be split nearly equally between analysis of the assigned texts and active work with student writing including freewriting, rewriting, sentence and paragraph workshops, peer editing, and writing strategy sessions.

Requirements/Evaluation: 5 x 2-page papers, two with required revisions; 4 x 4-5 page papers, all with required revisions; Discussion participation; Attendance
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: First preference goes to first-year students who have not received a 5 on AP LITERATURE or a 6 or 7 on the IB. Additional rules via English Department Website.
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: This course is dedicated to the teaching of college-level expository writing. Students will complete several assignment
sequences that build from 2-page response papers to 5-page argumentative essays and that include required revisions at multiple stages. About half the class time will be spent discussing and practicing writing strategies and mechanics.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA Ezra D. Feldman

ENGL 161 (F) Metafiction (WS)
This course will examine ways in which literary works reflect on their status as texts. We'll look at the formal pleasures and puzzles generated by techniques including frame narratives, recursion, and self-reference, in novels, films, and stories by Vladimir Nabokov, Octavia Butler, Kelly Link, Paul Park, and others. Ultimately, we will use the study of metafiction to focus a larger inquiry into the socializing force of self-consciousness in human development. Note that students will be required to use, as well as interpret, metafictional techniques in their assigned writing.

Class Format: online discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: several short exercises; four or five papers of increasingly complexity, totaling 22 pages; consistent attendance and participation; a love of reading, and a willingness to reread
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course; sophomores
Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: Students write five essays with considerable feedback from the instructor.

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1 TF 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Shawn J. Rosenheim

ENGL 162 (F) Robots, Puppets, and Dolls (WS)
Is Pinocchio alive? How about the Terminator, or the operating system in Her? This course explores our persistent interest in human simulacra (robots, puppets, dolls; but also automata and cyborgs) and what they suggest about human identity, independence, and free will. We'll look at a wide range of simulacra as they appear in literature, film, and, increasingly, in the actual world ("reborn" dolls, therapy robots). We will frame our explorations with readings in artificial intelligence, neurology, and psychoanalysis (Freud on the uncanny; Winnicott on transitional objects). Throughout, we will wonder: why this fascination with the almost living? How is it that we often care more for Wall-E or the Velveteen Rabbit than we do for many real people?

Requirements/Evaluation: students write five essays over the course of the term, in addition to a number of ungraded but required exercises
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level English course
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: The course requires frequent and serious written work: six exercises, and five essays of between 750 and 1500 words, over the course of the semester. All the essays receive letter grades. All of the essays receive written comments addressed to their design and execution.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 201 (F) Shakespeare
One of Shakespeare's most original recent readers has claimed, "Nothing without, perhaps nothing within, Shakespeare's words could discover the
power to withstand the power Shakespeare's words release." To put it another way, this was a writer who created something so new, so
unfathomable, that neither life nor language could easily contain it. In this course, we will become acquainted with Shakespeare's major works, but we
will also remain alert to their capacity to confound. Serious attention will be given to genre, form, the historical conditions of the Renaissance theater
and book trade, modes of literary transmission, and the shape of Shakespeare's career. Plays will include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry IV, Part I*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *The Tempest*. We will also read the *Sonnets*. The course is designed to offer a
first encounter with Shakespeare, but more advanced students are welcome too.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Three-page paper, seven-page paper, short analytical exercises, midterm exam, final exam, thoughtful participation in
class discussion

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors and prospective English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

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**ENGL 202 (S) Modern Drama**

**Cross-listings:** THEA 229 ENGL 202 COMP 202

**Secondary Cross-listing**

An introduction to major plays and key movements in European and American theatre since the late nineteenth century. Our focus will be on close
reading, with attention also to questions of performance and production. Plays to be discussed will likely include: Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*; Wilde, *The

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two 5-page papers; regular journal responses; a final exam; and active participation in class discussions

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 18

**Enrollment Preferences:** Theatre, English, and Comparative Literature majors

**Expected Class Size:** 18

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** this course is strongly recommended for any students majoring in Theatre

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

THEA 229 (D1) ENGL 202 (D1) COMP 202 (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

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**ENGL 203 (S) The Uses of Shakespeare** *(WS)*

The plays of Shakespeare have a performance history that is exceptionally rich and strange. In this course we will read several of the plays and look at
some of the ways they have been re-imagined and restaged. We will consider the origin of the plays as popular entertainment--competing for an
audience against bear-baitings and public executions. We will consider their transformation into canonical texts and their de-canonization in parodies
like Dogg's *Hamlet* and Drunk Shakespeare. Among the works we will read and watch are *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night*,
*Shakespeare Behind Bars*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Undead*. Assignments will include analytical essays and creative adaptations in a variety of media.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** four 5-page papers, in-class presentation

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: The instructor will provide frequent written feedback on student work. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01    TBA     John E. Kleiner

ENGL 204  (F)  Hollywood Film

For almost a century, Hollywood films have been the world’s most influential art form, shaping how we dress and talk, how we think about sex, race, and power, and what it means to be American. We’ll examine both the characteristic pleasures provided by Hollywood’s dominant genres—including action films, horror films, thrillers and romantic comedies—and the complex, sometimes unsavory fantasies they mobilize. We will do this by looking carefully at a dozen or so iconic films, probably including Psycho, Casablanca, The Godfather, Schindler's List, Bridesmaids, Groundhog Day, 12 Years a Slave and Get Out.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two 2-page essays, two editing exercises, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 60

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 60

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Literary Histories C FMST Core Courses

Fall 2020

LEC Section: R1    TBA     John E. Kleiner, James R. Shepard

ENGL 205  (F)  The Art of Poetry: The History and Theory of Lyric  (WS)

"If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me I know that is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry. These are the only way I know it. Is there any other way?" This excerpt from a letter by Emily Dickinson indicates both the particular pleasures of reading poetry, and also the persistent difficulty of defining poetry as a genre. In this course, we will train our focus on lyric poetry in particular, tracing its long history as well as trends in the theory of lyric. We’ll begin by uncovering the roots of lyric in antiquity before shifting our focus to the development of lyric in English. We’ll read closely the work of such poets as Wyatt, Donne, Wordsworth, Keats, Hopkins, and Dickinson before turning to questions of lyric in the 20th and 21st centuries. Along the way, we’ll examine the trends in criticism responsible for the conflation of lyric and poetry in our time, and will get a strong sense of the current state of lyric theory.

Requirements/Evaluation: frequent short writing assignments totaling 20+ pages, thoughtful participation in discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Frequent informal writing assignments and two formal papers: one (5-7 pages) due at the midterm, and one final paper (10-12 pages), in preparation for which students will submit a proposal and meet with the professor as their research develops. Students will receive from the
instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 206** (F) *We Aren't The World: “Global” Anglophone Literature and the Politics of Literary Language*  (DPE) (WS)

An eighteenth-century diplomat once referred to the British colonies as a "vast empire on which the sun never set," and at the time, he was right: the British controlled an enormous portion of the globe for nearly three centuries, from the Caribbean to South Asia, from Oceania to Africa. One outcome of this vast empire was the creation of a rich and diverse literary tradition in the English language—now called Anglophone literature—from far-flung places around the globe. This course will introduce students to select works of global Anglophone literature in the twentieth century, and consider the ways in which writers from around the world have used a variety of literary forms, such as the bildungsroman, national allegory, and testimony, to participate in and reshape conversations about culture, globalization, aesthetics, and politics. Readings will include novels, poetry, short stories, and film by writers including Kipling, Kincaid, Achebe, Rushdie, Conrad, Coetzee, and Roy, among others. The course will expose students to a variety of global English idioms, as well as literary traditions from, or in conversation with, non-Western countries.

Requirements/Evaluation: four short papers (5 pages), a presentation, and a final research project

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: potential English majors and those who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write daily in class, submit four short (5-page) and one longer paper (10-page), as well as reading questions before each class. At least one class session per week will center writing skills and revision.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will introduce students to the colonial legacies of literary language politics. Authors represent a range of literary traditions from West Africa to the Caribbean to South and South East Asia and beyond. Class discussion will also focus on issues of gender, race, and class in imperial history and neoimperialism.

Attributes: ASAM Related Courses  ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories C  GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies  Electives

Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 209** (S) *Theories of Language and Literature*  (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 265  ENGL 209

Primary Cross-listing

This course is made up of questions: What is literature and why would anyone want to study it? What can you figure out by examining language that you can't figure out by studying history or psychology? Do students of literature have distinctive ways of asking questions about the world? Why do we call some language literary? Can any language be literary if it appears in the right kind of book? Is there a difference between verbal forms of art and visual or auditory ones? Can novels do things that plays and poetry cannot? Why does anyone read poetry anyway?

Requirements/Evaluation: informal writing every week; three 6-page papers; class attendance and participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 265 (D1) ENGL 209 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Informal writing before every class (about 500 words); three 6-page essays, plus a lead-in assignment on which the professor comments; two special writing sessions; fifteen pages of writing advice. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills,
ENGL 210  (F)  American Modernism  (WS)
Modernism in art lasts from about 1850 until about 1950; this course focuses on American fiction centering on the 1920s. Texts in the course run from the familiar (Cather, Fitzgerald, Hemingway) through the difficult (Faulkner), very difficult (Jean Toomer), and impossible (Gertrude Stein); but we’ll learn how to read them all. Even the familiar texts turn out to be stylistically experimental, and experiments in style, in every case, are linked to novel conceptions of religion (especially Hemingway, Fitzgerald), race or ethnicity (Faulkner, Toomer), and gender (Cather, Hemingway, Stein); most of our texts interrelate all of these concerns. After the Great War, the urgency of questions of form, in relation to questions of identity, is whether the world can be redeemed by the reformation of linguistic and generic conventions.

Class Format: The course will be entirely remote by Zoom.

Requirements/Evaluation: Four papers totaling about 16 pages. Participation in class discussions will also be a factor in the final grade.

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: First-year students and sophomores contemplating the English major; other English majors lacking a Gateway; American Studies majors.

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: There will be four papers, totaling about 16 pages. Papers will be read closely both for content and expression. There will be one course meeting devoted entirely to questions of style and composition.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Literary Histories C

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1  MR 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm  John K. Limon

ENGL 211  (S)  English Literature from 1000 to1600
One of the oldest surviving works in English, Beowulf tells the story of a monster and his mom. In this class we will read key texts from the medieval and early modern periods, starting with Beowulf and ending with Shakespeare’s equally bloody Titus Andronicus. Other readings will include selections from The Canterbury Tales, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, sonnets by Sidney and Donne, and Marlowe’s The Jew of Malta. We will discuss the conflicting, often self-contradictory claims that writers in these periods made for the importance of literature and the anxieties that these new types of fiction generate—about sex, about God, about money. We will ask what it meant to read—and misread—before books were commonplace.

Requirements/Evaluation: two papers (5-7 pages), midterm, final

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 213  (S)  Making Radio
This course has two aims. The first is to teach the necessary skills (including interview technique, field recording, editing, and scoring) to make
broadcast-worthy audio nonfiction. The second is to use this process to investigate fundamental aspects of narrative. How does a story build its contract with listeners? What's the role of the narrator? How can one appropriately speak for (and sometimes against) another person? This is less a course in journalism than an experiment in documentary cinema for the ear. We'll do some reading in narrative theory and radio technique, and will listen to exemplary works (including episodes of This American Life, RadioLab, Love and Radio, and Snap Judgment), but most of our time—and this is a time-consuming course—will be spent making and critiquing each other’s pieces. Students will produce five or six pieces total, at least two of which must develop out of interviews with strangers.

Requirements/Evaluation: Five short audio pieces; attendance and active participation. Note that this course will be given exclusively online.

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores; English majors; students with radio or studio art training

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: The student version of Hindenburg audio software ($95); students on financial aid will have this expense covered by the college.

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses FMST Core Courses

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01 TBA Shawn J. Rosenheim
Dickens, James, Joyce, Nabokov, and Morrison.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** midterm and final exams, one critical essay, and some short writing assignments

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 80

**Enrollment Preferences:** students who have pre-registered for the course; thereafter, seniors, then juniors, sophomores, and first-years

**Expected Class Size:** 60

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 218 (S) Gender and Sexuality in the Neo-slave Narrative**  (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** AMST 218  ENGL 218  AFR 218  WGSS 218

**Primary Cross-listing**

Hortense Spillers has noted that ex-slave Harriet Jacobs, “between the lines of her narrative, demarcates a sexuality that is neuterbound” and we live with the aftermath of her observation. “Ungendering,” one of the transformations undergone by bodies subjected to the Middle Passage, is one of the keywords that forms the foundation for a conversation about slavery, blackness, gender, sexuality, and archive. Throughout this course we will wrestle with the questions: How does the designation “slave” rupture, reify, or expand our understandings of sexuality and gender? What conditions have necessitated the neo-slave narrative form? Texts include: slave narratives and neo-slave narratives in the forms of novels, visual art, and film. Course texts include: Octavia E. Butler's Kindred, Jewelle Gomez's Gilda Stories, Glenn Ligon’s “Runaways”, and Jordan Peele's Get Out. Critical theories of blackness, gender, and sexuality are also central texts in this course including that by Darieck Scott, Saidiya Hartman, Hortense Spillers, Matt Richardson, and others. Given that neo-slave narratives intervene in the sexual and gendered silences of slave narratives and the power relations that produced them, students who are hesitant to study sexual violence might consider taking another course.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** mandatory participation in discussion, four papers including one critical revision (total 20 pages), keyword glossary

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)  (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

AMST 218 (D2) ENGL 218 (D1) AFR 218 (D1) WGSS 218 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Three thesis papers at 5 pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one thesis paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course examines the work of black writers and artists engaged with the archival silences imposed by the power dynamics of racial hierarchy which constrained the birth of African American literature (the slave narrative). In particular, we examine the meaningful/willful/censorial omissions that shape the treatment of gender and sexuality in these texts including and especially the silences around sexual abuse and sexual assault practiced by beneficiaries of white supremacy.

**Attributes:** ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 220 (S) Introduction to African American Literature**

**Cross-listings:** AMST 220  ENGL 220  AFR 220

**Primary Cross-listing**
What does it mean, socially, culturally, historically, personally, and spiritually, to be African American? No single, simple answer suffices, but African American literature as a genre is defined by its ongoing engagement with this complex question. This course will examine a series of texts that in various ways epitomize the fraught literary grappling with the entailments of American blackness. Readings will include texts by Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Amiri Baraka, Toni Morrison, and Ishmael Reed.

Requirements/Evaluation: writing assignments for the course will total 20 pages, distributed over three papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 220 (D2) ENGL 220 (D1) AFR 220 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01 TBA David L. Smith

ENGL 221 (F) A Science Fiction and Fantasy-Writing Seminar

As you might have guessed, this is a creative-writing workshop, specializing in Fantasy and Science Fiction. We are going to write a lot, and not really read so much, though from time to time we might look at the odd piece of professional work, by way of example or inspiration, or as a source for stolen goods. Mostly, though, we will be discussing (anonymously, except for the final projects) our own stuff----original stories or sketches for stories, or various plot, character, or setting exercises. We'll write maybe five or six stories, which is a fair amount of work, although to save time I'm hoping we can keep any analysis or interpretation to a strict minimum.

Requirements/Evaluation: passing the course will require finishing and revising at least one 12- to 20-page story, as well as numerous shorter assignments and sketches

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: discretion of the instructor

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 222 (S) Lyric Poetry (WS)

The goal of this writing-skills gateway course is to advance our abilities as rigorous, subtle, and imaginative interpreters of poetry. Our focus will be on lyrics--relatively short poems in which a single speaker describes (often in intense language) his or her emotions, attitudes, or state of mind. Our readings will be drawn from a range of historical periods from the seventeenth century forward, with particular emphasis on poems written since the mid-nineteenth century. Among the poets likely to be studied are: Jonson, Gray, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Dickinson, Hardy, Owen, Yeats, Auden, Frost, and Heaney. We will also discuss works by two poets at Williams: Lawrence Raab and Jessica Fisher.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in seminar discussions, and four or five papers (about 20 pages total)

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and first-year students who have not yet taken an ENGL Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Writing Skills Notes: There will be 4-5 papers assigned, ranging in length from 4-6 pages, spaced evenly throughout the term. Total writing will be 20 pages or more. Detailed feedback will be provided on each paper. There will be opportunities for revisions, and for conferences before and after each paper.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 223  (S)  Apocalypse Now and Then: Poets Confronting Political Crisis  (DPE)  (WS)
In moments of great crisis, common wisdom says to turn to the poets; where, then, do the poets turn? Tracing the history of Poetry of Witness throughout the 20th and 21st Centuries, this course explores various strategies poets have used to write about the end of the world, however that may be defined. We will read contemporary poets (such as Danez Smith, Ilya Kaminsky, Aracelis Girmay, and Solmaz Sharif) alongside 20th Century writers who were responding to the catastrophes of their own times (Paul Celan, Pablo Neruda, Gwendolyn Brooks, Bei Dao, and others). Looking backward to other times when the world seemed to be ending, this course will examine some of the strategies that poets have used to navigate writing about war, genocide, forced migration, gendered violence, climate crisis, and other dystopias. The readings we encounter will span various schools and poetic forms, from documentary poetics, to surrealism and the avant garde, to the Black Arts Movement, to speculative writing, and so on. They will be supplemented with critical texts on the political stakes of writing and reading practices by thinkers like Eve Sedgwick, James Baldwin, and Audre Lorde. This is a course that views creative writing as a valid form of critical inquiry; therefore, students will have opportunities to engage creatively with texts throughout the semester. For the final, students will have the option of either writing an analytical paper or submitting a creative project with a critical introduction.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will write short weekly response papers, a 3-5 page midterm essay and an 8-10 page final essay. Creative options will be available in place of some of these assignments.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Freshmen and sophomores intending to pursue more advanced work in English; non-English majors interested in creative writing. Application may be required.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (DPE)  (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will produce and receive feedback on short writing assignments throughout the semester. These assignments will build skills for students to write either a final comparative analysis paper or a creative project accompanied by a critical introduction.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses on the interactions between political engagements and poetic craft in the 20th and 21st centuries. As such, we will discuss the interplay between artists and the popular resistance movements of their times, the effects of power on literary forms, and the shaping of minoritarian aesthetics. Readings will center writing by poets from marginalized backgrounds whose work engages race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, and disability.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01    TBA     Franny Choi

ENGL 224  (F)  American Drama: Hidden Knowledge

Cross-listings: THEA 275  AMST 275  ENGL 224

Secondary Cross-listing

The Buddha is said to have identified three things that cannot stay hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth. What's the secret? Who is lying? Who is breaking the rules? American drama abounds with hidden knowledge and false representations. (This is not surprising: theatre is always on some level a deceptive practice, a place where one person pretends to be another, and where what is spoken is always open to skeptical scrutiny. We might say theatre is always lying as much as lying is always theatre.) This tutorial course will examine what lies hidden in American plays from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first. Beginning with excerpted critical and historical writings on secrecy and lying (The Adventures of Pinocchio, Machiavelli's The Prince, Thomas Carlson's Lying and Deception: Theory and Practice, among others), we will proceed to a set of American plays...
from across a wide spectrum of playwrights, including Eugene O'Neill, Edward Albee, Sarah Ruhl, Arthur Miller, Amy Herzog, Susan Glaspell, Sophie Treadwell, Annie Baker, and others. Student papers will explore how hidden knowledge structures dramatic action, how different characters create and respond to untruths, and what can we learn in particular from American drama about a national relationship to honesty and its opposites. For Fall 2020, the tutorial will be conducted primarily online. Depending on enrollments, we may divide into groups with three students, instead of the traditional two-student tutorial format.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly papers/response papers; weekly meeting with instructor and tutorial partner

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Theatre and English majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

THEA 275 (D1) AMST 275 (D2) ENGL 224 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Fall 2020

TUT Section: RT1 TBA Robert E. Baker-White

ENGL 225 Introduction to Asian American Literature: Fiction and Memoir (WS)

This Gateway is for students who want an opportunity to explore some of the wonderful fiction and creative nonfiction written by Asian American writers over the past hundred years. Likely readings include: Carlos Bulosan's America is in the Heart (1946); John Okada's No-No Boy (1957); Maxine Hong Kingston's Woman Warrior (1976); Chang-rae Lee's Native Speaker (1995); Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies (1999); lê thi diem thúy's The Gangster We are All Looking For (2003); Ruth Ozeki's A Tale for the Time Being (2013); and Celeste Ng's Everything I Never Told You (2014). As we read, we will attend to the various ways in which the often difficult, and sometimes traumatic, historical experiences of Asian Americans have informed their acts of literary invention. And in order to better understand the broader, ever shifting, social contexts in and against which these literary works were created, we will supplement our primary readings with texts that discuss the experiences of Asian Americans from a historical and sociological perspective.

Requirements/Evaluation: four papers totaling about 20 pages; engaged participation in class discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading:

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Four 5-page essays in multiple drafts. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 226 (S) The Irish Literary Revival

This course will focus on the Irish Literary Revival of c.1885-1920, during which Irish literature in the English language became firmly established as a canon clearly separate from the English tradition, and writers such as W.B. Yeats and James Joyce achieved international renown. Readings will include drama, poetry, fiction and non-fiction prose by Yeats, J.M. Synge, Joyce, George Moore, George Bernard Shaw, Lady Gregory, Douglas Hyde, Sean O'Casey and others. We will foreground key fault-lines of the period: competing visions of what constituted "authentic" Irish identity; debate over the propriety of writing in English, drawing on British literary traditions, or seeking a non-Irish audience; the work of "self-exiles" such as Shaw and Joyce, versus that of writers who stayed in Ireland; and the long-entrenched political tensions between Catholics and Protestants, and Unionists and
Nationalists. Throughout, we will consider the functions and efficacy of literature in promoting cultural or political change. The course will conclude by considering the extraordinary vitality of post-independence and contemporary Irish literary culture, with readings of work by Seamus Heaney, Colm Toibin, Anne Enright and Martin McDonagh, and discussion of recent Irish film. Key considerations here will be the ways traditional notions of Irish Nationalism and national identity have been revised or abandoned under the impact of independence, economic prosperity and globalization, contemporary sexual politics and other forms of change.

Requirements/Evaluation: four 4+ page papers, and several shorter writings assignments; class participation

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses ENGL Literary Histories B ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 227 (F) Elegies (WS)

This tutorial explores elegies as a literary genre. In their most familiar form, elegies honor and memorialize the dead. More broadly conceived, the genre includes works lamenting other kinds of loss as well: the loss of a lover, place, country, or cherished version of one's past. We'll consider the special challenges and opportunities of the elegiac voice: how it manages to give public expression to private grief; negotiates problems of tone and perspective; worries about and celebrates the capacity of language to generate hope and consolation; and seeks a kind of solace in the literary effort to evoke, preserve, or rewrite a lost life or an absent past. This course focuses primarily on poetry, English and American, across a broad historical range. We'll first read poems from 1600-1900—including works by Jonson, Milton, Donne, Dryden, Gray, Shelley, Tennyson, and Whitman, and then turn to some of the twentieth-century's great poetic elegists—Owen, Yeats, Auden, Lowell, and Heaney. Finally, we'll consider how the elegiac voice works in fiction, especially in stories by Joyce ("The Dead") and Nabokov ("Spring in Fialta").

Class Format: This course will meet remotely. Tutorial pairs will meet for an hour each week with the instructor, using Zoom or Google Meet.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation in tutorial meetings. Students will write a 4- to 5-page paper every other week (five in all), and comment on their partners' papers in alternate weeks

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Sophomores, but juniors and seniors are also welcome.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: All tutorials (at least in English) are by definition Writing Skills courses. Students will write either the main paper or a response critique in alternate weeks. Students will also have the opportunity to revise.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories B

Fall 2020

TUT Section: RT1 TBA Stephen Fix

ENGL 228 (F) The Renaissance in England and the European Continent: Self and World (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 228 COMP 230

Primary Cross-listing

At the same time as the individual human being in possession of a distinctive personality was taking on enormous importance in politics, philosophy, literature, and the visual arts, early modern Europeans were encountering unprecedented levels of cultural diversity. In this interdisciplinary course, we will consider these two developments both separately and together. As Renaissance humanists were acquiring a sophisticated understanding of the
distance between the present and various European pasts (the recent medieval past and the remote history of antiquity), they were also coming into contact with non-European cultures in Africa, the Americas, and Asia via trade and economic development, imperial expansion, and religious conversion. Always at stake in these encounters was the question of who counted as an individual; the self was not considered to be intrinsic to human nature but rather the product of historical and cultural developments. Themes will include religious pluralism, the sacred and the secular, vernacularity, exploration and empire, the relationship between mind and body, slavery, trade, wealth, gender, self-fashioning, and style. We will consider such English writers as the Pearl poet, More, Marlowe, Spenser, Shakespeare, Browne, and Milton; such continental intellectuals as Descartes, Erasmus, Las Casas, and Castiglione; and such continental artists as Michelangelo, Velázquez, Bruegel, and Rembrandt.

Class Format: This course will be conducted synchronously online.

Requirements/Evaluation: Five four-page papers, in-class presentation, thoughtful participation in discussions

Prerequisites: A 100-level ENGL course, a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: First- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 228 (D1) COMP 230 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: The course asks students to write five four-page papers and offers exposure to a range of humanistic modes, from close reading to visual analysis to the exposition of philosophical claims. One paper will involve independent research. The instructor will provide frequent and extensive written feedback on student work. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the role of historical and cultural difference within and beyond Europe at the very beginning of globalization. Students will become acquainted with the origins of colonialism and the global traffic in slaves, as well as with the complex role of writers and intellectuals in questioning, defending, and imagining these practices. We will consider the epistemological challenges of accessing the testimony of subordinated persons.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses ENGL Literary Histories A

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1 MR 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Emily Vasiliauskas

ENGL 229 (S) Contemporary American Fiction

Cross-listings: AMST 230 ENGL 229

Primary Cross-listing

In this course we will read and analyze a selection of fiction written between 1945 and the present, with an emphasis on proving (in the sense of testing) the three terms in the course title. Could John Cheever's "The Enormous Radio" really be contemporary? Is James Baldwin's Giovanni's Room American in the same way as Alice Munro's Dear Life? And is Michelle Tea's Black Wave fiction or something else? Along the way, we'll also ask: What forms and themes define contemporary American fiction? And why should we invest in defining the "contemporary" period at all? Other authors we will study may include: Raymond Carver, Thomas Pynchon, Toni Morrison, Renata Adler, Margaret Atwood, Lydia Davis, Chang Rae Lee, Jennifer Egan, and Colson Whitehead.

Requirements/Evaluation: four papers totaling about 20 pages; participation in class discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)
ENGL 230 (F) Introduction to Literary Theory (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 240 ENGL 230

Primary Cross-listing

This course introduces students to some of the most significant and compelling trends in modern criticism—such as gender and postcolonial theory, deconstruction, sociological analysis, and psychoanalytic criticism—in an applied, hands-on way. The course will engage a range of primary texts from Shakespeare to Hitchcock by way of varied theoretical approaches. Can *Othello*, for instance, be read as a feminist text? A site of class struggle? A staging of the relationship between language and the unconscious? The course aims both to make familiar some of the critical methods students are likely to encounter in the field of literary studies these days, and to show how such methods can transform our understanding of a text, opening surprising possibilities even in familiar works. In the process, the course will also raise broader questions about the imperatives and usefulness of literary theory in relation to texts and worlds.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: frequent short papers totaling 20 pages

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 240 (D1) ENGL 230 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: The course fulfills the writing skills requirement by asking students to complete four five-page papers evenly spaced over the course of the semester, providing an opportunity for revision. Each paper will receive full comments on writing and argumentation, as well as on content.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 231 (S) Literature of the Sea

Cross-listings: ENGL 231 MAST 231

Secondary Cross-listing

Taking advantage of our maritime museum, coastal setting, and three field seminars, we study canonical and lesser-known novelists, short-story writers, dramatists, and poets who set their works in the watery world, often in the exact places where we travel as a class. We read, for example—depending on fall or spring semester—Ernest Hemingway when sailing on the Straits of Florida, John Steinbeck when exploring Cannery Row on Monterey Bay, and Mark Twain on a steamboat on the Mississippi. We read Kate Chopin on the sands of the Gulf of Mexico, Rudyard Kipling out on Georges Bank, and Herman Melville's masterpiece *Moby-Dick* aboard Mystic Seaport's historic whaleship, the *Charles W. Morgan*, a vessel nearly identical to the vessel he climbed aboard at age twenty-one. In the classroom we examine these works through a mixture of lecture, small-group discussion, and writing. To further appreciation and analysis, this interdisciplinary course uses students' emerging knowledge of maritime history and marine science.

Class Format: weekly lectures, including coastal and near-shore field trips and ten days at sea

Requirements/Evaluation: regular papers, class participation, journal-writing, and a final paper

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: offered only at Mystic Seaport

Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 231 (D1) MAST 231 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 232  (S)  We the People in the Stacks: Democracy and Literatures of Archives

Cross-listings:  LATS 232  ENGL 232

Secondary Cross-listing
"Archives have never been neutral; they are the creation of human beings, who have politics in their nature. Centering the goals of liberation is at the heart of the issue." --Jarrett Drake, former digital archivist at Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University

This literature and writing course will examine the concept of archives through the lens of democratic ideals. A primary focus will be on how works of literature engage archives--their creation and deletions, their contents and omissions, their revelations and concealments. We will also look at the lives of archivists like Arturo Alfonso Schomburg. Readings include: "The Library of Babel" by Jorge Luis Borges; Important Artifacts and Personal Property From the Collection of Lenore Doolan and Harold Morris, Including Books, Street Fashion and Jewelry by Leanne Shapton; and All the Names by José Saramago. Drawing from the values explored in class, students will have opportunities to contribute to existing archives and to curate their own.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, short writing exercises, midterm project, final creative project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: LATS concentrators
Expected Class Size: 12-15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
LATS 232 (D2) ENGL 232 (D2)

Attributes: LATS Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 233  (S)  Great Big Books  (WS)

Cross-listings:  ENGL 233  COMP 293

Primary Cross-listing
Some of the greatest novels are really, really long-so long that they are too seldom read and taught. This course takes time to enjoy the special pleasures of novels of epic scope: the opportunity to immerse oneself in a wide and teeming fictional world; to focus sustained attention on the changeable fortunes of characters and societies over a long span of time; to appreciate the detailed grounding of lives in their social environment and historical moment; to experience the leisurely and urgent rhythms, with their elaborate patterning of build-ups and climaxes, that are possible in such works. We will read but two novels, both preoccupied with the disruption and evolution of lives and loves at moments of historic upheaval: War and Peace (1869), Leo Tolstoy's epic of the Napoleonic Wars, and Parade's End (1924-28), Ford Madox Ford's modernist masterpiece about World War I and its traumatic impact on English social life. Set a century apart, the novels are distinguished by vivid and scrupulous representation of their respective wars, by their shrewd accounts of political and social pressures informing the crises, and by their insight into the struggles of those whose lives are engulfed in global crisis. Tolstoy's and Ford's approaches to fictional representation, however, provide intriguing contrasts: one favors the lucidity of classic realism, the other the challenges of modernist innovation; one deploys a single multiplot novel, the other a tetralogy of shorter novels developing a single plot. We will discuss the differing strategies and effects of these two approaches, as well as the more general difficulties of reading and interpreting long fiction.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular class participation and four 5-page papers, two of them submitted in both a draft and a revision
Prerequisites: a 100-level English course, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in English Literature or a 6 or 7 on the International Baccalaureate

Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 233 (D1) COMP 293 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Four 5-page papers, two of them submitted in both a draft and a revision; two mandatory paper conferences; occasional in-class discussion of issues of writing and argumentation.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 234  (F)  The Video Essay

While people today are subject to an unprecedented flood of moving images, few have had the chance to think critically about film and video. Fewer still have had the opportunity to think with the medium, exploiting the resources of film and video in their efforts to understand how these media work on viewers. The Video Essay offers a chance to do that. After being introduced to the fundamentals of film analysis and receiving training in the use of Adobe Premiere Pro, students will spend the term alternately making short video essays and commenting on the essays produced by their partners. Note that this is primarily a course in film analysis: students will not shoot original material. No prior experience is required. Note that the course meets entirely online.

Class Format: We will meet together for three weeks, then break into groups of four. Students in each group will alternate weekly between creating video essays on film topics, and writing commentaries on the essays of their partner. All meetings will be online.

Requirements/Evaluation: four written exercises (1-2 pages); four video essays, increasing from two to six minutes; and four written commentaries on one’s partner’s video essays.

Prerequisites: permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores; first-year students; English majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Fall 2020

TUT Section: RT1   W 2:50 pm - 3:40 pm   Shawn J. Rosenheim

ENGL 235  Theatre Masters: Become One of Them

How well do you know Stanislavsky, Strasberg or Adler? This tutorial offers an exploration of the most notable theatre artists from the past and present. Students will select a specific master with a unique theatrical style, and will study that iconic artist’s particular method or approach. Students will be encouraged to choose any master who had made a significant contribution to theatre -- such as Constantine Stanislavsky, Stella Adler, Sanford Meisner, Lee Strasberg, Bertolt Brecht, Michael Chekhov, Jerzy Grotowski, Tadeusz Kantor, Pina Bausch, Tadashi Suzuki, Anne Bogart, etc. Each student will conclude their exploration by writing a script and presenting the essence of their research in a brief performance (for the camera) -- portraying the legendary icon at work, in a social situation, or in solitude. You learn more about others when you become them, if only for a moment.

Requirements/Evaluation: Research, development, creativity, final performance.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading:
ENGL 237 (S) Making Things Visible: Adventures in Documentary Work

Cross-listings: SOC 236 AMST 236 ARTH 237 ENGL 237

Secondary Cross-listing
Photography, like ethnography, is an art of looking carefully and taking notice. This course will explore the overlaps between documentary photography and field methods of social science, concentrating particularly on the genre in which the two intersect: the photo essay. The students will learn methods of visual narrative and storytelling, using techniques of interviewing, still photography, and video. Concurrently, we will explore a number of examples of investigative work that blend word and image. We will ask questions about the changing practices and expectations associated with the documentarian's role, and the evolving media in which such work can be presented. Lastly, we will discuss ethical questions that haunt documentary work, including issues of responsibility and politics of representation, as well as the perennial question of whether "objective representation" is even possible or desirable. Experience in photography and/or video is not required, but students will be expected to master basic technical skills in image acquisition and audio editing taught in a separate lab section. Students should also be prepared to interact extensively with people in the community and spend a significant time off campus doing fieldwork.

Requirements/Evaluation: full participation in discussions, weekly photographic assignments, a research journal, field materials, and an independent final project; in addition to substantial readings, students should be prepared to spend a significant time out of the classroom doing field work

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SOC 236 (D2) AMST 236 (D2) ARTH 237 (D1) ENGL 237 (D2)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses FMST Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 238 (S) Key Topics in Literary Theory: The "Critique of the Subject" (WS)

This course will introduce students to one of the core topics in the field of literary theory: the "critique of the subject." Is the "subject" (i.e. the "self", what we refer to when we use the word "I") coherent, bounded, and autonomous, like what Christians mean when they speak of the soul? Or is the subject, rather, the contingent product of historical and political forces (like the media, gender norms, and beliefs about race, property, and the law)? Is language best thought of as something humans use to express their thoughts to communicate with one another? Or is language, rather, something which shapes and determines the very forms that human subjectivity can take in the first place? Is "the subject" really real? Or is our sense of self ultimately just an illusion: an effect of language, power, or history? We will consider all these possibilities, and more. We will begin the course by reading classical accounts of subjectivity by Descartes, Kant, and Husserl, before studying a dizzying array of theoretical "critiques" of this philosophical tradition. Not only will the sheer variety of theories be somewhat dizzying, many of the theories themselves are truly mind-blowing (in the best sense), many of them totally upending our sense of what it means to have a self or to think of ourselves as human in the first place. By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with versions of the "critique of the subject" that are associated with a number of influential theoretical approaches, including: phenomenology, psychoanalysis, Marxism, feminism, deconstruction, New Historicism, postcolonial theory, and queer theory. We will read a few literary texts in tandem with various theories, but students should know that the emphasis throughout will fall squarely on the theoretical texts themselves: in particular, how to understand them, how to write about them, and how to put radically different theories in meaningful conversation with one another.

Requirements/Evaluation: four papers totaling about 20 pages; engaged participation in class discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Each student will write four 5-page papers on which I will provide written feedback regarding grammar, style, and argument.

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 239  (F)(S)  Zen and the Art of American Literature

Cross-listings:  ENGL 239  REL 228  AMST 238

Primary Cross-listing

Just one hundred years ago, few Americans knew the first thing about Buddhism. But in 2020, who hasn’t heard of (or even tried) mindfulness or meditation? Buddhist ideas and practices now seem ubiquitous, available even in the form of smartphone apps like Headspace and Ten Percent Happier. In this class, we’ll explore how Buddhism came to be the profoundly important cultural force in American life that it is today. We’ll read a variety of Buddhist-influenced literary texts, from the Beat poetry of the 1950s to contemporary novels like Ruth Ozeki’s A Tale for the Time Being. And we’ll range far beyond the world of literature into other cultural domains in which Buddhism has had a deep impact, like environmentalism, psychotherapy, and Western attitudes towards death and dying. We’ll also give special attention to the role that Buddhism is playing in the struggle for racial justice (from bell hooks to Black Lives Matter). And we’ll engage in an experiential investigation of the benefits of incorporating contemplative practices like mindfulness into higher education: students will learn a variety of meditation techniques, and we’ll spend time each week practicing and reflecting upon those practices. Students will be expected to maintain a daily meditation practice outside of class (10-15 minutes a day), with the help of one of those newfangled meditation apps no less! No prior experience with meditation is necessary. Just an open mind. (For detailed information about the format of this hybrid course, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/Engl239)

Class Format: This will be a hybrid course for students who are both remote and in-person, with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous elements. The whole class will meet on Zoom every other week; small groups of 4-6 students (these groups will be entirely in-person or entirely remote) will meet once a week, either on campus or on Zoom. More detailed information about the format of this course can be found at: www.tinyurl.com/Engl239 (I strongly encourage interested students to visit this URL.)

Requirements/Evaluation: Because this class will meet only once a week and in small groups, regular attendance will be strictly required; substantial weekly Glow posts; and a final critical or creative project (like an 8-10 page essay, podcast episode, or zine).

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: preference will go to 1st and 2nd year students; students who pre-register should email a brief explanation of why they want to take this course to brhie@williams.edu, which will be used to decide enrollment. For more info: www.tinyurl.com/Engl239

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 239 (D1) REL 228 (D2) AMST 238 (D2)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Fall 2020

SEM Section: H1  MWF 8:15 am - 9:30 am  WF 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm  Bernard J. Rhie

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01  TBA  Bernard J. Rhie

ENGL 240  (F)  What is a Novel?

Cross-listings: COMP 239  ENGL 240

Primary Cross-listing

What is a novel? Where did it come from? Why would anyone invent such a thing in the first place? This course is an introduction to the ways literary critics have attempted to give a genre as hard-to-pin down as the novel a theoretical framework. For a long time, nobody thought the novel needed a
theory--too popular, too loose and baggy to be thought of as one thing. Today, novel theory is legion. To only name a few, one can find theories of the novel that identify themselves as formalist, psychoanalytic, post-structuralist, Marxist, historical, and post-colonial, as well as accounts that emphasize sexuality and gender, for example, or the novel's trans-national development. We will move back and forth from the theory of the novel to its practice in order to see how the novel and its understanding have changed over the past 200 or so years. Novelists will come from the 19th and 20th centuries, likely Austen, Dickens, and Mieville. Theorists are likely to include Henry James, Benjamin, Lukacs, Barthes, Watt, McKeon, Jameson, Eve Sedgwick, Edward Said, Leo Bersani, and Franco Moretti.

Requirements/Evaluation: four to five papers totaling about 20 pages; regular, substantial, and intensive participation in class
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 239 (D1) ENGL 240 (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses ENGL Literary Histories B
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 241 (S) Introduction to Comparative Literature
Cross-listings: ENGL 241 COMP 110
Secondary Cross-listing
Comparative literature involves reading and analyzing literature drawn from different times, movements, cultures, and media. In this class, we will study English translations of texts from eras spanning the ancient to the contemporary; literary movements including romanticism, realism, and postmodernism; national traditions arising in Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America; and media including prose fiction, graphic memoir, and film. Throughout the course, we will consider what it means to think about all these different works as literary texts. To help with this, we will also read selections of literary theory that define literature and its goal in abstract or philosophical terms. Assignments will focus on close, creative reading of relatively short texts by authors like Homer, Sei Shônagon, Kleist, Lermontov, Zola, Borges, Wilde, Mamet, Bechdel, and others. All readings will be in English.
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance, participation, two 5-page papers, a few short responses, midterm exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: students considering a major in Comparative Literature
Expected Class Size: 35
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 241 (D1) COMP 110 (D1)
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 242 Bewilderment: Contemporary U.S. Poetry and the Ethics of Unknowing (DPE) (WS)
"I perceive I have not really understood any thing, not a single object, and that no man ever can," wrote Walt Whitman in a great poem of 1860. "Tell all the truth, but tell it slant," answered Emily Dickinson a few years later, as if suggesting a strategy for how to write one's way into Whitman's radical uncertainty. These articulations of knowing and unknowing, of telling and untelling, continue to thread their way into U.S. poetry today. This course will explore bewilderment as both a poetic strategy and an ethical position. How do error, randomness, contradiction, obliquity, and dissociation serve the poem and the poet? How do such strategies counter ideas of literary mastery, heroism, virtuosity, privilege and celebrity? What are the political possibilities of such counter stances, especially as embodied and expressed by poets who speak from outside the stronghold of the white male establishment? We will primarily read from recently published work in the U.S., but will also be interested to track the literary traditions that have
shaped how contemporary poets think and write. Authors read may include: Wanda Coleman, Eileen Myles, Anne Carson, Layli Long Soldier, Vanessa Angelica Villarreal, Fanny Howe, Terrance Hayes, Jennifer Chang, Tiana Clark, Brenda Hillman, Jane Wong, Tommy Pico, Paisley Rekdahl, Brian Teare, Diana Khoi Nguyen, and C. D. Wright.

Requirements/Evaluation: Classroom participation in discussion, several papers of graduated lengths and complexity (for a total of 20 pages of writing).

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: potential sophomore English majors have first choice, then prospective or current American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading:

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Gateway courses in English traditionally emphasize writing skills, and this course is no exception. Attention will paid to drafts and revisions of essays.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The vast majority of works read are authored by poets outside the white male straight cisgender establishment. More importantly, we will constantly engage the question of how poetry may serve the needs of equity and inclusion in the U.S. contemporary literary marketplace.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 243 (F) Chemical Intimacies (DPE)

Cross-listings: ARTH 243 ENGL 243 SCST 233 WGSS 233 STS 233

Secondary Cross-listing

This is a research seminar that understands human-chemical entanglement in relationship to environment, sexuality, geography, ecology, and capacity. It doubles as a research class in which students choose a project of chemical intimacy to investigate as their own through the course of the semester. In the first half, we will together read and discuss forms of human-chemical entanglement, whether a matter of industrial pollution, pharmaceutical use, habitual intoxication, gendered self-care or enhancement, or built environment; the goal is to achieve a broad sensibility for the concept as well as a familiarity with thinking biochemically and biopolitically about living bodies, while consistently registering questions of race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and more. In the second half, each participant will choose and research a historically and geopolitically specific scenario of chemical entanglement, while 1) considering the political, legal, cultural, and labor contexts of the case; 2) exploring relationships between “actual” and “represented” (protest slogans or visual productions in the case of environmental justice activism, for example); 3) examining other research questions germane to their site of interest and their chosen discipline of study. We will take one field trip to a local site.

Requirements/Evaluation: individual research project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, Art History majors, English majors, Environmental Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARTH 243 (D2) ENGL 243 (D1) SCST 233 (D2) WGSS 233 (D2) STS 233 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course gives special attention to forms of human-chemical entanglement that are related to environmental justice (pollution), and gender, racial, sexual, indigenous, and disability politics.

Attributes: WGSS Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 244 (F) Interpreting Film (WS)

From the earliest days of narrative film, it was clear that the new medium enjoyed an unparalleled capacity to absorb spectators in the sheer passive
enjoyment of the cinematic spectacle, so for many viewers cinema has seemed naturally to be a form of entertainment rather than an art form or a medium for exploring ideas. But not only have entertaining "movies" and artistic "films" always co-existed amicably, but in many cases have coincided: some of the greatest works of cinematic art first billed themselves unassumingly as enjoyable diversions. In order to appreciate the aesthetic and intellectual richness of such films, one must learn to "read" their crucial scenes closely, analyzing their visual and auditory language as well as their dramatic content, and must learn to interpret their surprisingly complex larger patterns of thought. This tutorial offers concrete training in both of these skills. During the first four weeks, students will write and discuss short weekly papers analyzing key sequences of a film, learning to identify diverse cinematic effects in order to illuminate dramatic patterns. During the last six weeks of the semester each student in a tutorial pairing will write a longer interpretive paper in alternate weeks, learning to construct fuller arguments addressing the whole of a film. Most films will be drawn from classical Hollywood cinema of the 1930s and 1940s, but we will also study European, Indian, and Japanese films. Readings during the first part of the semester will concern technical features of cinema; later readings will address larger interpretive issues (e.g., patterns in film genres, such as the nature of the gangster as a tragic hero; or social issues reflected in films, such as the newly empowered roles of women during the early 1940s and their influence in shaping the dangerous heroines of film noir).

Requirements/Evaluation: six short (2- to 6-page) papers and three short responses to one's partner's paper, totalling 25 pages of writing; active, sustained participation in tutorial discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level English course, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in English Literature or a 6 or 7 on the International Baccalaureate

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and first-year students who have satisfied or placed out of the English Department's 100-level prerequisite

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Tutorial--constant writing and critique. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 245 (S) Blackness and Visual Expression

This course will examine how blackness has been represented in visual media. Beginning with 19th century examples, we will examine representations associated with slavery and minstrelsy. In particular, we will consider paintings by artists such as Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and Henry O. Tanner, alongside racial representations in popular media, such as newspaper editorial cartoons and book illustrations. Moving across the range of the 20th century, we will examine various visual media, including painting, photography, theater, costume design, fashion, advertising, and film. Films such as Cabin in the Sky, Stormy Weather, Bingo Long's All Stars, Shaft, and Harlem Nights, as well as recent movies, including The Black Panther and Get Out exemplify various imaginative revisions of racial conventions. Students will be expected to participate actively in the classroom and in group projects. Some of this material will be covered by student presentations, and all students will be expected to contribute to our discussions of the various examples we bring before us. Texts for the course will represent several disciplines and approaches to writing about race and culture. The writing for the course will be a journal and a 10-page final paper.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation in group projects, journal, and final 10-page paper

Prerequisites: a 100-level English course, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in English Literature or a 6 or 7 on the International Baccalaureate

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: majors and prospective majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01  TBA  David L. Smith
ENGL 246  (S)  The Love of Literature  (DPE) (WS)
If love "makes the world go 'round," then literature, love's chronicler, may contain the key for understanding this world-formative passion. In this seminar, we will explore representations of love in works of poetry, drama, prose fiction, and philosophy from antiquity to the present. From the philosophical love extolled in Plato's dramatic dialogue The Symposium to the Christian love of Paul's epistles; the Romantic love of Goethe's Elective Affinities to the modern love of Woolf's To the Lighthouse and beyond, we will see how love, like literature, at once reflects and produces historically significant changes in the ways that human beings relate to one another, to themselves, and to the world in which they live. In addition to the authors already mentioned, readings may include literary works by Virgil, Mary Shelley, Wordsworth, Baldwin, and theoretical works by Freud, Foucault, and Luhmann.

Requirements/Evaluation: three papers of increasing length and complexity, totaling 20 pages of finished writing
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: those interested in majoring in English
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: The seminar includes extensive discussion of writing strategies throughout, frequent writing assignments, and substantive, writing-strategies focused feedback on writing assignments.
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course materials and discussion emphasizes questions of gender, sexuality, and race.
Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 247  Art of the Essay
The "essay" is one way of writing about the intersection of self and world. Writers from 16th century French Michel Montaigne to contemporary American physician Siddhartha Mukherjee and Canadian lyric essayist Anne Carson have experimented in this form, varying the proportion of self-scrutiny to outward focus. We will study the meandering history of this rich literary form, learning both how to analyze and interpret representative examples from multiple traditions, and how to try our hand at our own creative nonfiction. That is, you will do both critical writing and creative writing for this course. Throughout, we will track how this genre serves those writers and readers who gravitate toward its special arts. Works read include those by the writers named above, as well as a selection from the following list: Henry David Thoreau, William James, Gertrude Stein, James Baldwin, James Agee, John McPhee, Alice Walker, Gloria Anzaldua, Claudia Rankine, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, and Maggie Nelson.

Requirements/Evaluation: four papers (two critical and two creative), of varying lengths (from 2-10 pages), for a total of 20 pages
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading:
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 248  (F)  Black Women in African American Literature and Culture
Cross-listings: AMST 248  ENGL 248  WGSS 258
Primary Cross-listing
This course surveys constructions of black womanhood from the nineteenth century to the present through readings of texts by and about black women. In this course, students will trace how black womanhood became central to uplift ideology and the making and sustaining of black communities in the post-Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, and Black Power eras. We will read works across a broad historical spectrum to identify the ways different writers wrestle with race and gender using literary tropes, such as the "tragic mulatto," in different social contexts. We will also engage a range of forms, including an essay (Patricia Hill Collins's "Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images"), a choreopoem (Ntozake
Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf*, and socio-political propaganda (the "Black is Beautiful" movement). This course will end with a consideration of the way writer and producer Issa Rae engages with contemporary ideologies of black womanhood in the HBO series *Insecure*.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, four short papers totaling about 20 pages; final project on the hashtag #blackgirlmagic

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

- AMST 248 (D2) ENGL 248 (D1) WGSS 258 (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**ENGL 250 (S) Americans Abroad** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** COMP 242 ENGL 250 AMST 242

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course will explore some of the many incarnations of American experiences abroad between the end of the 19th century and the present day. Materials will be drawn from novels, short stories, films, and nonfiction about Americans in Europe in times of war and peace. We will compare and contrast the experiences of novelists, soldiers, students, war correspondents, jazz musicians, and adventurers. What has drawn so many Americans to Europe? What is the difference between a tourist, an expat, and an émigré? What are the profound, and often comic, gaps between the traveler’s expectations and the reality of living in, say, Paris or a rural village in Spain? What are the misadventures and unexpected rewards of living, working, writing, or even falling in love in translation? Authors may include: Edith Wharton, Henry James, Langston Hughes, Martha Gellhorn, Ernest Hemingway, Elaine Dundy, Richard Wright, and Ben Lerner. Additional reading will be drawn from historical and critical works. All readings will be in English. This comparative course is designed to highlight the challenges and benefits of cultural immersion abroad. It will focus on the linguistic, emotional, intellectual, and social adaptation skills that are required to understand others, and oneself, in new contexts. Many of the authors chose, or were forced to, leave oppressive situations in the United States where their futures were limited due to factors related to politics, gender, race or class (and combinations thereof). We will study their dislocation, and freedom, and struggles to reshape their concept of “home” into something that reflected their individual identity, and not one imposed by any national culture--American or foreign.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** each student will give an in-class presentation and complete 3 writing assignments totaling 20 pages; one of these writing assignments will be a personal travel narrative based on the student's own experiences

**Prerequisites:** any literature course at Williams or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 18

**Expected Class Size:** 18

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

- COMP 242 (D1) ENGL 250 (D1) AMST 242 (D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** We will read and analyze primary materials and literature that reflect on Americans who chose, or were forced to, reinvent themselves abroad to escape oppressive situations in the United States related to gender, class, race, or political views. The socio-historical context of each writer will be crucial to understanding their situations. Students will write critical papers, and their own narrative in which they reflect on a situation of personal dislocation, either while traveling, or at home.

**Attributes:** AMST Arts in Context Electives GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

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**ENGL 252 (S) Ficciones: A Writing Workshop** (DPE)
Cross-listings: ENGL 252  LATS 222

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is focused on the art and practice of writing fiction. Sessions are divided into workshop and seminar. Workshop: Students will present short fiction or novel excerpts for peer critique and the editorial advice of the instructor. Seminar: We will study published fiction by Latina/o, Latin American, Afro-Diasporic, and other writers, paying close attention to how each author employs narrative elements--characterization, plotting, structure, dialogue mechanics, setting, tone, theme--as well as the values and visions expressed. Regular assignments and in-class exercises will help students further strengthen their narrative skills.

Class Format: workshop

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, writing exercises, 4- to 5-page midterm paper (close-reading a text), 10- to 15-page final writing portfolio

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 252 (D1) LATS 222 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Student work will encourage personal and cultural expression, with the opportunity to analyze the shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change.

Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 253  (S)  Feminist Theatres: A Global Perspective  (DPE)  (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 253  WGSS 250  THEA 250

Secondary Cross-listing

What makes a work of theatre feminist? How do plays, social practices, and performances engage with different models of feminism: liberal, radical, materialist, intersectional, reluctant? Why has feminism mattered to theatre makers of the past? Should it still matter to us now? If so, what forms might future feminist theatres and performance practices take? In this tutorial, students will work in pairs to examine the political relation of models of feminism to plays and performances by theatre artists, companies, and collaboratives from across the globe, from the late-twentieth century to today. Interrogating feminism's own legacies of exclusionary and biased tactics, we will focus on the racialized and class-based aspects of feminist performance practices and the history of radical and intersectional feminism in theatre. Artists, companies, and movements to be considered may include: Spiderwoman Theatre, The WOW Café, Hélène Cixous, Adrienne Kennedy, Caryl Churchill, Sphinx Theatre Company, Wendy Wasserstein, Ntozake Shange, Griselda Gambaro, Manjula Padmanabhan, Cherrie Moraga, Karen Finley, Suzan-Lori Parks, Young Jean Lee, Lisa Kron, Tori Sampson, Arethusa Speaks, Women's Project and Productions, Sarah DeLappe, and others. Close reading and analysis of source material will occur alongside engagement with critical essays and writings by: Audre Lorde, Judith Butler, bell hooks, Gloria Anzaldúa, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Eve K. Sedgwick, Gayatri Spivak, Jill Dolan, Sue-Ellen Case, José E. Muñoz, and Donna Haraway. This course will follow a standard tutorial format, with students alternating the presentation and reading of a series of 5-page papers.

Class Format: For Spring 2021, the format for the course is to be determined. Ideally, we will meet weekly and in-person in groups of 3 (two students and professor). Should necessary social distancing measures be in place, we will conduct our tutorial meetings remotely in either Zoom or Google Meet.

Requirements/Evaluation: students will meet with instructor in pairs for an hour each week; they will write a 5-page paper every other week (five in all), and comment on their partner's papers in alternate weeks; emphasis will be placed on developing skills in reading, interpretation, critical argumentation, and critical written and oral response

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Theatre majors; WGSS majors; ART majors; COMP majors. Students from all majors are welcome and invited to contact Prof. Holzapfel about their interest in the class: ash2@williams.edu
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 253 (D1) WGSS 250 (D2) THEA 250 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: As a tutorial, this course will require extensive practice in writing, editing, and revising. Emphasis be directed towards building and developing a compelling argument, providing thorough evidence for one’s interpretation, and fluidly integrating theory into one’s argumentation.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This tutorial examines intersections between gender, race, sexuality, class, and ethnicity in relation to theatre’s ongoing engagement with feminism. We will consider how articulations of difference, power, and equity arise and are, in fact, prioritized in quite different ways within the politics of feminism itself, leading to their variable expressions through art.

Spring 2021
TUT Section: T1 TBA Amy S. Holzapfel

ENGL 254  (F) 'As If Her Mouth Were a Weapon': Jamaica Kincaid (DPE)
Cross-listings: ENGL 254 WGSS 274

Primary Cross-listing
This course explores the work of the internationally renowned author Jamaica Kincaid. We will wrestle with her commentary on concepts and conditions such as death; the afterlife of slavery and colonialism; family relations; love, romance, their absence and their entanglement with hatred; and illness. We will pay particular attention to character and author navigation of negative affects and the blurred boundaries between fiction and autobiography. Course texts include Annie John (1985), Lucy (1990), The Autobiography of My Mother (1996), My Brother (1997), Mr. Potter (2002), and See Now Then (2013). They will be examined through the lenses of race, gender, sexuality, class and citizenship and aided by supplemental readings. This course will explore the power that structures and determines or constrains labor and citizenship status; abortion, reproduction and mothering; memory, literacy and archival production; and more.

Class Format: meeting as a full group two to three times; meeting in tutorial pairs for most of the semester
Requirements/Evaluation: five 4- to 5-page essays and five 2-page critical responses, completed in tutorial pairs, keyword assignment, final roundtable
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 10
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 254 (D1) WGSS 274 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will center afro-caribbean women's subject formation on the terrain of the literary imagination and develop interpretive and analytical skills to examine the affective dimensions of the racialization and gendering of power, of intimacy, and of national belonging.
Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 257  (F) Personal Essay: Writing Workshop (WS)
The personal essay as a literary form includes a wide range of genres including literary journalism, creative nonfiction and the lyric essay. Note the exclusion of “memoir” or “autobiography” in this list. This course is NOT a course in memoir or autobiography. As we become more mindful of our particular points of view (and of ways to explore and exploit this subjectivity), we will turn the focus outside of ourselves. We will experiment with writing that is extro- rather than introspective. While this is primarily a course in creative writing, we will give much of our time to literary analysis and imitation of exemplary essayists (primarily from the 20th and 21st centuries, and primarily from the U.S.) including James Baldwin, James Agee, Annie Dillard, John McPhee, Joan Didion, Adrian NicholeLeBlanc, Jennifer S. Cheng, Anne Carson, Samuel Delaney, Maggie Nelson, Alexander Chee,
Lydia Yuknavitch, Saidiya Hartman and Karen Green.

Class Format: This course will be taught remotely, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous meetings, assignments, short lectures, and opportunities for engagement (e.g. Zoom, Glow, Panopto & Loom). There will be a single, collective meeting every week in the time slot assigned to this course; as well as a single, weekly meeting of small groups of three students in which creative and critical writing will be shared, critiqued and discussed.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on class participation, peer editing, writing and revision, with special attention given to the student's engagement in every aspect of the writing process.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: students who have not yet taken Creative Writing courses will be given priority

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: This course will demand weekly writing and critical responses, as well as regular opportunities for revision. Total number of pages written will amount to approximately 35.

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1  MW 10:00 am - 11:15 am  Cassandra J. Cleghorn

ENGL 258 (S) Poetry and the City  (WS)

In this course we will consider poems generated out of the experiences of urban life. The city provides for poets a vivid mental and imaginative landscape in which to consider the relation of vice and squalor to glamour; the nature of anonymity and distinction; and the pressure of myriad bodies on individual and mass consciousness. We will explore ways in which the poet's role in the body politic emerges in representations of the city as a site both of civilized values and/or struggles for power marked by guile and betrayal. Taking into account the ways in which cities have been transformed over time by changing social and economic conditions, we will consider such issues as what the New York of the 1950s has to do with the London of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and why poetry as a genre might be particularly suited to representing the shifting aspects and populations of urban life. Poets will include Dante, Pope, Swift, Blake, Wordsworth, Whitman, Baudelaire, Yeats, Crane, Moore, Hughes, Brooks, Lorca, Bishop, Ginsberg, Baraka, Ashbery, Yau, Bitsui, Rankine, and Diaz. We will also draw on essays by Simmel, Benjamin, Williams, and Canetti, photographs by Hines, Weegee, Abbott, and Nishino; the blues, as sung by Holliday and Vaughan; and films such as Man with a Movie Camera, Rear Window, and Breathless.

Class Format: discussion-based

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation; the course will require four 5-page essays in multiple drafts

Prerequisites: 100-level English course or a 5 on the literature component of the AP exam, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year and sophomore students who are thinking of majoring in English

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: The course will require four 5-page essays in multiple drafts. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives  ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 259 (S) Ethics of Jewish American Fiction

Cross-listings: ENGL 259  REL 259  JWST 259

Secondary Cross-listing
After the Second World War, Jewish American writers who wrote about Jewish characters and Jewish themes were increasingly celebrated as central figures in American fiction. Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bernard Malamud, Saul Bellow, Cynthia Ozick and Philip Roth are among those who gained prominence in this period. These writers were literary innovators and often addressed broad humanistic themes. But they also struggled with profound questions that arose in the postwar period about Jewishness, the legacy of the Holocaust, and what it means to be an American. In this course we will read the above authors and others. We will focus, in particular, on the distinctive ethical and political ideas, emotions, and aspirations that animate their work. The course will begin with a study of theoretical approaches that will provide the basis for our ethical criticism: we will read, for instance, Lionel Trilling, Wayne Booth, Martha Nussbaum, and Noël Carroll. Then we will delve into the fiction, following a trail that begins in the postwar period and continues in fictions by Erica Jong, Rebecca Goldstein, Michael Chabon, Gary Shteyngart, and others. Can we find a distinctive Jewish American ethics in Jewish American fiction?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, one take-home exam on theoretical approaches to ethical criticism; four short essays

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors, Jewish Studies concentrators, and English majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 259 (D1) REL 259 (D2) JWST 259 (D2)

Attributes: JWST Core Electives

Not offered current academic year
ENGL 262  (F)  European Cinema and Film Theory

This seminar explores the foundations of contemporary European cinema by studying a range of films from 1920-1985, and offers a grounding in film theory and aesthetics by pairing such films with theoretical essays by philosophers and aestheticians from the silent era through the 1970s. We will establish a kind of map of cinematic styles and movements, ranging from German expressionism and Soviet montage in silent films of the 1920s, through French realism of the prewar and Italian neorealism of the early postwar era, to the insurrectionary films of the French New Wave and the stylistic innovations of the German New Wave and of Swedish cinema in the 1960s and 1970s. We will study films by such directors as Wiene, Murnau, Lang, Eisenstein, Vertov, Dreyer, Renoir, Riefenstahl, Rossellini, Fellini, Truffaut, Godard, Varda, Herzog, Bergman, Tarkovsky, and Almodóvar.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular class participation and four 5-page papers, two of them submitted in both a draft and a revision

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students, and English majors who have yet to take a Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 263  (S)  Novel Worlds

Cross-listings: ENGL 263  COMP 268

Primary Cross-listing

Reading a novel can feel like falling into another world, an immersion in an encompassing fictional reality saturated with detail--each novel its own trip down the rabbit hole. From Jane Austen's "3 or 4 families in a country village" to Roberto Bolano's teeming modern day Mexico City of millions, the novel's distinctive power is in making both the few and the many feel like a complete world. But what are worlds, anyway? Are they spaces, like a container? Or are they not a thing at all, but social systems--ways of belonging that are constantly being made and remade? This course is about the specific world--imagining powers of the novel, tracing out various techniques and strategies by which literary texts create worlds. Our hunch: the modern notion of "world" finds its origin in the novel, and the novel constitutes one of the most sophisticated sites of reflection upon the notion of world.

We'll read a number of novels, ranging from 19th century authors like Austen and Dickens, to contemporary genre writing--science fiction and the detective novel--as well as from a range of national traditions to see how novels, and ideas of world, shift over time and space. To get at our central questions, we'll read some philosophical and critical texts that are preoccupied by world-ness, with attention to current debates about the idea of World Literature. Novel texts likely to include: Jane Austen's Emma, Charles Dickens's Bleak House, Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, Italo Calvino's Invisible Cities, and Roberto Bolano's Savage Detectives.

Requirements/Evaluation: papers (approximately 20 pages), other forms of writing in-class and otherwise, participation

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and first-year students

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 263 (D1) COMP 268 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 266  (F)  Postmodernism

Cross-listings: COMP 231  ENGL 266
Secondary Cross-listing

In one definition, postmodernism in art and literature is what you get when you combine modernism's radical experimentation with pop culture's easy appeal. This term has been used to describe works from Andy Warhol's paintings of Campbell's soup cans and Jean Baudrillard's critical essays on Disneyland to Murakami Haruki's euphoric conspiracy novels. Theorists of the postmodern have argued that it represents not only a radical change in aesthetic sensibilities, but a fundamentally new relationship between art, language, and society. In this tutorial, we will read some of the most important theoretical essays defining the postmodern (essays which themselves often embrace this playful and sometimes ironic style), and we will pair them with artistic texts that are said to illustrate the features of postmodernism. The latter will be mainly novels and short stories from around the world, but one feature of this theory is a flattening of the distinction between high and low culture as well as between the written and the visual, so we will also examine examples from architecture, visual art, and/or broader pop culture. Texts will include essays by Jean Baudrillard, Fredric Jameson, Jean-François Lyotard, and others; novels and short stories by writers like Don DeLillo, Italo Calvino, and Murakami Haruki; painting and sculpture associated with Pop Art and Superflat; the architecture of Williamstown-area museums; etc. Writing assignments will focus on reading the theoretical texts closely and applying their ideas to the artistic texts in creative and interesting ways. Open to sophomores as well as advanced students.

Class Format: after an introductory lecture meeting, students will meet with the instructor in pairs for approximately an hour each week

Requirements/Evaluation: participation plus 4 papers (4-5 pages), 2 short papers (1-2 pages), and 4 peer critiques (1 page)

Prerequisites: a previous literature or critical theory course at Williams plus sophomore standing or higher, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature majors, students with a demonstrated interest

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 231 (D1) ENGL 266 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write several regularly spaced papers that build on one another by revisiting, extending, and/or rewriting earlier material. Students will receive detailed written feedback from the instructor on each paper, addressing argument, organization, and style, as well as written peer feedback on the longer papers. (See requirements for details about the number and type of assignments.)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 267 Stop Making Sense: Absurd(ist) Theatre in Historical Context (WS)

In most academic work the point of analysis is to make sense, to find meaning, to explain intricate or confusing phenomena, to provide clarity from complexity. What happens when we can't do this, indeed, when the objects of our analytical attention seem willfully designed to thwart the attempt? Such is the challenge of "understanding" the traditions of the absurd. In this tutorial course, we will engage this challenge within the realm of Western theatre and performance from 1900 to the present. Beginning with selected readings from writers who have engaged the absurd in theoretical fashion (Albert Camus, Soren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, Martin Esslin), the course will move swiftly to original artworks for contemplation and analysis. Some questions we will grapple with include: How do we, can we, should we respond to art that specifically defies meaning? Can art that seems pointless have a point? How and when have strategies of nonsense, circular reasoning, linguistic obfuscation, and intentional theatrical absence been employed to disguise, or deflect attention from, specific didactic (even political) agendas? What role specifically does theatre, theatricality, or performativity play in the presentation of art that refuses understanding? Playwrights will range from canonical (Samuel Beckett, Eugene Ionesco) to more obscure but equally engaging (as well as baffling) artists (Peter Handke, Slavomir Mrocek, Richard Foreman). We will follow standard practice in tutorial pairs, as each week one student will prepare original analysis of the assigned reading, and the other will craft a response to prompt an hour-long discussion. Whether we "make sense," or perhaps discover different ways of appreciating the varied works of art, will depend on the nature of those weekly attempts.

Requirements/Evaluation: Standard tutorial requirements; weekly paper or response paper from each member of the tutorial pair. Evaluation based on improvement in written expression and engaged contribution to weekly discussions.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Theatre, English, and Comparative Literature majors and prospective majors.

Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: This tutorial will demand writing from each student each week (either a primary paper or a shorter response paper), and each student will receive regular, extensive feedback including a focus on strategies for successful persuasive argumentation.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 268 (S) Being American, Being Muslim: American Muslim Literature in the 21st century (DPE)

Cross-listings: COMP 228 AMST 266 ENGL 268 REL 266

Secondary Cross-listing

Islam and Muslims in the United States are the subject of extensive public scrutiny and media coverage in broader public discourses. It is less common, however, to hear Muslims' own voices speak about their lives, experiences, beliefs, and commitments. This course will take a literary approach to exploring American Muslims' own narratives about themselves. We will address questions such as: How have American Muslims understood their identity in the wake of 9/11? What are the pressures and demands of American national belonging and cultural citizenship that Muslims must navigate? How are race, gender, ethnic heritage, and immigration definitive of Muslim experiences and self-understandings? What are the competing claims and contestations about authentic expressions of Islam? How are Muslims approaching the tensions between communal belonging and individuality? We will be engaging such questions primarily through an analysis of popular memoirs, autobiographies, novels, and short stories, but will also explore some plays, films, poetry, and comedy.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular reading responses, two short essays (3-4 pages), final presentation, and final paper (7-8 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 228 (D1) AMST 266 (D2) ENGL 268 (D1) REL 266 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will explore the intersections of power in American Muslim life, such as: Muslims as a religious minority in the context of the War on Terror; racial and ethnic differences in Muslim communities; immigration and national belonging; competing claims to religious authenticity and authority; and conflicting gendered norms. Students will learn to identify these multiple layers and configurations in the texts, and how to analyze their workings in nuanced multidimensional ways.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 271 (S) Playwriting and Production: Exploration of Playwright as Theater Maker

Cross-listings: THEA 266 ENGL 271

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will examine the role of the playwright as collaborator in the new play production process with discussions of collaborative practice. Through daily writing exercises and critical response time in class we will focus on writing 10-Minute plays that will be directed and designed within the class to culminate in a final presentation produced by the class. Group work both during class time and outside hours will be necessary for facilitating full class critical response time and artistic process time with the plays. We will explore case studies of the production of new plays in the American Theatre, including examples of self-producing. A writing and research notebook will be a requirement for the class to encourage self-motivation skills as a theater maker outside of the classroom time. Writing and collaborative practice time will be supplemented with weekly reading assignments of new plays, critical theory, and research for discussions of structure and practice. Self-selected research readings, media, and art will be a large component of the course over the semester.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly writing projects leading up to a longer final project, research and writing notebook complied throughout the semester, peer responses; a ten-minute piece created with peers; attendance and class participation

Prerequisites: Students are asked to write a personal statement about their experience with collaborative practice including questions that they would desire to pursue in the course.
Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: In instance of over-enrollment, preference will be given to Seniors, Juniors, & Sophomores in the Theatre and English Majors.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
THEA 266 (D1) ENGL 271 (D1)

Spring 2021

STU Section: 01

ENGL 272 (S) American Postmodern Fiction

Cross-listings: AMST 272 ENGL 272

Primary Cross-listing

American fiction took a turn at World War II; the simplest way to name the turn is from modernism to postmodernism. The most obvious mark of postmodern narration is its self-consciousness: postmodern books tend to be about themselves, even when they are most historical or realistic. Already a paradox emerges: why would World War II make narratives more self-reflexive? The first book in the course, and the best for approaching this paradox, is Heller’s *Catch-22*. It also serves as a good introduction to the unlikely merging in American fiction of high European post-structuralist postmodernism and low American punk postmodernism. Subsequent books in the course will probably include Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49*, Morrison’s *Beloved*, DeLillo’s *White Noise*, Carver’s *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*, Diaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao*, and Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*.

Requirements/Evaluation: three papers of increasing length and weight, contributions to class discussion

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have placed out of 100-level English and sophomores considering the major; then Junior and Senior English majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 272 (D2) ENGL 272 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 273 (S) Detectives Without Borders (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 273 ENGL 273

Secondary Cross-listing

Why is detective fiction so popular? What explains the continuing multiplication of mystery novels despite the seemingly finite number of available plots? This course will explore the worldwide fascination with this genre beginning with European writers before turning to more distant detective stories from around the world. The international scope of our readings will highlight how authors in different countries have developed their own national detective typologies while simultaneously responding to the international influence of the Anglo-American model. At the same time the readings will trace the evolution of the genre from the classical Sherlock Holmes model through later iterations, including golden age, hard-boiled, police procedural, female detective types, and more. Alongside fictional narratives, essays on the genre will provide the theoretical ground for our investigation. Our international journey will begin in England and the United States (G.K. Chesterton, Robert Knox and Edgar Allan Poe) and continue through Japan (Edogawa Rampo), France (Georges Simenon), Italy (Andrea Camilleri), Argentina (Jorge Luis Borges), and beyond. As we journey around the world, we will look at the possibility of reading detective fiction through the categories of gender, postcolonial, and race studies. Film
adaptations of the novels we read, TV shows and films noir will also be included in the course material. All readings will be in English.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** short papers, one research paper, oral presentations, midterm, class participation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Comparative Literature and English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** COMP core course

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

COMP 273 (D1) ENGL 273 (D1)

**Writing Skills Notes:** This is a writing course which requires weekly short papers, blog entries and three 5- to 7-page papers which will test students' ability in close-reading, comparative readings and research analysis. I will provide written feedback regarding grammar, style, and argument.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** A significant part of the course addresses issues of post-colonial critical theory, by including crime fiction from non-Western countries (South Africa, Japan, Brazil, Argentina). The post-colonial reading of those novels is supported by the reading of post-colonial theory such as (Frantz Fanon and Edward Said). The issue of gender inequalities is central to the course. Women and LGBTQ detectives are included in the syllabus.

**Attributes:** GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

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**ENGL 275 (S) Southern Literary Aesthetics (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** ENGL 275 AFR 275 AMST 276

**Primary Cross-listing**

Hip-Hop artists signify as "the dirty South" the distinct sounds, rhythms, landscapes, gestures, desires as well as frustrations of Black residents living in the southernmost regions of the U.S. American continent. In this course, students will examine what the South means to American concepts and how the South is used to make meaning in literature, music, art, digital archives, and film. We will give particular attention to how representations of the South are informed by region, gender, sexuality, and class. At the end of the course, students will be able to identify Black southern aesthetics across various genres and mediums with attention to historical and regional specificity despite the opacity of these categories. Potential artists include Jean Toomer, Alice Walker, Ernest Gaines, William Faulkner, Jesmyn Ward, Zora Neale Hurston, Natasha Trethewey, E. Patrick Johnson, Trudier Harris, Kiese Laymon, Julie Dash, Spike Lee, Askia Muhammad Touré, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Alison Janae Hamilton, Outkast, DJ Khalid, Beyoncé Knowles, and Solange Knowles.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** four or five writing assignments that total about 20 pages; discussion facilitation

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-years and sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ENGL 275 (D1) AFR 275 (D1) AMST 276 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will develop a writing practice through short in-class assignments that culminate in four or five formal submissions. Students will receive group as well as one-on-one feedback on useful writing principles. Feedback will focus on structure, style, argumentation, and audience.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Students will analyze the "shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change" in the South. Students will discover how region impacts race, gender, sexuality, and class.

**Attributes:** ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses
ENGL 277 (F) Meditation and Modern American Life

Cross-listings: REL 277 ENGL 277

Primary Cross-listing

The first English translation of a Buddhist text was published in the United States in 1844. At the time, few Americans knew the first thing about what Buddhism was, but now, a little over a century and a half later, Buddhist ideas and practices (meditation, in particular) can be found everywhere. In this class, we'll explore how Buddhism came to be the profoundly important cultural force in American life that it is today, looking particularly at the increasingly mainstream role of meditation in modern American life. We'll study how traditional Buddhist meditation practices were transmitted to the West, and then track the way those practices changed over time, as they were adapted to the radically new context of American culture. And we'll study the way meditation is impacting a wide array of cultural domains, including: literature, psychology, education, environmentalism, Western attitudes towards death and dying, and the fight against racism. A key part of the course will be an introduction to the theory and practice of meditation: we'll learn a variety of meditation techniques, and we'll spend a significant amount of time each class practicing and reflecting upon those practices. This course is a part of a joint program between Williams’ Center for Learning in Action and the Berkshire County Jail, in Pittsfield, MA. The class will be composed equally of nine Williams students and nine inmates. An important goal of the course is to encourage students from different backgrounds to think together about issues of common human concern. Classes will be held at the jail, with transportation provided by the college. "Please note the atypical class hours, Thursdays, 4:45-8:30 pm."

Requirements/Evaluation: full attendance and participation; meditation 2-3 times a week outside of class; a meditation journal; and a final 10-page essay

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: final selection will be made on the basis of (a) statements of interest sent via email to brhie@williams.edu by June 26 and (b) brief interviews with the instructor.

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 277 (D1) ENGL 277 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

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ENGL 280 (S) Writing for Performance

Cross-listings: ENGL 280 THEA 282

Secondary Cross-listing

This studio/seminar course is designed for students with some experience in creative writing and/or performance interested in a deep dive into the art of playwriting. What is a play? What distinguishes writing for performance from writing that is meant to be read? How do we craft a blueprint for a live event? In our rapidly evolving digital world, what sorts of stories and phenomena still ask to be experienced live? How are contemporary theater and performance makers pushing the boundaries of what "writing" means and what constitutes "liveness"? We will read works by Sharon Bridgforth, Sarah Ruhl, Tarrell Alvin McCraney, Tony Kushner, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Sarah DeLappe, Suzan-Lori Parks, Edward Albee, August Wilson, Chuck Mee, María Irene Fornés, Young Jean Lee, Stew, and Lightning Rod Special, who have deepened and widened the possibilities of the form. We will also write, beginning with exercises in character, dialogue, action, and world-building, and working toward a longer final project. Students will be expected to present their own work and respond to each other's work regularly. At the end of the term, we will present excerpts of our one-act length works as part of an open studio experience.

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class participation, critical/creative responses to readings, various writing exercises, final one-act performance piece, participation in final presentation

Prerequisites: students with some experience in creative writing and/or performance

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken THEA 214/ENGL 214 or another creative writing course

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
ENGL 281 (F)(S) Introductory Workshop in Poetry
An introduction to the basics of writing poetry. This workshop will include weekly readings in and writing assignments, frequent improvisations and collaborations, and the in-depth discussion of student work.

Class Format: While this class will be taught remotely, it promises to be a space of intimate engagement and creative growth. We will prioritize synchronous learning, whether online or perhaps in person, outside, while the weather is warm. We will combine whole-group meetings with occasional small group sessions of 3 or 4 students.

Requirements/Evaluation: engaged participation; successful completion of assignments; demonstrated commitment and substantial improvement, as evidenced by a final portfolio of revised poems.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: students who have preregistered; all interested students should pre-register and will be emailed with instructions if the course is over-enrolled.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1 TR 9:45 am - 11:00 am Jessica M. Fisher

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA Jessica M. Fisher

ENGL 283 (F)(S) Introductory Workshop in Fiction
An introduction to the basics of writing short fiction. Exercises, short assignments, and discussion of published fiction will be combined with workshops of student stories; individual conferences with the instructor will be available.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance, active participation, and successful completion of assigned exercises and story drafts; final portfolio

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: students who have preregistered; all interested students should pre-register and will be emailed with instructions if the course is over-enrolled

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R2 TF 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm James R. Shepard

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA James R. Shepard
ENGL 283 (F) Introductory Workshop in Fiction

An introduction to the basics of writing short fiction. Exercises, short assignments, and discussion of published fiction will be combined with small group discussions of student stories, individual conferences with the instructor, and independent work. This course will be structured as a seminar/tutorial hybrid. We'll mix whole-group meetings with small group sessions of 3 or 4 students. If possible, those who are able will meet in-person; others will meet remotely. If in-person meetings become no longer feasible, all meetings will be remote.

**Class Format:** This course will be structured as a seminar/tutorial hybrid. We'll mix whole-group meetings with small group sessions of 3 or 4 students. If possible, those who are able will meet in-person; others will meet remotely. If in-person meetings become no longer feasible, all meetings will be remote.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active participation, successful completion of assigned exercises and story drafts, and a final portfolio of revised fiction

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** students who have preregistered; all interested students should pre-register and will be emailed with instructions if the course is over-enrolled

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Fall 2020

SEM Section: H1  MWF 11:45 am - 1:00 pm  Karen L. Shepard

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ENGL 285 (F) Introductory Workshop in Prose

An introduction to the basics of writing creative prose, both fiction and memoir, with a focus on more self-consciously exploring the question of who gets to write about what. From what sources does a work's imaginative authority derive? What role should imagination play in the composition of fiction? What are the outer boundaries of those imaginative acts that should be attempted? Are there any limits on what authors should write about in memoir? Class sessions will be devoted to both published and student work. Students will receive written critiques from other students as well as the instructor. Individual meetings with the instructor will be available.

**Class Format:** creative writing workshop

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, student teaching, student work, final portfolio

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** selection based on writing samples, interested students should pre-register for the class and will be emailed with instructions for a writing sample if the class is over-enrolled.

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Not offered current academic year

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ENGL 286 (F) Black Queer Looks: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary African-American Film

Cross-listings:  WGSS 283  AMST 283  ENGL 286  AFR 283

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will foreground questions around visibility and memory. We will explore representations of Black queer bodies in experimental, documentary and narrative film. This course will engage foundational texts from Black Queer Studies. We will pair texts with film in order to examine the various relationships between art and scholarship. You will also be asked to think about yourself as a filmmaker. We will screen films such as Looking for Langston (Isaac Julien, 1989), The Watermelon Woman (Cheryl Dunye, 1996), U People (Olive Demetrius and Hanifah Walidah, 2009), Tongues Untied (Marlon Riggs, 1989) and Litany for Survival (Ada Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson, 1995). Throughout the course we will evaluate
the different ways filmmakers represent Black queerness on screen. The goal is to think about the possibilities and limitations of representation and visibility. Each of you will be asked to facilitate a class discussion. You also will be required to do weekly critical response papers. In lieu of a final paper you will create a detailed proposal for a short film that "represents" some segment of Black queer living.

Requirements/Evaluation: facilitate class discussion; weekly critical response papers; in lieu of a final paper you will create a detailed proposal for a short film

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, then Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 283 (D2) AMST 283 (D2) ENGL 286 (D2) AFR 283 (D2)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 288 (S) Writing as Experiment: An Introductory Poetry Lab

Some writing gets categorized as "experimental" or "avant-garde." But a spirit of experimentation---of rigorous, playful curiosity---is crucial for writers of all levels and styles to cultivate. In this introductory poetry course, we will engage in games and exercises designed to help us explore the wide set of tools available to poets, as well as to consider the idiosyncrasies of our own voices. We will read poets like Douglas Kearney, Fatimah Asghar, and Bhanu Kapil and discuss the ways race, gender, and power affect interpretations of the risks such poets take in their work. We'll ask: What are the boundaries of what is considered to be poetry, and what possibilities for writing might we discover by pushing against those boundaries? How might a poem live, not just on the page, but also on a sidewalk, on a screen, in performance? This is a course that approaches writing as a laboratory to test out ideas and asks students to think critically about their own creative processes. Students will be expected to create new writing, submit reflection papers, give feedback on each others' poems, and revise work as part of a final portfolio.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, completion of writing exercises, feedback/reflection papers, and a final portfolio with revisions

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: if course becomes over-enrolled, enrollment will be determined by application

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 289 (F) Graphic Storytelling

In the 1890s an author/artist put words and pictures together in boxes, ordered the boxes along a (short) narrative arc featuring a continuing character, published it in a newspaper, and graphic storytelling as we know it was born. 15 years later (in the form of comic strips) it had already become one of the most important storytelling modes in American culture. In this course we will follow the development of this quirky and important American contribution to world culture from comic strips through comic books to the "graphic novel." Along the way we will consider all kinds of interesting general subjects: for instance, the relationship between commerce and creativity, the difference between good and bad culture, and the pervasive human need to tell and experience stories.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation and five or six short essays, totaling about 20-25 pages

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and first-year students who have not yet taken an ENGL Gateway course

Expected Class Size: 19
ENGL 300  (F)  Re/Generations I: Memory Against Forgetting and the Global American Empire (DPE)

Cross-listings: COMP 357  AMST 300  ENGL 300

Secondary Cross-listing

This is a two-part junior seminar in which we take an expansive approach to memoir as a form, genre, and practice, with specific attention given to texts reckoning with the traumas, transgressions, and transformations of what we understand as "America" and its many discontents. As such, the courses are remote and may be taken in sequence or autonomously. In this first part, we focus on authors charting the lives and afterlives of chattel slavery, settler colonialism, genocide, war, and the expansion of the global American empire, from the 19th through 20th centuries. How do these authors remediate the critical (il)legibility of personhood and place, community and nation? What myths must be dispelled and/or rewritten? What structural elements are deployed to tackle the obstacles of hegemonic power and historical amnesia, and how do these authors re/generate "what remains of lost histories and histories of loss" (Eng and Kazanjian)? Texts to be considered may include: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave; Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen (Lili'oukalani); Notes of a Native Son (James Baldwin); Borderlands/La Frontera (Gloria Anzaldúa); Dictee (Theresa Hak Kyung Cha).

Class Format: Remote

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, midtern and final papers

Prerequisites: American Studies 101 and/or 301, previous coursework in race, ethnicity, and diaspora, junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 357 (D1) AMST 300 (D2) ENGL 300 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Analyzes the dynamics of power and privilege in the U.S. from a national and transnational context, examines the perspectives of socially marginalized groups, and fosters an understanding of the beliefs, experiences, and cultural productions of these groups.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1    TR 11:30 am - 12:45 pm     Anthony Y. Kim

ENGL 301  (S) Sublime Confusion: A Survey of Literary and Critical Theory

Cross-listings: ENGL 301  COMP 301

Secondary Cross-listing

Which is more appealing, a roller coaster or a rose? For much of its history, art and literary theory has conceived itself as a science devoted to explaining and defining "beauty." But running alongside this is an edgier countercurrent that worships something else: an experience of excitement, fear, suspense, or thrilling confusion often described as "the sublime." The sublime interested early critics, from classical rhetoricians to the German Idealists, as a way to make aesthetics more scientific paradoxically by identifying the doorway through which art and literature escaped the realm of reason. More recently the notion of literature's exciting confusion has played a key role in modern critical theory from Russian formalism to new criticism, deconstruction, postmodernism, and posthumanism. (In fact, poststructuralist criticism itself has a thrillingly confusing quality that we will not ignore.) We will take up a cross section of critical theory from classical times to the present, focusing on careful reading of relatively short texts by Plato, Aristotle, Addison, Burke, Schiller, Nietzsche, Shklovsky, I.A. Richards, Barthes, Derrida, Lyotard, Fredric Jameson, Haraway, and others. Case studies ranging from opera to Xbox will enlighten, thrill, and confound you. Written assignments will encourage you to parse these theories carefully
and apply them to the literary texts that most interest you: prose, poetry, or drama from any time and place; film, visual art, or architecture; music, new media, or digital media, and beyond.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and active participation, several short response assignments, final project consisting of a scripted oral presentation and a 15-page final paper

**Prerequisites:** 200- or 300-level course in literature, theory, or philosophy, or permission of the instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** students majoring or considering a major in a related field

**Expected Class Size:** 9

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
ENGL 301 (D1) COMP 301 (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Criticism Courses

**Not offered current academic year**

**ENGL 302 (S) "A language to hear myself": Advanced Studies in Feminist Poetry and Poetics** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** AMST 310 ENGL 302 WGSS 330

**Primary Cross-listing**

The title of this course comes from Adrienne Rich's 1969 poem "Tear Gas," grounding our study in 1960s and 1970s feminist activist poetry but also in our current moment to answer a fundamental question: what can poetry do for us? In the 1960s and 1970s, feminist activist poets were at the center of a revolutionary social justice movement that changed the world. Feminist presses published much of the new poetry. This course focuses on the theory and practice of feminist poetry and print culture during this period, and how feminist experiments in language changed how we understand American poetry. We focus on the theoretical writings and poetry chapbooks of a diverse group of poets who powered the movement, including Audre Lorde, Mitsuye Yamada, Nelly Wong, Robin Morgan, June Jordan, Joy Harjo, Gloria Anzaldúa, Sonia Sanchez, Adrienne Rich, Judy Grahn, and Pat Parker. We also read the work of some later feminist theorists, such as Judith Butler, as we analyze the kinds of performances that brought together feminist poetry and political activism. We spend some time in the archives, analyzing documents from the period, including original publications of poetry chapbooks often published by the period's many feminist presses and consider how such attention allows us to construct alternative narratives for feminism and American poetry. Writing at the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, and of multiple social justice movements (Civil Rights, anti-Vietnam War, LGBTQ activism, and Black Power), these poets gave us a new language to "hear," not only ourselves, but the experience and pain of others, and, in so doing, they moved personal experience into public discourse around issues of inequality and human flourishing in a democratic society.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two short analysis papers (4-5 pages), creative (1-2 pages), discussion posts (5 pages), short presentation, longer final researched paper (10-12 pages)

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** English, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, American Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
AMST 310 ENGL 302 (D1) WGSS 330 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Writing skills taught through a series of assignments evenly spaced throughout the semester: weekly p/f discussion posts, critical summaries of feminist criticism, two four-to-five-page graded papers, one creative assignment, a longer, final researched paper (10-12 pages), written in stages over a period of several weeks with feedback at each stage. Critical feedback on written assignments a week prior to due date through conferences and Google Docs and on graded assignments within one week.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course examines the effects of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality on both poetry and the
This course employs critical tools (feminist theory, archival research, poetics, close reading, comparative approaches) to help students question and articulate the social injustices that led to the poetry and poetics of the period.

**Attributes:** AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL Literary Histories C  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses  WGSS Theory Courses

Spring 2021

**ENGL 303 (S) The New Television**

TV has changed a lot, and it seems like a good time to figure out how. We will watch full seasons of landmark shows (*Game of Thrones, Girls, Breaking Bad, True Detective*) in order to answer a series of questions: How does the new television differ from older network shows? What are its distinctive storytelling techniques? What, in particular, is the appeal of complex and long-form narrative? Is modern television, as often claimed, a reinvention of the nineteenth-century novel? Which features does it take over from the novel and do they work the same way on the screen as they do on the page? But then what is television's relationship to the film genres that it also inherits? What happens to a gangster movie when you extend it out to eighty-six hours? What's the difference between a zombie movie and a really long zombie movie? And how is it that the new television has reclaimed the word *binge*, which used to be associated with broken diets and heavy drinking?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** informal weekly writing; class participation; midterm and final essays, 30 pages total

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2021

**ENGL 304 (F) Dante**

**Cross-listings:** COMP 317  ENGL 304

**Primary Cross-listing**

In the spring of 1300, Dante Alighieri entered Hell. The Divine Comedy is the record of the journey that followed. It is organized around a series of encounters with figures from the poet's past--for example, a former teacher damned for violating nature--as well as historical and literary characters: Ulysses, Thomas Aquinas, Plato, Virgil, Adam. Though the Comedy is probably now best known for its savagery--the bodies split open, the Popes turned upside down and lit on fire--it is also, as Dante claims, a love story and a work of high imaginative daring. Among its final images is a vision of paradise rendered through the precise if also mind-bending language of non-Euclidean geometry. In this course we will read the three books of the Comedy (*Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso*), the Vita Nuova, and a few brief selections from Dante's other works. All readings will be in translation. The course will be taught remotely.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** five written exercises and a 10-page final paper

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 14

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 305  (F) The Canterbury Tales

Composed in the last decades of the fourteenth century, *The Canterbury Tales* is a brilliant pastiche of competing forms. Saints' lives, dirty stories, tales of revenge, sermons, fart jokes--they are all in the mix. We will read the *Tales* in the original Middle English, which is easier (and more fun) than it looks; no prior exposure to Middle English is necessary.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** frequent quizzes on vocabulary and comprehension, practice reading Middle English aloud, two 5- to 7-page papers, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 306  (F) Beckett, Pinter and Stoppard

Cross-listings: ENGL 306 THEA 365 COMP 365 ENGL 365

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard have been amongst the most influential playwrights of the anglophone theatre over much of the last six decades. This course will explore their mutual concern with the capacities and dysfunctions of language, their questioning of Art's value and the scope for originality in the post-nuclear and postmodern era, and, above all, their collective focus on the extent to which selfhood may be realized in and through performance. Besides reading major plays, we will also give some consideration to the dramatic work crafted by these writers for radio, television and film, and to the political and social commitments animating and counterpointing their literary careers. Readings may include: *Endgame, The Caretaker, Rosenkantz and Guildenstern are Dead, Krapp's Last Tape, The Homecoming, No Man's Land, Betrayal, Waiting for Godot, Dogg's Hamlet, The Invention of Love, Arcadia, Rock 'n' Roll, Not I, Rockaby, A Kind of Alaska, Catastrophe, The Real Thing, Indian Ink, Artist Descending a Staircase* and *One for the Road*. Throughout, we will give consideration to these works as both literary and theatrical texts.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two long papers, four 1- to 2-page shorter responses, class participation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 18

**Enrollment Preferences:** Theatre and English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 18

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
ENGL 306 (D1) THEA 365 (D1) COMP 365 (D1) ENGL 365 (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 307  (F) The 19th Century and Its Shadow
Cross-listings: AFR 303  ENGL 307

Primary Cross-listing

This course explores canonical American literature from the nineteenth century alongside a selection of contemporary literary and cinematic texts that call on and intervene with this body of work. Following Toni Morrison's charge that the contemplation of a black presence "is central to any understanding of our national literature and should not be permitted to hover at the margins of the literary imagination," this course focuses on how ideas of race are explored throughout the canon and how they have been carried forward. Works considered throughout the term come from, among others, Julie Dash, Frederick Douglass, Saidiya Hartman, Harriet Jacobs, Mat Johnson, Herman Melville, Toni Morrison, Nate Parker, Edgar Allen Poe, Quentin Tarantino, Mark Twain, and Colson Whitehead.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, active class participation, three close readings (500 words each), annotated bibliography, class presentation, final paper (13-15 pages)

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, then sophomores considering the major

Expected Class Size: 16

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 303 (D2) ENGL 307 (D1)

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1  TR 9:45 am - 11:00 am  Ricardo A Wilson

ENGL 308  (S) Race and the Zombie Apocalypse

Cross-listings: ENGL 308  AFR 305

Primary Cross-listing

This course takes a critical approach to our contemporary understanding of the figure of the zombie and its inextricable link to discourses on race and blackness in the Americas. An introductory grounding in theories of social death allows an opportunity to explore the racial anxiety that gave birth to the genre and trace its development throughout the hemisphere. The course considers the novels, films, and critical texts that frame the genre in order to pose the following questions: What can the figure of the zombie teach us about our evolving relationship to race? What roles do gender and sexuality play in the construction of the genre? And, finally, how does the recent proliferation of zombie-related television shows, movies, books, and video games reflect our present-day concerns?

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, active class participation, three close readings (500 words each), annotated bibliography, class presentation, final paper (13-15 pages)

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, then sophomores considering the major

Expected Class Size: 16

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 308 (D1) AFR 305 (D2)

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01  TBA  Ricardo A Wilson

ENGL 309  (F) Thinking Diaspora: The Black Atlantic and Beyond
Cross-listings: WGSS 308  COMP 300  AMST 308  ENGL 309

Primary Cross-listing

Water imagery has been central to black diasporic culture since its beginnings in the Middle Passage—suggesting imprisonment, isolation, escape, ancestral communion, and death, for example. This course wrestles with the significance of water in diasporic literature—how it endures, how it has diminished, how it slips away from us. Black diaspora theory was revolutionized by Paul Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic*, which urged us to consider more deeply the role of the ship, the routes, and the roots entailed in the formation of diasporic consciousness. This course aims to expand students' theoretical skills as we discuss cornerstone and cutting edge texts of diaspora theory, with an emphasis on theories that work with the relationship to water, such as those by Jacqueline Nassy Brown, Omise'eke Tinsley, and Vanessa Agard-Jones. Primary texts will include *The Big Sea* by Langston Hughes, *Sugar and Slate* by Charlotte Williams, Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight*, and more.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, presentations, one 10-page paper, engaged feedback process, and thoughtful class participation

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 308 (D2) COMP 300 (D1) AMST 308 (D2) ENGL 309 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses  GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 310  (F)  Rebels, Revelers, and Reactionaries: The Poets of the Seventeenth Century

The decades following the death of Elizabeth I were period of scandal, schism, dissent and decadence, culminating in a bloody civil war and the beheading of a king. It was, in other words, a 'world turned upside down' by every kind of upheaval: in civics, philosophy, politics, religion, and science. It also produced writers of some of England's finest lyric and satiric poetry, and its greatest epic poet. How the century's poets successfully dramatized the critical events and feelings in this time of turmoil will be the focus of the course. While primarily a course in close reading, we will nevertheless try to reconstruct the lives and contexts of the writers, and examine some of the critical and theoretical issues involved in contextualizing the poems. Authors will include Donne, Jonson, Lanyer, Herbert, Herrick, the Cavalier Poets, Milton, Marvell, Cavendish, Dryden, and Rochester.

Requirements/Evaluation: two 8- to 10-page essays and several short writing assignments

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 311  (S)  Theorizing Shakespeare

Cross-listings:  COMP 310  WGSS 311  THEA 311  ENGL 311

Primary Cross-listing

For complex reasons, Shakespeare has always revealed as much about those who speculate on him as the speculators have revealed about him. In this course, we will engage a few plays in considerable depth: *The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. But we will also use these works as a means to engage some of the most compelling trends in recent critical thought, including cultural theory and post-Marxist analysis, political theology, deconstruction and rhetorical theory, psychoanalytic thought and theories of gender and sexuality. In some instances, we will look at applied criticism, in others we will simply place a theoretical work alongside a play and see what they have to say to each other, for instance, what would a Shakespearean reading of Jacques Lacan look like?
ENGL 312  (S)  Ecocriticism

Cross-listings: ENVI 315  ENGL 312

Primary Cross-listing

How does the human imagination encounter its environment? This overarching question is of particular importance now, as the humanities struggle to address the ecological crises of our time. We will read selections from the long tradition of environmentally-minded literary works in order to historicize concepts of nature and wilderness, as well as from more recent theoretical and creative writing that reflects an increasing awareness of climate change, toxic waste and pollution, habitat loss and species extinction, population expansion, and other forms of environmental catastrophe. Finally, we will explore via our own writing the ethical and aesthetic imperative to find ways of imagining this ever-changing relation between the imagination and the environment.

Requirements/Evaluation: engaged participation; one 5- to 7-page paper and one final 12- to 15-page paper; frequent GLOW posts; and a creative journal

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or consent of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: majors in English or Environmental Studies

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENVI 315 (D1) ENGL 312 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 313  (F)  George Eliot and Henry James

George Eliot (aka Mary Ann Evans) and Henry James trace dramas of consciousness that ramify in the context of 19th century social transformations. Eliot records the frictions of provincial and cosmopolitan lives; James writes about what it meant for American and European societies around the turn of the 20th century to be mutually exposed to and by one another. Their work explores gender and class fluidity, and the relations of ethical, economic, and aesthetic value. Both evoke fraught political contexts—for Eliot, the failed mid-century European revolutions and pressures of British imperialism, and for James, post-Civil War American consciousness and the struggle between American and European imperialisms. By placing texts in relation to one another—for instance, James’ Portrait of a Lady with Eliot’s Daniel Deronda, What Maisie Knew with The Mill on the Floss, The Turn of the Screw and The Beast in the Jungle with The Lifted Veil— we'll consider how and to what ends these writers link such issues as law, sacrifice, gambling, gender, and the supernatural. In tracing the relation of their work to one another, we will mark the shift from crucial preoccupations of the 19th century to the modern novel, and the innovations of prose style that accompany them.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and two papers, approximately 20 pages altogether

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
ENGL 315 (F) Milton's Paradise Lost
Cross-listings: REL 319 ENGL 315

Primary Cross-listing
The course will consist primarily of a close reading of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, generally considered the greatest non-dramatic poem in English. Written by a blind regicide in hiding shortly after the English Revolution, the epic presents the first and greatest of all failed rebellions: Satan's rebellion against God and its tragic consequence, the fall of Adam and Eve in Eden. We will give attention to the poem's densely organized language and structure, but our primary concern will be the ethical and philosophical dilemmas that confront Satan and all of the fallen.

Class Format: The course will be taught remotely
Requirements/Evaluation: one 6- to 8-page paper, one 10- to 12-page paper, weekly writing assignments, and active seminar participation
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam.
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: juniors, seniors, English majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 319 (D2) ENGL 315 (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1 MWF 11:45 am - 1:00 pm Alan W. De Gooyer

ENGL 317 (F) Black Migrations: African American Performance at Home and Abroad
Cross-listings: AFR 317 COMP 319 AMST 317 DANC 317 ENGL 317 THEA 317

Secondary Cross-listing
In this course, students will investigate, critique and define the concepts migration and diaspora with primary attention to the experiences of African Americans in the United States and Europe. Drawing on a broad definition of performance, students will explore everything from writing and painting to sports and dance to inquire how performance reflects, critiques and negotiates migratory experiences in the African diaspora. For example, how did musician Sidney Bechet's migration from New Orleans to Chicago to London influence the early jazz era? How did Katherine Dunham’s dance performances in Germany help her shape a new black dance aesthetic? Why did writer James Baldwin go all the way to Switzerland to write his first novel on black, religious culture in Harlem? What drew actor/singer Paul Robeson to Russia, and why did the U.S. revoke his passport in response to his speeches abroad? These questions will lead students to investigate multiple migrations in the African diasporic experience and aid our exploration of the reasons for migration throughout history and geography. In addition to critical discussions and written analysis, students will explore these topics through their own individual and group performances in class. No prior performance experience is necessary.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, in-class student performances, several 2-page performance response papers, one 10- to 12-page research paper, a final performance with a 3-page report
ENGL 318  (F)  Literary Taste and After Taste

Why are some literary works acclaimed or neglected when they first appear, and why do their critical assessments change--sometimes drastically--over time? What does it mean to think of a work as 'before its time'? What is the relation between critical trends and their affinity for particular literary styles? In thinking about these issues, we will consider a few crucial instances: modernist poets and New Critics' celebration of Donne and Marvell over Milton in the early 20th century; 18th and 19th century writers' fascination with medievalism and the Gothic; deconstructionist critics' absorption with Romantic poetry; Marxist and neo-Marxist critics' qualified embrace of realism and critique of postmodernism; and recent and contemporary debates about the relation of aesthetic forms to representations of race, ethnicity, and gender.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and two essays, approximately 20 pages of writing

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15-20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: cost of books

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B  ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 319  (F)  The Literary Afterlife

Cross-listings: COMP 354  ENGL 319

Primary Cross-listing

What do writers mean when they say that they will live on after death through their books? In this course, we will explore the long history of thinking about literature as a way to compensate for mortality, and we will compare the literary afterlife to religious and philosophical versions of eternity. Many of the writers on our syllabus were anxious about the compatibility of the pursuit of worldly fame with the desire for Christian salvation. We will study how their sense of a conflict between the two afterlives changed over time: from the recovery of pagan antiquity during the Renaissance, across the theological transformations of the Reformation, to the consequences of print. The course deals with some of literature's greatest ambitions--to cheat death, to make a lasting contribution to human culture--but we will often find ourselves caught in an undertow of skepticism. Is writing any less susceptible to decay than human bodies are? If so, is literary accomplishment worth the risk of one's soul? Authors and texts will include Sappho, Ovid, Lucretius, Ecclesiastes, Augustine, Petrarch, Julian of Norwich, Montaigne, Shakespeare's Hamlet and Richard II, Jonson, Donne, and Milton.

Requirements/Evaluation: one 7-page paper, one 12-page paper, in-class presentation, thoughtful participation in discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
ENGL 320 (S) Marlowe and Shakespeare  (WS)
Cross-listings: ENGL 320  THEA 320

Primary Cross-listing

In 1586, at the age of twenty-three, Christopher Marlowe wrote *Tamburlaine the Great*. Over the next six years—probably while moonlighting as a government spy—he went on to produce some of the strangest and also most influential works of English drama. Then in 1593, Marlowe was murdered, stabbed through the eye in a tavern brawl. It is often said that Marlowe's early death, no less than his early success, made the work of Shakespeare possible. In this class we will read Marlowe's *Edward II*, the first popular history play in English, and Shakespeare's *Richard II*, *The Jew of Malta* and *The Merchant of Venice*; *Doctor Faustus* and *Macbeth*. We will look at ways in which Marlovian preoccupations—with lurid violence, with debasement, with self-invention—resurface in Shakespeare, in new forms. In the process we will also take up more general questions of literary influence: What do writers borrow from each other? And how does the knowledge of indebtedness—shared to varying degrees with an audience—affect the meaning and impact of their work? Critical readings will include essays by Harry Levin, Julia Lupton and Stephen Greenblatt.

Requirements/Evaluation: two 5- to 7-page papers; a ten page final paper

Prerequisites: 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 320 (D1) THEA 320 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Two 5- to 7-page papers. A 10-page final paper. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 321 (S) Samuel Johnson and the Literary Tradition

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) has been exceptionally influential not only because he was a distinguished writer of poems, essays, criticism, and biographies, but also because he was the first true historian of English literature, the first who sought to define its "tradition." We will read Johnson's own works and Boswell's *Life of Johnson* to discover Johnson's talents, tastes, and standards as an artist, as a moral and literary critic, and as a man.

We next will use Johnson's *Preface to Shakespeare* and *Lives of the Poets* to examine how this great intelligence assessed writers from the Renaissance through the eighteenth century. While reading his commentary on Shakespeare and his critical biographies of Milton, Dryden, Pope, Swift, and Gray, we will analyze selected works by these writers so as to evaluate Johnson's views and sharpen our understanding of the relationship between his standards and values, and the ones we hold today—both individually and collectively.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final papers (15-20 pages total), and a take-home final exam

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)
ENGL 323  (S)  A Novel Education  (WS)

All novels are conscious of their readers; eighteenth-century novels are obsessed with them. In the century when the genre first flourished, readers are the ultimate objects of novelists' plots. We are addressed, teased, pleaded with, embarrassed, flattered, made fun of, praised, chided, solicited, warned, reminded, rebuked, asked for sympathy, and--always--closely watched. Eighteenth-century novelists--and their narrators--aggressively educate their readers, not only teaching us how to interpret the novel itself, but also demanding that we self-consciously question the powers of mind and habits of heart we bring to the process of interpreting a book, ourselves, and our world. In this tutorial course, we will explore the narrative and rhetorical strategies two of the century's greatest novelists use in creating, shaping, and finally educating their readers. We will focus principally on Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* (1749) and Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* (1760-67)--long, brilliantly intricate novels that go about their work in very different ways, but that are equally committed to the project of giving their readers a novel education. We will consider--much more briefly--Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* and Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. We will also read criticism by such "reader response" theorists as Stanley Fish and Wolfgang Iser, and--in the individualized setting of a tutorial--students will be asked to develop and articulate their own theories of reading by examining critically the ways in which texts affect and educate them. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills not only in reading and interpretation, but also in constructing critical arguments and responding to them in written and oral critiques.

Class Format: Students will meet with the instructor in pairs for an hour each week

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will write and present a 4- to 5-page paper every other week, and comment on their partners' papers in alternate weeks.

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, not open to first-year students

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: All tutorials (at least in English) are by definition Writing Skills courses. Students will write either the main paper or a response critique in alternate weeks. Students will also have the opportunity to revise.

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL Literary Histories A

Spring 2021

TUT Section: T1  TBA  Stephen  Fix

ENGL 324  (F)  World's End: Literary Ecologies of the Limit

Cross-listings: ENVI 323  ENGL 324

Primary Cross-listing

Consciousness of the world's finiteness in a time of environmental degradation and headlong global capitalism prompts restraint, a harboring of resources. But beyond the economic logic of conservation and expenditure, might imagining the world from the vantage point of its limit provoke a more profound rethinking of ourselves and the things of the world? Does it change what it means to possess, or even what an experience of the world is? Does it change human relationship? This course explores these questions in part by reaching back to the early modern period, when the boundedness of nations and worlds first comes to view in a meaningful way. But the course will have a long arc, from Shakespeare to Sinha's *Animal's People*. Primary works will include: Shakespeare, *As You Like It* and *King Lear*; Marvell; Ovid, *Metamorphosis*; Browne, *Urn Burial*; Wordsworth; McCarthy, *The Road*; Atwood; Alice Oswald; photography (Struth, Hutte); painting (Titian), and video installations (Pipilotti Rist). Theoretical texts include: Smith, *Against Ecological Sovereignty*; Wood, *Reoccupy Earth*; Agamben, *The Time that Remains*; Heidegger, "Question Concerning Technology"; Latour, "An Inquiry into Modes of Existence"; Nancy, *After Fukushima*; Derrida, *The animal that therefore I am* and *Beast and the Sovereign*.

Class Format: This course will be taught virtually, but we will make absolutely every effort to ensure that it takes the form of a genuine discussion class, including breaking periodically into smaller online groups. Requirements: two papers totaling 20 pages.
ENGL 325  (F)  Joyce, Woolf, and Proust
Cross-listings:  ENGL 325  COMP 366

Primary Cross-listing
This seminar focuses on novels by three of the most important writers of modernist fiction: Marcel Proust (Swann's Way, the first novel of his sequence In Search of Lost Time); Virginia Woolf (To the Lighthouse); and James Joyce (Ulysses, read in slightly abridged form). By juxtaposing these path breaking texts, we will examine the distinctive yet related ways in which they explore crucial preoccupations of modernism: the threat and the exhilaration of cultural loss in face of social and political transformations in the early twentieth century; the turn to memory, to art, and to objects as stays against de-stabilized subjectivity and as means of re-thinking value; the emergence of new forms of political and sexual identity; the heightening of consciousness to the verge of transport or disintegration; and the roots and perversities of desire. Students who have studied Ulysses in a previous course are welcome.

Requirements/Evaluation:  regular class participation, two 8- to 10-page papers
Prerequisites:  a 100-level ENGL course, a score of 5 on the AP English Lit exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam; students who have taken ENGL 360 are welcome
Enrollment Limit:  20
Enrollment Preferences:  English majors
Expected Class Size:  18
Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 325 (D1)  COMP 366 (D1)
Attributes:  ENGL Literary Histories C

ENGL 328  (F)  Austen and Eliot
Cross-listings:  WGSS 328  ENGL 328

Primary Cross-listing
Austen and Eliot profoundly influenced the course of the novel by making internal consciousness crucial to narrative form. In this course we will explore Austen's innovative aesthetic strategies and the ways in which Eliot assimilated and transformed them. By placing each writer's work in its political and philosophical context-in Austen's case, reactions to the aftermath of the French Revolution, in Eliot's, to the failed mid-century European revolutions and the pressures of British imperialism-we will consider how each writer conceives social and historical exigencies to shape comedies and dramas of consciousness. Readings will include Austen's Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Mansfield Park, and Persuasion; Eliot's The Mill on the Floss, The Lifted Veil; and Daniel Deronda; selected letters and prose; and critical essays.
ENGL 329 (S) Austen, Eliot, Woolf

Cross-listings: ENGL 329 WGSS 329

Primary Cross-listing

At roughly fifty-year intervals, Britain produced three brilliant female novelists -- Jane Austen, George Eliot, and Virginia Woolf -- who would each become renowned, in her own way, for her ability to combine minutely detailed social observation with a rich depiction of the inner lives of her characters. This course will examine some of their major fiction-- with an emphasis on Austen and Eliot -- with special attention to the nature and implications of their narrative methods for representing the consciousnesses of characters, and of the authorial narrative voices that mediate among them. Questions to be considered: how is our understanding of novelistic characters and consciousness shaped by our real-life experience in interpreting the thoughts and character of others, and vice versa? Do "omniscient" narrators lay claim to a privileged kind of knowing presumed to be unavailable either to their character or to readers, or are they modelling humanly available interpretive stances toward a world of others? How do these authors’ preoccupations with interior thought relate to their focus on women's experience? Possible texts include Austen's *Emma and Persuasion*, Eliot's *Middlemarch, Daniel Deronda*, and *The Lifted Veil*, and Woolf's *The Waves*.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: one six-eight-page and one ten-twelve-page essay

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 329 (D1) WGSS 329 (D2)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01 TBA Alison A. Case

ENGL 330 (S) Renaissance Literature in Global Perspective

The Renaissance is usually seen as a decidedly Western "rebirth": the moment in which the emerging nations of modern Europe define themselves by both their connection to and their distance from the classical heritage of Greece and Rome. What might it mean, then, to understand the Renaissance also as shaped by a global network of interactions among Western and non-Western societies, economies, and cultures? In this course our focus will be on literature in the broadest sense, including lyric poetry, epic, and drama, but also travel reports, royal memoirs, and philosophical histories as
means of imagining the shape of the world, familiar and unfamiliar. We'll begin by considering Europe's eccentric place within the larger Afro-Eurasian cultural system of the late Middle Ages, and how what we call the Renaissance emerges from a sense of linkage to as well as separation from the traditions of the Islamic world and beyond. We'll then examine the intense and troubling interrelation between Renaissance writing's intellectual dynamism and the often catastrophic effects of Europeans' encounter with what was for them a New World in the Americas. Finally, we'll think about whether or not it makes sense to see the European Renaissance as one facet of a broader global process, similar to concurrent movements of cultural expansion and hybridization such as in Mughal India. Authors to be studied may include Petrarch, Boccaccio, Chaucer, Ibn Khaldun, Thomas More, Babur, Mira Bai, Marguerite de Navarre, the Inca Garcilaso, Marlowe, and Camoes. (All readings in English.)

Requirements/Evaluation: two papers (15-20 pages total); regular short responses
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: graduating seniors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 331  (F)  Romantic Culture

The Romantic period--1780 to 1830, roughly--is one of the great watershed moments in western culture. Romantic writers obsessed over the same things we do: the profit and power resident in human interactions with the natural world, for instance, or the spiritual significance of our inner lives, or the terrors and exhilaration of political and social activism. Romantic writing is durably relevant and, frequently, durably and interestingly weird. We will read a lot of poetry, and paintings and other examples of Romantic expressive culture will comprise a significant part of the course materials.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and three papers, the last being longer than the first two
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: English majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories B  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  ENVI Environmental Policy
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 332  (F)  Writing in the Margins: Race, Performance, Plagiarism  (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 332  COMP 358  THEA 332

Secondary Cross-listing

There is no such thing as an original play. So says playwright Chuck Mee. Someone else, certainly, said it before him. What does it mean to own a story? This seminar/studio course proceeds from a historical understanding that writing and performance are, and have always been, practices of plagiarism. We begin by looking at how bodies, thoughts, and words come to be understood as ownable property in the modern era, and how that process of commodification is inextricably tied to colonialism and the production of race. How do performance and bodily practices trouble our ideas about individual ownership? We look to writers and other artists of color who have plundered “classic” texts and radically reclaimed the colonial canon. We will read intertextual works by Suzan-Lori Parks, Young Jean Lee, Salman Rushdie, Cherrie Moraga, and others. Taking these artists as inspiration, students will choose a text as source material and write in the margins of that text to create new, re-visioned work.

Requirements/Evaluation: a 5-page paper, a performance analysis, a short creative work, and a longer final creative work
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: if the class is overenrolled, students will submit a letter of interest in the class
Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
ENGL 333 (F) The Nineteenth-Century British Novel

Cross-listings: ENGL 333  WGSS 333

Primary Cross-listing

In nineteenth-century Britain, the novel took on the world. Shaking off its early disrepute, and taking advantage of growing literacy and innovations in production and distribution, it achieved in this period an unrivalled synthesis of mass appeal and aesthetic and social ambition. Its representational aspirations were breathtaking: attempting to comprehend in its pages the dizzying complexity of new social, political, and economic structures, as well as to delineate in finest detail the texture of individual lives and minds. In an age obsessed with the social, it engaged directly with the most compelling issues of the day, including industrialization and the gap between rich and poor, the role of women, nationalism and imperialism, and more broadly, the very nature of historical change itself. But it did so, for the most part, by telling fine-grained stories of ordinary men and women, people trying to make a living, worrying about their families and their neighbors, facing illness and death, and falling in--and sometimes out of--love. Since so many of these stories remain highly accessible works of popular culture, we will work hard to focus on what is strange and specific about the fiction of the nineteenth century, while also recognizing the roots of much that is modern in our own culture. We will also take seriously their social ambitions, looking especially at the ways they formulate, promote, and contest their readers' understanding of themselves as subjects and agents of an ongoing social history. Likely authors include Jane Austen, Walter Scott, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, and George Eliot.

Class Format: This class will be remote only, with two synchronous discussions of 50 min each per week and a mix of mini-lectures, brainstorming documents, etc. for the remaining 50 min/week.

Requirements/Evaluation: Heavy (but entertaining!) reading load. Flexible writing requirement includes options for short essays, weekly journal, creative work, and research paper. Students must complete 4 units of writing, with the research paper, if chosen, counting for two. There will be additional bits of informal writing, evaluated as part of the class contribution grade, such as participating in the production of a “brainstorming” doc on Google.

Prerequisites: 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature Exam, or 6 or 7 on Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality majors, Comparative Literature majors, seniors

Expected Class Size: 16

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 333 (D1) WGSS 333 (D2)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories B
In this seminar, we will take up the inheritance of the eighteenth-century fad in Europe for all things Oriental that followed the translation of *The Arabian Nights* into French in 1707. We will read the *Nights* alongside Edmund Burke’s and Immanuel Kant’s theories of the sublime and writings on the French Revolution in order to investigate the relationship between the real politics of Empire and the politics of imperial representation. Raced and gendered imaginaries will play a crucial role in our study. In aiming to understand how literature and art deal with the magisterial, the infinite, the unmapped, the horror, and the mystery of the sublime East, we will touch on important writers and artists in the long history and aftermath of European Orientalism from the eighteenth century to the present. Authors and artist include Daniel Defoe, Mary Wortley Montague, Eliza Fay, J.A.D. Ingres, Eugene Delacroix, Mary Shelley, William Beckford, Comte de Lautréamont, Edgar Allan Poe, Wilkie Collins, Richard Marsh, E.M. Forster, Jorge Luis Borges, and Salman Rushdie.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** one 2- to 3-page provocation paper to be revised into a formal essay of 5-6 pages following consultation; one final research paper of 10-12 pages on a topic developed out of the course materials

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** English and Comparative Literature majors

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 324 (D1) ENGL 334 (D1)

**Attributes:** ASAM Core Courses, ENGL Criticism Courses, ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

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**ENGL 335 (F) Moving Words, Wording Dance** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** DANC 302 ENGL 335

**Secondary Cross-listing**

How can we capture the "liveness" of dance and performance through writing? How can the spoken and written word promote a deeper understanding of felt emotions expressed through embodied practice? In this course, we will explore different modes of writing about performance such as fiction, ethnography, and performative writing. The course material will primarily focus on books by artist-scholars of color with the aim of engaging with both the politics of identity in performance and also the politics of texts and archives. Each of the texts we encounter will be paired with visual materials and/or virtual conversation with artist-scholars to encourage a multilayered experience with writing about performance. Besides engaging deeply with the selected monographs, we will practice skills related to writing creatively and analytically about movement-based performance. This class will be held remotely and will include a combination of tutorial-like small group meetings, periodic synchronous sessions, and asynchronous work such as Glow posts or recorded lectures. The course is reading and writing intensive, and oriented towards juniors, seniors, and those with deep interest in analytical and creative writing. Students will (i) read several monographs during the semester, (ii) participate in discussions about course materials, (iii) produce creative and critical writing (at least 5-6 pages every two weeks and a final cumulative assignment), and (iv) engage in the revision process of their own work and that of their peers based on feedback from the professor and from writing partners.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Each student will write three 5- to 6-page papers on which professor and peers will provide critical feedback on content, style, and grammar. Students will also revise the papers and meet with the professor to discuss the revision process. As the final assignment, students will select one of the three papers to develop into a longer essay, which will be 10-15 pages.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Junior and Seniors, and those with specific interest in performance, creative, and analytical writing. Prior dance or performance experience not required.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

DANC 302 (D1) ENGL 335 (D1)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Each student will write three 5- to 6-page papers on which the professor and peers will provide critical feedback on content,
style, and grammar. After each cycle of feedback, students will submit a revision, and will have an individual meeting with the professor to discuss the revision process and the revised paper. As the final assignment, students will select one of the three papers to develop into a longer essay, which will be 10-15 pages.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The monographs which anchor the course engage with the politics of identity as it manifests in both staged and in everyday performances. The introductory points of exploration and the objects of analysis in the course are bodies in motion. So, our inquiry throughout the semester will necessarily include how bodies “make meaning” in a network of power relationships within the context of historical associations to markers of race, class, gender, sexuality, and socially constructed differences.

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1  MR 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm  Munjulika Tarah

**ENGL 336 (F) Escape, Escapism, Escapology, and the Contemporary American Novel**

One prestigious set of contemporary American novels seems to confuse escape (evasion of real danger, such as Nazism or slavery), escapology (evasion of invented dangers, e.g. Houdini’s art), and escapism (failure to confront real dangers). Some of these books have hyperbolic titles (*The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*), as if to suggest escapist or escapological fantasies about political or existential dangers that require real escaping. What’s going on? We’ll discuss the conceptual difficulties of escaping in a globalized world; and in particular, we’ll discuss the resistance of contemporary American novelists to contemporary forms of messianism (or a place of return) and utopianism (or a place of departure). Besides the hyperbolically named texts, we will probably read Emma Donoghue’s *Room* and Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*. Film paradigms will probably include *The Sound of Music* and *Life is Beautiful*.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three formal papers and contribution to class discussions  
**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam  
**Enrollment Limit:** 25  
**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors, then sophomores considering the major  
**Expected Class Size:** 25  
**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option  
**Distributions:** (D1)  
**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C  
Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 338 (S) Literature of the American Renaissance**

**Cross-listings:** COMP 337  ENGL 338  AMST 338  
**Primary Cross-listing**

The decades leading up to the Civil War have often been described as the “American Renaissance” because of the breathtaking explosion of literary achievements in that period (including *Walden; Moby-Dick; The Scarlet Letter; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*; and the groundbreaking poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson). For the first time, American writers were broadly the equal or more of their European counterparts. We will explore the distinctive character of this achievement, paying close attention to the transformational power of language, and the promises it offered to refigure personal and political identity in a time when the American experiment approached the brink of collapse.

**Class Format:** discussion  
**Requirements/Evaluation:** in addition to actively participating in class, students will be required to submit very short reading entries on Glow, and to write two comparative essays (of 8 and 12 pages).  
**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on he Higher Level IB English exam  
**Enrollment Limit:** 25  
**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors; American Studies majors; Comparative Literature majors  
**Expected Class Size:** 20  
**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option  
**Distributions:** (D1)
ENGL 340 (S) Elizabeth Bishop in the Americas (DPE)

Primary Cross-listing

Elizabeth Bishop has emerged as one of the most important poets of the 20th century. She is admired not only for her dazzling mastery of the craft but also her adventurous life as a world traveler. Her more than two decades living in Brazil and translating the culture and literature of that country for a North American audience, for instance, make her life and work a rich focal point for cross-cultural study. At the center of the course will be Bishop's stunning meditations on childhood, memory, travel, lesbian sexuality, gender identity, ecology, and race and class in the U.S. and Brazil. We will look at how Bishop intertwinces personal and global historical encounters in order to raise serious ethical questions about our shared history of conquest and sense of place in the Americas from the 16th century to the Cold War period of the twentieth. What is ultimately at stake in our claiming of a "home"? We also read a number of the writers in North and South America who were closely connected to Bishop, from Robert Lowell and Ernest Hemingway in North America, to Pablo Neruda and Clarice Lispector in South America. Ultimately, we study how craft, poetic process, and an ethical eye on the world can open up the study of poetry and poetics in the 21st century.

Class Format: three hours per week, in addition to small group discussion and archival research

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers of 4-5 pages, one longer critical research paper of 10-12 pages, three to four discussion posts (300-500 words)

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English, Comparative Literature, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

ENGL 342 (S) Race and Feeling in Twentieth Century Literature

Cross-listings: AFR 345 ENGL 342

Primary Cross-listing

Although we now take for granted that race is socially constructed, the terrain of racial feeling is less certain. In this course, we recognize that states of feeling are also socially constructed; they are marked and shaped by race and other categories. Questions concerning the circulation of feeling between individuals and their generative possibilities have preoccupied sociologists, psychologists, and literary theorists since the mid-1990s, and we will take up where they left off. In this course, we will study the ways in which literary representations of shame in African American literature offer insight into the interior lives of individuals who have been stigmatized by histories of disempowerment, trauma, and the real or imagined racialized gaze. We will analyze the influence of shame in works by such authors as James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, Alice Walker, James Baldwin, Sherley Anne Williams, Phyllis J. Perry, Toni Morrison, and E. Lynn Harris, and we will engage the ways in which shame, and its correlative feelings --- guilt, pride, humiliation, and love --- emerge in texts through various formal and aesthetic choices. We will also engage such theorists as Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Sara Ahmed, Sianne Ngai, Heather Love, Danieleck Scott, Eving Goffman, and Melissa Harris-Perry to assist us in our inquiry into the
intersections of race, feeling, and literature.

Requirements/Evaluation:  active class participation, two short essays of scholarly commentary on critical theory, midterm exam, 8- to 10-page paper

Prerequisites:  a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit:  25

Expected Class Size:  25

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 345 (D2)  ENGL 342 (D1)

Attributes:  ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 343  (S)  Whitman and Dickinson in Context  (WS)

In this tutorial, we will read closely the works of two of the most influential and experimental poets in the nineteenth-century U.S., Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. In addition to studying in depth their poems and other writings--in Whitman's case, his essays, in Dickinson's, her letters--we will delve into some of the major debates surrounding their work, both individually and when compared to one another. For example, Whitman is often viewed as perhaps the most public nineteenth-century American poet, whereas Dickinson is regarded as perhaps the most "private." We will interrogate this assumption, exploring how each poet represents publicity and privacy in their work, as well as their efforts to "perform" and/or reform the American self. We will also examine how each poet engages questions of gender and sexuality, as well as contemporary debates surrounding such issues as abolition/slavery, women's suffrage, temperance, and territorial expansion. We will consider what role their whiteness plays in their poetry and personas. Finally, we will explore Whitman and Dickinson's relation to significant literary and philosophical movements of the period, including transcendentalism and the culture of sentiment. Throughout the course, emphasis will be on analyzing and generating interpretations of Whitman and Dickinson's works, constructing critical arguments in dialogue with other critics, formulating cogent written critiques, and carrying on an oral debate about a variety of interpretations. Students will meet with the instructor in pairs for an hour each week. They will alternate between writing 5- to 7-page papers and commentaries on their partner's papers.

Requirements/Evaluation:  five 5- to 7-page papers, final paper, oral presentation and critique

Prerequisites:  a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit:  10

Enrollment Preferences:  English majors

Expected Class Size:  10

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D1)  (WS)

Writing Skills Notes:  Students will write at least five 5-7 page papers, five responses to their partner's writing, and on-going commentary from the instructor on their writing skills.

Attributes:  AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 344  (S)  Aestheticism & Decadence

Cross-listings:  COMP 364  ENGL 344

Primary Cross-listing

"Fin de Siècle": Despair over a seemingly perilous decline in moral standards, scandalous forms of art and writing, anxieties brought on by Britain's uneasy relation to its colonies, and the emergence of new dissident sexual and social identities, led some to fear (and others to celebrate) that the ways of Victorian Britain were not long for this world at end of the 19th century. This course will consider two loosely affiliated artistic movements, aestheticism and decadence, as responses both scandalized and scandalizing to this exhilarating period. The terms themselves are elusive; so, much of our work will entail tracing out the multiple and often contradictory uses of them. Do they designate a distinct cultural and historical moment, a loose set of writers and artists, a set of thematic preoccupations? Or, might we better understand aestheticism and decadence as a style of writing, or even
of the self—one we are as likely to find in 21st-century New York as 19th-century London? We'll read writers such as Oscar Wilde, who reveled in amoral manifestos like "art for art's sake" by elevating artifice and shallowness to first principles of life; as well as Sherlock Holmes, who pursued something like "detection for detection's sake". Our reading will range across novels, plays, poetry, essays, and works that seem to exceed or fall short of those genres, all in the period that gave us both science fiction and the detective story. We'll be especially interested in attempts to rethink traditional social bonds in works that value solitude over sociality, the transient encounter over the enduring relationship, new forms of affective communities, and to think about how literary form might relate to those efforts. Along with fiction, essays, and drama, we'll explore their interrelation with the broad and compelling range of visual art produced in this period. Likely authors include: Huysmans, Wilde, H.G. Wells, Darwin, Conan Doyle, RL Stevenson, Kipling, Edith Wharton.

Requirements/Evaluation: two papers (one shorter, one longer), a series of shorter response papers, regular and substantial contributions to class discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 364 (D1) ENGL 344 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 345 (S) Shakespeare on Page, Stage and Screen: Text to Performance (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 345 THEA 340 COMP 343

Secondary Cross-listing

Four centuries on, Shakespeare still challenges us. How should we weigh the respective claims of our own era's concerns--with matters of gender, sexuality, race, class, or materiality, for instance--against historicist attention to the cultural, political and theatrical circumstances in which his plays were actually written? And when it comes to realizing the text in dramatic performance, such challenges--and opportunities--multiply further. Critical fidelity to Shakespeare's times, language and theatrical milieu prioritizes a historical authenticity that can be constraining or even sterilizing, while, at the other extreme, staging the plays with the primary aim of making them "speak to our times" risks revisionary absorption in our own interests. We will focus on six Shakespeare plays, from different genres and periods of his career: Romeo and Juliet, Henry V, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Antony and Cleopatra, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Proceeding with each from close reading of the text, we will attend to the demands and opportunities of both interpretation and performance, and assess a range of recent film and stage productions.

Requirements/Evaluation: Three long papers, reading responses or discussion board postings, class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Theatre and English majors, and prospective majors

Expected Class Size: 16

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 345 (D1) THEA 340 COMP 343 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Three papers rising from 4 to 6+ pages, and either regular discussion board postings or four short response paper. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement, and there will be opportunities for revision of submitted papers.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Spring 2021
ENGL 347 (S) Big Game: Adventure, Empire, Ecology (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 347 COMP 387 ENVI 347

Primary Cross-listing

Big Game: Adventure, Empire, Ecology asks how the era of imperial expansion and the study of "natural history" leads into our contemporary ecological crisis. We will begin with readings of influential colonial travel and adventure narratives like Robinson Crusoe, the captivity narrative of Mary Rowlandson, sections of Darwin and Captain Cook's travel journals, and in-class work with archival materials like the Indian Botanical Survey Flora and the photographs of Subhankar Banerjee. In the first weeks, we will consider how the aesthetics of adventure circulated throughout the British empire in both the East Indies and India, and ramifies elsewhere in the Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Belgian holdings. We will conclude with a suite of readings through which we will attempt to locate a productive intersection between ecocriticism and postcolonial studies, drawing together sensationalist disaster journalism with environmental activism emerging from the Global South. This course will be especially of interest to students in English, Comparative Literature, and Environmental Studies.

Requirements/Evaluation: presentation, short paper and revision, final research project

Prerequisites: one lower-division literature or related course

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: students with related course experience

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 347 (D1) COMP 387 (D1) ENVI 347 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will consider the relationship between the practice of the natural sciences (including the human sciences) and imperial power. We will read texts both from and against the aesthetics of empire. The DPE contribution will carry the course from philosophy and nature writing to literature and visual art.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories B ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 349 (S) Contemporary Theatre and Performance

Cross-listings: COMP 355 ENGL 349 THEA 345

Secondary Cross-listing

As Gertrude Stein once remarked, "The hardest thing is to know one's present moment." What is going on in the world of theatre and performance today? What are the hot topics in our current artistic landscape? Who are the writers, performers, and directors of the past two decades? This seminar will consider both experimental and mainstream drama and performance from the twenty-first century, focusing on topics such as: post-dramatic theatre, devised performance, social practice, participatory and immersive theatre, hyper-naturalism, post-identity performance, and weird theatre. Artists and collectives to be considered may include: Suzan-Lori Parks, Will Eno, Richard Maxwell and the NYC Players, Young Jean Lee, Annie Baker, Lucas Hnath, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Quiara Alegría Hudes, Anne Washburn, Taylor Mac, Lynn Nottage, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Miguel Gutierrez, Elevator Repair Service, The Wooster Group, and Nature Theatre of Oklahoma. As a final project, students will work individually or in small groups to create a script or short performance that addresses the question: "What is the most important story to be telling through performance right now?" Students may be required to attend theatre, dance, and other performances at the '62 Center and beyond.

Requirements/Evaluation: written and dramaturgical-based assignments, an oral presentation, a mid-term paper, in-class discussions, and a final paper or performance

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Theatre majors; Comparative Literature or English majors

Expected Class Size: 8-10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
ENGL 350 (S) Modern Poetry
A study of British and American poetry between 1890 and 1945, centering on the radical aesthetic, formal and political shifts which took place during the Modernist era. We will consider the changing authorial and public perceptions of the place and function of poetry during the period, the cross-pollinations and strains between the British and American literary traditions, and the writers' individual relationships with the culture of their times. Readings will focus primarily on the poetry of W.B. Yeats, Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Marianne Moore, Wallace Stevens and W.H. Auden.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two 6-page papers, either four reading responses or regular discussion board postings, and class participation.
Prerequisites: A 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: English and Comparative Literature majors
Expected Class Size: 16
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

ENGL 351 (S) After Nature: Writing About Science and The Environment
Cross-listings: ENGL 351 ENVI 352
Secondary Cross-listing
Over the last few decades, the nature of nature has changed and so, by necessity, has nature writing. In this course we will read some of the classic works of nature writing as well as essays and articles by contemporary authors. The emphasis will be on producing our own work. The class will include workshop sessions and group discussions. There will be frequent short exercises and a long final project.
Prerequisites: ENVI 101 or 102 suggested
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Attributes: ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

ENGL 352 (S) Digging in the Crates: Making and Unmaking Literary Tradition
Cross-listings: ENGL 352 AFR 353
Primary Cross-listing
This interdisciplinary seminar focuses on matters of style in literature, art, and music in order to explore and subsequently reimagine how relationships between texts form literary traditions. Instead of assuming what a literary tradition is, and without prioritizing a teleological chronology of literary
influence as literary traditions tend to do, we will study work ranging from antiquity to the present, anachronistically and in tandem, in order to better understand how the past speaks to the present and how the present speaks to the past. As a general, if imperfect, rule of thumb we will be working regularly with pairs of texts, one from prior to 1800 and another from after 1800: for example, a Toni Morrison novel with a Homeric epic, the work of Jamaica Kincaid with John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, or the poetry of John Donne with the lyrics of the Wu Tang Clan.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Students will be expected to write a number of one-pages response papers during the semester, two papers in the range of 5-8 pages each, and a final paper of 8-10 pages.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** In the case of overenrollment, preference will be given to English majors and Africana Studies concentrators.

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ENGL 352 (D1) AFR 353 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course will focus on the educational system as a means of reproducing hierarchies and inequality.

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories A  ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01  TBA  Rowan Ricardo Phillips

**ENGL 353 (S) The Brontës**

**Cross-listings:** ENGL 353  WGSS 353

**Primary Cross-listing**

Around 1845, three sisters in a remote town in Yorkshire effectively converted their father's humble parsonage into a family writers' colony. In 1846, each published her first novel--two of which would go on to become major classics. Within 8 years, all three sisters were dead, but by then they had produced seven of the most formally innovative, socially challenging, original and powerful works in English fiction. We will read them all, from Charlotte's best-selling love story, Jane Eyre, to the underrated Anne's brilliant and disturbing anatomy of an abusive marriage, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, to Emily's singular masterpiece Wuthering Heights, as well as their poetry and selections from the voluminous fantasy fiction they created together as children. We will also read Elizabeth Gaskell's acclaimed 1857 Life of Charlotte Bronte, the first full-length biography of a woman novelist by a woman novelist, which began the process of making the Brontës the cult figures they remain today. Reading these works together in the bicentennial year of Anne's birth, we will consider how their shared efforts helped all three sisters to push through boundaries few other women writers had dared to challenge. In a similar spirit of collaboration, we will mix critical and creative writing in our responses to these works.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** discussion, two critical essays and two short creative pieces

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors, WGSS majors, seniors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ENGL 353 (D1) WGSS 353 (D2)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories B

**Not offered current academic year**

**ENGL 354 (F) Contemporary American Fiction**

This course centers on American fiction from a late phase of postmodernism: we take for granted that history is a form of literature, and that race,
gender, and self are constructions. Now what? The premise of the authors of this course is that we can return from these assumptions to write about history, race, gender, and the self in self-conscious but not debilitatingly self-conscious ways. Novels likely to be in the course that move from self or autobiography outwards: Dave Eggers, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*; Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; Ben Lerner, *10:04*; Emma Donoghue, *Room*. Novels likely to be included that work from history inward: Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*; George Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. A novel likely to be included that is poised between self and history: Jesmyn Ward, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*.

**Class Format:** The course will be entirely remote by Zoom.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Three papers, totaling about 15 pages. Participation in class discussions will be reflected in the final grade.

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors; American Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C
Cross-listings: ENGL 357  AFR 351  AMST 359

Secondary Cross-listing

When Beyoncé unveiled the *Lemonade* visual album in 2016, her production captured the artistic spirit and gave new life to an earlier work: Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust* (1991), a luminous film about three generations of the Gullah people and the first motion picture by a Black woman to obtain wide theatrical release in the United States. Many, however, are unaware of the decades-long cinematic movement to which Dash belongs. In this course, we will devote our critical inquiry to the creative output of the L.A. Rebellion, a group of Black cinematic artists trained at the UCLA Film and Television School between the 1960s and 1990s. Our visual journey will take us through a diverse set of filmmakers like Charles Burnett, Ben Caldwell, Barbara McCullough, Julie Dash, Zeinabu irrene Davis, Haile Gerima, Allie Sharon Larkin, Billy Woodberry, among many, many others, and how they sought to not only redefine the Black image on-screen but also reimagine the infinite possibilities of Blackness. We will pay close attention to the heterogeneity of genres, styles, and techniques that they put into practice from narrative to neorealism to avant-garde/experimental to African and African American musical and storytelling traditions. We will explore the various social and political issues that were represented by their films including: racial and class oppression, Black feminisms, Black Power, Afrocentrism, anti-colonialism and decolonization, police brutality and mass incarceration, radical social movements and coalition building, and the importance of community-based art and film practices. Finally, we will touch upon some of the recent works that have been inspired by the L.A. Rebellion, including the aforementioned *Lemonade* and Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight* (2016). Our viewership will be supplemented with readings in Black social and cultural criticism.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly online journal responses (1-2 pages); midterm essay (5-7 pages); final project

Prerequisites: AMST 101 and/or 301, critical studies in race and ethnicity or cultural studies, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 357 (D1) AFR 351 (D2) AMST 359 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course contributes to the Difference, Power, and Equity designation by examining the social, political, cultural, and historical forces that contribute to Black cinematic representation.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1  MR 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm  Anthony Y. Kim

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01  TBA  Anthony Y. Kim

ENGL 358  (S) The Myth of Venice and its Modern Aftermath

Cross-listings: COMP 356  ENGL 358  GBST 356

Secondary Cross-listing

The Republic of Venice existed for over a millennium, during which time its historical image came to be enmeshed with mythical representations, such as the image of the city rising out of the waters of the lagoon, or the personification of the city itself as a Queen of the Adriatic. This course begins in the year 1797, at the end of the Republic, and the emergence of an extensive body of literature centered on Venice and its mythical facets. Readings will include Romantic views of Venice and the 20th century reshaping of the literary myth surrounding the city. A journey into this fascinating tradition will shed light on how the literary and visual representation of Venice, rather than the focus on a nostalgic evocation of the death of the Republic, became a premise of exploration for literary modernity. Toward the end of the course we will leave the lagoon to explore the postmodern recreations of Venice around the world (from Los Angeles and Las Vegas, to Macao, Yongin, and beyond) Readings will include excerpts from Byron's *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, John Ruskin's *Stones of Venice*, as well as full readings of Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*, Marinetti's Futurist manifestos, Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, and more. We will also examine movies, such as Luchino Visconti's *Senso* and *Death in Venice* and Nicholas Roeg's *Don't Look Now*. This course is offered in English; all texts are provided in translation.

Requirements/Evaluation: mini-papers, one individual presentation, mini-presentations, midterm, participation, final project

Prerequisites: familiarity with modern aesthetics such as romanticism, modernism and postmodernism is desirable
ENGL 360  (S)  James Joyce's "Ulysses"

This course will explore in depth the demanding and exhilarating work widely regarded as the most important novel of the twentieth century, James Joyce's *Ulysses*, which both dismantled the traditional novel and revitalized the genre by opening up new possibilities for fiction. We will discuss the ways in which compelling issues of character and theme (e.g., questions of heroism and betrayal, sexuality and the politics of gender, civic engagement and artistic isolation, British imperialism and Irish nationalism) are placed in counterpoint with patterns drawn from myth, theology, philosophy, and other literature, and will consider the convergence of such themes in an unorthodox form of comedy. In assessing *Ulysses* as the outstanding paradigm of modernist fiction, we will be equally attentive to its radical and often funny innovations of structure, style, and narrative perspective. In addition to Joyce's novel, readings will include its epic precursor, Homer's *Odyssey*, as well as critical essays. Students unfamiliar with Joyce's short novel *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, which introduces characters later followed in *Ulysses*, are urged to read it in advance of the course.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active participation in class discussions, several group reports, a midterm exam, a 5-page paper, and an 8- to 10-page paper

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 361  (F)  Nabokov and Pynchon

After a brief comparative study of their short stories, the course will focus on selected novels by each author. Texts include: *Pnin, Lolita, and Pale Fire* by Nabokov; and, by Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*, and *Gravity's Rainbow* (to which a substantial portion of the latter part of the course will be devoted).

**Requirements/Evaluation:** midterm and final papers (roughly 15-18 pages total), and a take-home final exam

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors, not open to first-year students

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 363  (S)  Literature and Psychoanalysis
Cross-listings: COMP 340  ENGL 363

Secondary Cross-listing

The British psychoanalyst D. W. Winnicott once wrote: "It is a joy to be hidden, and a disaster not to be found." This course will explore the many ways in which writing enacts this paradox, examining in the process several main strands of psychoanalytic thought in relation to literature that precedes, accompanies, and follows it in history. Approximately the first three-fourths of the course will involve close readings of theoretical and literary texts, which will be shared in a seminar format. In the latter portion of the course, students will work with each other and with the instructor on analyzing the processes of reading and writing as they produce original psychoanalytic readings of texts of their choice. *All readings in English.*

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: active engagement with the material and with each other, plus two 5-7-page papers, one 8-10-page paper, and a symposium presentation

Prerequisites: one previous course in either COMP or ENGL, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 340 (D1) ENGL 363 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

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ENGL 364 (F) Boucicault to McDonagh: Irish Theatre, 1870 to the present

Cross-listings: THEA 336  ENGL 364  COMP 360

Secondary Cross-listing

A survey of Irish drama since 1870, to include plays by Dion Boucicault, Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, J.M. Synge, Lady Gregory, George Bernard Shaw, Douglas Hyde, Sean O'Casey, Samuel Beckett, Brendan Behan, Brian Friel, Marina Carr, Frank McGuinness, Conor McPherson, and Martin McDonagh.

Requirements/Evaluation: 18+ pages of writing, class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Theatre majors, English and Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

THEA 336 (D1) ENGL 364 (D1) COMP 360 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

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ENGL 365 (S) Wonderland(s): *Alice in Translation*

Cross-listings: ENGL 365  COMP 345  GBST 345

Secondary Cross-listing

"What do you mean by that?" said the Caterpillar, sternly. "Explain yourself!" "I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, Sir," said Alice, "because I'm not myself, you see?" The confusion around personal identity, which Alice is seen to experience as she makes her way through Wonderland, can be examined productively as an allegory of translation. Beyond experiencing the developmental and socio-cultural transitions of a child, what happens to *Alice*, a seminal text in children's literature, when it travels down the rabbit hole to a new linguistic wonderland? For starters, the seven-year-old girl becomes Marie in Danish, Arihi in Maori, Ai-chan in Japanese, and Paapachchi in Kannada. Then there are the highly idiosyncratic humor, word play,
embedded English nursery rhymes, and iconic illustrations by Tenniel. How do they fare in new linguistic, cultural, and even genre contexts? Lewis Carroll told his publisher in 1866: "Friends here seem to think the book is untranslatable." And yet. Over 200 translations later, including Kazakh, Shona, Papiamento, Braille, and Emoji, Alice continues to delight children and adults all over the world and to pose myriad challenges as well as opportunities for translators. This course will serve as an introduction to the theory and practice of translation using Carroll's Alice as an anchoring primary text. We will examine key disciplinary issues and concepts, such as equivalence, rewriting, fidelity, and ethics, and challenge the old canard that translation leads ineluctably, and exclusively, to loss.

Class Format: some Friday workshops

Requirements/Evaluation: active and substantive class participation; leading discussion; frequent short writing assignments and exercises; final project

Prerequisites: students must have at least three years of college-level second-language instruction, or the equivalent (advanced proficiency), or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: COMP majors; language majors; language students

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 365 (D1) COMP 345 (D1) GBST 345 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 366 (F) Modern British Fiction

This course focuses on British novels from the early decades of the twentieth century. We will study the emergence of innovative stylistic and narrative forms characteristic of modernism, and consider the ways in which such innovations shape the works' exploration of questions of psychology and sexuality, moral integrity and betrayal, epistemology and aesthetics, race and empire. Readings will include such works as Ford's The Good Soldier, James's The Ambassadors, Conrad's Heart of Darkness, Forster's A Passage to India, and Woolf's To the Lighthouse.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular class participation, two 8- to 10-page papers

Prerequisites: a 100-level English course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 367 (F) Documentary Fictions

Cross-listings: ARTH 367 ENGL 367

Primary Cross-listing

The first movies excited viewers not by telling stories, but by reproducing the world: a dancer's billowing skirts, the sight of Niagara Falls, the arrival of a train at the station--such vignettes felt viscerally real. Our fascination with documentaries derives, in large part, from the way seemingly transparent images are woven into narratives full of hidden assumptions. Every viewer of the Zapruder film sees the same thing: President Kennedy, struck by a bullet, lurches forward. But what that might mean--whether it points toward a lone gunman or a conspiracy, toward the Soviet Union or the CIA--still remains uncertain. We'll explore the tensions between image and story, evidence and context, in films ranging from Fred Ott's "Sneeze" (1894) to Josh Oppenheimer's The Act of Killing (2012), concluding with a look at the effects of contemporary image technologies on our sense of personal and national identity. Readings for the course will be drawn from narrative theory, epistemology, and cultural theory, as framed by writers including Trinh Minh-ha, Christian Metz, and Bill Nichols.
ENGL 368 (S) Ireland in Film

In 1909, James Joyce was briefly the manager of one of Dublin's first cinemas. The medium of film has long attracted Irish writers: as a means to explore and represent the country's political and cultural history, to interrogate the very notion of "Irishness", and to promote their work to a wider audience. In turn, Ireland has long provided a rich subject for Hollywood fantasy, often being portrayed by non-Irish directors as either a mythic space for emerald-green romanticism, or, more darkly, as a place of political terror and enduring ideological rivalries. In this course we will view and discuss major films from the canon of Irish cinema, to assess the country's newly ascendant film movement. We will consider the impact of commercial considerations, and the powerful influence of British and American films (and especially those offering competing representations of Ireland), on Irish filmmakers. We will also read the literary texts on which some films were based, so as to weigh the strengths and limitations of the medium as a resource for writers who initially worked only in print. This course will introduce participants to the technical vocabulary of film art, as well as to major developments in modern Irish history and culture. Films to be viewed will likely include: Man of Aran, The Informer, The Quiet Man, Eat the Peach, In the Name of the Father, Butcher Boy, Intermission, Into the West, The Field, The Crying Game, December Bride, The Commitments, Michael Collins, Ondine, Six Shooter, In Bruges and The Guard; and we will also assess one or more short independent films such as Budawanny and Adam and Paul. Special attention will be given to the work of Neil Jordan, Jim Sheridan, Terry George, and Martin McDonagh.

Requirements/Evaluation: two long papers, four 1- to 2-page shorter responses, class participation

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam; not open to first-year students

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARTH 367 (D1) ENGL 367 (D1)

Attributes: FMST Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 369 (S) American Poetry

This course is devoted to studying the work of key figures in American poetry, from Whitman and Dickinson to writers of our own moment, attentive to the social, historical, and aesthetic pressures that shape their work. We will read widely in the major poetic traditions, from Modernism, Objectivism, and the Harlem Renaissance through the mid-century work of the New York School, Beats, Black Arts, Confessional, and Language poets. We'll also keep a close eye on the contemporary scene, in part through interactions with visiting poets. We'll read a few writers deeply, tracing both their inheritances and also the ways they "make it new," in Pound's phrase, and asking what these innovations disclose about the formal, political, and experiential possibilities of poetry as a cultural form in the long "American century."

Requirements/Evaluation: engaged participation; one 5- to 7-page paper and one final 12- to 15-page paper

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam,
or consent of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English Majors using the course to fulfill a requirement

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 370 (S) Literary and Critical Theory in the Twentieth Century

Cross-listings: COMP 380 ENGL 370

Secondary Cross-listing

From the rise of modern literary criticism around 1900 to the explosion of high theory in the 1980s and 1990s, the twentieth century witnessed an international flowering of new ideas about how to interpret art and literature: Russian Formalism, American New Criticism, French Structuralism and Deconstruction, and a welter of post-prefixed concepts that claim to transcend national boundaries: the poststructural, the postmodern, the postcolonial, the posthuman. What are the ideas associated with these different movements, and how are they connected? Does each represent a radical break with previous ways of reading, or do they actually build on one another and evolve in a systematic way? And given the entanglement between criticism and teaching, which are the theories that seem to define the work we do (and want to do) here at Williams? This course will focus on a very careful reading of essays representing major 20th-century critical schools (and a couple of their earlier precursors), by critics like Plato, Schiller, Shklovsky, Richards, Barthes, Derrida, de Man, Beauvoir, Butler, and Said. Written assignments will encourage you to parse these theories carefully and apply them to the literary texts that most interest you: prose or poetry from any time and place; film, visual art, or architecture; music, new media, or digital media, etc.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and active participation, several short response assignments, final project consisting of a scripted oral presentation and a 15-page final paper

Prerequisites: at least one previous literature or theory course

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 380 (D1) ENGL 370 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01 TBA Christopher A. Bolton

ENGL 371 (S) The Brothers Karamazov

Cross-listings: COMP 331 ENGL 371 RUSS 331

Secondary Cross-listing

Widely hailed as one of the greatest novels ever written, Dostoevsky's The Brothers Karamazov contains a series of enigmas, not the least of which is precisely who murdered the Karamazov father. In addition to exploring the shared guilt of all four of the brothers Karamazov in the crime of patricide, Dostoevsky poses the most probing questions of his day: Are families tied together merely by blood or by deeper spiritual bonds? Is religious faith possible in an age of reason, science, and technology? Can man's earthly laws ever carry out divine justice? Is humanity prepared to bear the burden of responsibility that comes with freedom? This tutorial will spend an entire semester exploring Dostoevsky's masterwork, and we will read a variety of secondary sources alongside The Brothers Karamazov, including history, philosophy, and literary theory. Our goal will be to understand Dostoevsky's answers to these so-called "accursed questions" through the unique artistic form of The Brothers Karamazov.
ENGL 372  (F)  Documentary Poetry

One of the most vibrant trends in contemporary writing, documentary poetry draws on various kinds of source materials in the creation of innovative forms. This course will be a joint adventure in the reception and production of such projects, and is designed for anyone interested in the intersections of archival research and creative writing. Part of our work will be to historicize and theorize this mode of literary making, which emerges out of Modernist experiments in polyvocality, collage, and what Ezra Pound termed the "poem including history." We will begin the semester by looking at Muriel Rukeyser's 1938 poetic sequence, "The Book of the Dead," which exposes the complicity of Union Carbide in the silicosis contracted by the miners who dug the Hawk's Nest Tunnel in Gauley Bridge, West Virginia. Rukeyser wrote of her desire for a "poetry [that] can extend the document"; our subsequent readings in this course will look to a number of contemporary book-length projects that do just that. Our documentary models--by such writers as Heimrad Bäcker, Anne Carson, Layli Long Soldier, Don Mee Choi, M. NourbSe Philip, Mark Nowak, and Claudia Rankine--treat a wide range of subjects, yet all share both an investigative approach and a commitment to thinking about the way individual lives are shaped by larger social and historical structures. Generically, these works make use of the strategies of poetry, but also frequently incorporate essay, narrative, and image to create distinctly mixed forms. Students likewise will choose topics to investigate over the term, conducting original archival research and thinking inductively through the material toward a final project that will be shared with the public on our course website.

Class Format: While this class will be taught remotely, it promises to be a space of intimate engagement and creative growth. We will prioritize synchronous learning, whether online or perhaps in person, outside, while the weather is warm. Each week, we will read and discuss one of the assigned texts; throughout the semester, you'll also be working on your evolving projects, which we will workshop in small groups and in individual conferences.

Requirements/Evaluation: This class asks students to engage deeply with the assigned books, to do significant original research on a topic of their choosing, and to work creatively to bring that research to life. Frequent short writing assignments will assure students' understanding of the readings, as well as help them to pace themselves in the making of their own documentary projects. The semester will culminate with the workshop, revision, and publishing of students' final projects.

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Preregistered students; if overenrolled, preference will be given to English majors.
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives  ENGL Literary Histories C

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1  MR 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm   Jessica M. Fisher

ENGL 373  (S)  Troubled Spirits
"Trouble" and "spirit" are both words with various and contrasting meanings and surprising overlaps. To be troubled is one thing, to be in trouble can mean several quite different things. Spirit began as breath, yet it transcended breathing. Hoping to soothe and grasp the troubled spirits of their own moment, writers and shamans often seek to conjure up spirits from the past. Some wish to exorcise those spirits, others to be haunted by them. This course will examine the manifestations of troubled spirits in works by American writers, especially African and Native Americans and white Southerners. The authors will include Edgar Allan Poe, William Faulkner, Toni Morrison, Leslie Marmon Silko, N. Scott Momaday, H. P. Lovecraft, Joy Harjo, Alice Walker, Toni Cade Bambara, and Randall Keenan.

Requirements/Evaluation: two or three short papers and a longer final paper of about fifteen pages

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 374 (S) Mysticism: Vision, Writing, History (WS)

Cross-listings: REL 374 COMP 352 ENGL 374

Primary Cross-listing

The promise of God's real presence in the world lies at the heart of Christianity as a messianic and scriptural faith. But mystics, who seek out and bear witness to their own experiences of the divine, have often been viewed with suspicion by church and state authorities. At stake in these confrontations between orthodoxy and the individual witness are questions of knowledge and power. To whom does God speak, who speaks for God, and how can anyone, whether mystic or priest, be certain? We will learn how these questions have inflected certain passages in the history of Christian belief and practice: the flourishing culture of mystical writing by medieval women, the efforts of some Protestant sects to distribute authority more horizontally, and early modern philosophers' criticisms of prophecy and fanaticism. But our deepest concerns will be literary and aesthetic. What modes of writing did mystics use to express what was, in fact, inexpressible? What role did visual art play in visionary experience? And how has mysticism influenced the work two of the twentieth century's most significant theorists of language, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Jacques Derrida?

Requirements/Evaluation: biweekly 5-page papers, biweekly 2-page response papers, thoughtful participation in class discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: English majors and those intending to major in English

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 374 (D2) COMP 352 (D1) ENGL 374 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: This course will develop students' writing skills through biweekly 5-page analytical papers and biweekly 2-page response papers. Written feedback will be provided by the instructor and by the tutorial partner. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 375 (S) Black Masculinities (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 350 ENGL 375 AFR 331 WGSS 318

Secondary Cross-listing

In this seminar, we will study the evolution of Black masculinities through cultural, social, and political movements from 20th century to the present. This course engages Black feminist thought, Black masculinities studies, queer theory and performance studies. We will examine the relationship and constitutive nature of masculinity and femininity. By examining representations and presentations of Black masculinities, we will pursue questions such as: How is blackness always already gendered? How is gender always already racialized? What are the effects of these gendering and racializing
practices on Black bodies, spaces, and places? How has dominant society attempted to define Black masculinity? In what ways have Black people undermined these narratives and redefined themselves? How do racial stereotypes about Black men’s sexuality inform representations of Black masculinities? What is the future of Black Gender? We will trouble the relationship between manhood and masculinity by examining the ways in which masculinity can move across various kinds of bodies. In addition to reading critical and creative texts, we will view films and engage other kinds of media. Students will be responsible for 2 short papers and a final project.

Requirements/Evaluation: students will be responsible for 2 short papers and a final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: WGSS Majors will get preference, then Juniors and Seniors
Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 350 (D2) ENGL 375 (D2) AFR 331 (D2) WGSS 318 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course engages content and materials that explore various forms of difference, power, and equity, along with facilitating the development of skills that will help students address the implications of said forms. This course considers current examples and historical examples of Black masculinity. This course fosters difficult conversations about how difference works and has worked, how identities and power relationships have been grounded in lived experience.

Attributes: WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses WGSS Theory Courses
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 376 (F) Landscapes in American Literature
Cross-listings: ENGL 376 AMST 376 STS 377

Primary Cross-listing
This course examines representations of American landscapes in selected texts from the British colonial era to the present. Critical approaches will include narrative theory, formalism, eco-criticism, and science and technology studies. The central questions are: (1) How do authors adapt narrative and poetic forms to the representation of particular landscapes? (2) How do literary landscape representations change when new technologies arise for traversing and transforming them? (3) What effects can literary landscapes have on the landscapes we live in? Landscapes include settlements, cities, wildernesses, “frontiers,” suburbia, and infrastructural scenes. Relevant technologies include the postal service, the railroad, the telegraph and telephone, the automobile, commercial aviation, and Skype. Texts may include: letters of Columbus, American Indian creation stories, early American religious texts, captivity narratives, slave narratives, and poems, short stories, and novels from the 17th to the 21st centuries, as different from one another as Dickinson's "Nature-sometimes sears a Sapling-" and Annie Proulx's Brokeback Mountain.

Requirements/Evaluation: discussion participation; five brief response papers (~2 pages); a mid-semester essay (~5 pages); a final essay (12- to 15-pages)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 376 (D1) AMST 376 (D1) STS 377 (D2)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 377 (F) Legacies of the Gothic Novel: Feminism and Horror in the Transatlantic World (DPE)
Cross-listings: WGSS 377 ENGL 377 COMP 377

Primary Cross-listing
Much maligned as a popular or "low" genre at its inception in the late eighteenth century, the gothic form has persisted in its popularity as well as crossed into "higher" forms of modernism, postmodernism, and postcolonialism. In this course, we will read key texts in the gothic mode—Frankenstein, Jane Eyre, and Wuthering Heights among others—and follow the ways in which they are revisited and rewritten by contemporary American and Caribbean writers, filmmakers, and artists. Particularly, we will examine how these texts subvert the realist leanings of Anglo-American narrative fiction and its assumptions of enlightenment rationalism by way of two main processes: narrative hypertrophy and feminist revisions of horror. The class will take up select contemporary criticism on the gothic and horror in literature, film, and art. This course will be of interest to students curious about feminism, postcolonialism, cultural criticism, horror, and comparative literature.

Requirements/Evaluation: presentation, paper plus revision, final research project

Prerequisites: one literature or related course

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: any student with relevant coursework in ENGL, COMP, or WGSS

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 377 (D1) ENGL 377 (D1) COMP 377 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course will follow the path of radical thinking and generic experimentation by feminist writers of the nineteenth century as they transform in an anti colonial, anti racist, and anti misogynist contexts. We will study power, hegemony, and resistance along axes of gender, race, state form, and literary craft.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 378 (F) Nature/Writing

Cross-listings: ENGL 378 ENVI 378

Primary Cross-listing

What do we mean by "nature"? How do we understand the relationships between "nature" and "culture"? In this course we will examine how various American writers have attempted to render conceptions of "nature" in literary form. We will compare treatments of various kinds of natural environments and trace the philosophical and stylistic traditions within the nature writing genre. The authors to be considered include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, William Faulkner, Annie Dillard, Barry Lopez, Ursula LeGuin, and Wendell Berry.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: two 10-page papers, regular class attendance, and participation in discussions

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors and Environmental Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 378 (D1) ENVI 378 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 379 (S) Writing Art

This course is conceived primarily as an experiential adventure in creative forms of art writing. We'll read several recent examples of such work (from writers including John Ashbery, Roland Barthes, John Berger, Teju Cole, Jorie Graham, Robin Coste Lewis, and Ali Smith) to get a sense of the range of approaches, from the ekphrastic poem to the essay to the novel, alive today; and we will spend considerable time in local museums, engaging
intimately with works of art through various writing prompts, as you create your own creative responses to visual art. Along the way, we will work to
decorate and theorize the relation between the verbal and visual arts, and to ask what looking at art brings to creative writing, as well as the ways
creative writing might extend or alter the work of art history.

Requirements/Evaluation: engaged participation; successful completion of assignments; demonstrated commitment and quality of the work, as
evolved by a final portfolio of revised writing.

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam,
or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Undergraduate majors in English or Art and graduate students in Art.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01 TBA Jessica M. Fisher

ENGL 380 (S) The Art of Modern Crisis

The first half of the twentieth century was marked by extraordinary social and political upheaval. The same era witnessed a feverishly creative
revolution in the nature and the strategies of artistic representation. In this course we will examine what these two kinds of crisis have to do with one
another: how a wide range of startling innovations in literary and cinematic art may be seen as responses to the particular pressures of the historical
crises they represent. Focusing on instances from Britain, Europe, America, India, and/or Africa, we will study such diverse historical crises as the
wave of anarchist terrorism around the turn of the century; the Bolshevik revolution; the woman¿s suffrage movement; World Wars I and II; the Indian
independence movement led by Gandhi; and the Cold War. Novels and films will be studied for their distinctive, often dazzling aesthetic strategies for
representing such crises, and will be chosen from works by such authors as Joseph Conrad, Andrei Bely, Sergei Eisenstein, Ford Madox Ford,

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussions, two 7-page papers, and a final exam

Prerequisites: a 100-level English course, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in English Literature or a 6 or 7 on the
International Baccalaureate

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 381 (F) Freedom Dreams, Afro-Futures & Visionary Fictions

Cross-listings: AFR 380 SCST 380 WGSS 380 AMST 380 ENGL 381 STS 380

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will examine the various ways Black scholars, artists, & writers use science fiction and visionary fiction to imagine freedom and new
world orders. We will focus on the role of history, particularly slavery, in the Black radical imagination. "Freedom" is the keyword throughout the
course. We will grapple with the various and sometimes conflicting meanings and uses of freedom as it relates to blackness, gender, sexuality, class
and ability. We will explore multiple forms of scholarship and cultural productions, including film, music, novels, short-stories, art, poetry, and other
academic texts. All students will be asked to discover and develop their writerly voices through various critical, creative, experimental and performative
assignments.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation, completion of various short assignments, one 5-page paper and one 7- to 10-page final paper
ENGL 382 (S) Advanced Workshop in Poetry

As an advanced poetry workshop and reading seminar, this class assumes that its members are already practicing poets with a grounding in the foundational techniques of poetry-writing. We will work in a spirit of shared experiment, pushing our inquiries into this art form further and developing a community of writers engaged in collaborations on and off the page. Readings and assignments will investigate different impulses—formal, textural, tonal, thematic—in poetry across time. I will ask you to inhabit, query, stretch, and even resist these impulses as you develop your own poems. My hope is that through sustained interaction and collaboration with each other, your writing will undergo a variety of productive evolutions.

Class Format: This workshop will include weekly readings and writing assignments, frequent improvisations and collaborations, and the attendance of several arts events.

Requirements/Evaluation: engaged participation; successful completion of assignments; demonstrated commitment and substantial improvement, as evidenced by a final portfolio of revised poems.

Prerequisites: ENGL 281 or permission of instructor

ENGL 383 (S) Advanced Fiction

A further consideration of the complexities and possibilities involved in the writing of short fiction. Exercises, short assignments, and discussion of published fiction will be combined with workshops of student stories and individual conferences with the instructor.

Requirements/Evaluation: 30 pages of fiction and six exercises

Prerequisites: ENGL 283 or 385 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: should the course over-enroll selection will be made on the basis of writing samples

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Not offered current academic year
ENGL 384 (S) Advanced Fiction Workshop
A further consideration of the complexities and possibilities involved in the writing of short fiction. Exercises, short assignments, and discussion of published fiction will be combined with workshops of student stories and individual conferences with the instructor.

Requirements/Evaluation: 30 pages of fiction and six exercises
Prerequisites: ENGL 283 or 385 or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: selection will be made on the basis of writing samples
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA James R. Shepard, Manuel Gonzales

ENGL 385 (S) Advanced Fiction Workshop: Form and Technique
A course for students with experience writing fiction and an understanding of the basics of plot, character, setting, and scene. Through close study of stories in both traditional and unusual forms, we'll examine how a story's significant elements are chosen, ordered, and arranged; how the story is shaped; how, by whom, and to what purpose it's told. Students will write new stories, employing the forms and techniques studied, and discuss them in workshop.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance, active participation in workshop, weekly 1- to 2-page brief imitations, two 8- to 18-page story drafts for workshop, and a final portfolio of at least two stories
Prerequisites: ENGL 283 or 384, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: preregistered students; selection is based on writing samples, if course is overenrolled
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Creative Writing Courses
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 386 (S) Fiction of Beckett and Sebald
Cross-listings: ENGL 386 COMP 386

Primary Cross-listing
This seminar explores the work of two of the most original and influential fiction-writers of the last half of the 20th century, Samuel Beckett and W. G. Sebald. The work of both writers was profoundly influenced by World War II and the Holocaust, and their fiction centers on issues of loss and memory, of decay (of bodies, things, cultures, traditions), of reason and imagination as fragile means of enduring privation. Yet material so sobering and often bleak has rarely been rendered so absorbingly, or with such unorthodox forms of beauty. Their methods for reinventing fiction differ. Beckett increasingly strips his fiction of details of time, place, and even event, and ultimately struggles to free his speaking voice from the burdens of narration itself, the better to focus attention on the simple but logically rigorous, brilliant, often comic effects of his spare language. Sebald, who sometimes called his novels "documentary fiction," fashions a blend of recollection, fiction, geo-cultural history, and dream-like meditation, focused on the decline of European civilizations; his more chromatic prose, marked by obliquity, melancholy, and dry wit, is filled with curious facts and haunting anecdotes. We will read some of Beckett's short fiction and his great trilogy, Molloy, Malone Dies, and The Unnamable; Sebald's major works of fiction, Vertigo, The Emigrants, The Rings of Saturn, and Austerlitz; and a few short stories and novellas by precursors or successors such as Kafka, Borges, and Thomas Bernhard.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular class participation, two 8- to 10-page papers
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
ENGL 386 (D1) COMP 386 (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 387  (F)  Catastrophe/Apocalypse: The Movie
The film industry has always appreciated the visual and dramatic possibilities of catastrophe, and over the last few decades the apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic sensibility appears everywhere in our mass culture, such that being plugged into the zeitgeist might necessarily entail a familiarity with the emerging tropes and assumptions of this subgenre. This course will consider the ways in which such films model for us those moments when our expectations and/or actions collide with the devastating and unforeseeable realities of our physical world and political situation. How do we measure loss when loss occurs at the upper end of the human scale? How do we consider collectively, in either secular or metaphysical terms, the issue of our own complicity in--if not responsibility for--disaster? Films to be studied will likely include W.S. Van Dyke's San Francisco, Steven Spielberg's Schindler's List, Roman Polanski's The Pianist, George Romero's Night of the Living Dead, Ridley Scott's Blade Runner, Edgar Wright's Shaun of the Dead, Michael Heneke's Time of the Wolf, Danny Boyle's 28 Days Later, Alfonso Cuaron's Children of Men, Bruce McDonald's Pontypool, Yoshiro Nakamura's Fish Story, Jordan Peele's Get Out, and Joshua Oppenheimer's The Act of Killing.

Requirements/Evaluation: four short papers and in-class presentations
Prerequisites: ENGL 203, or 204, or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: senior majors in English or Comparative Literature; then junior majors in either; then newly declared majors in either
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C
Not offered current academic year

ENGL 389  (F)  Fiction of Virginia Woolf
Cross-listings: ENGL 389  WGSS 389

Primary Cross-listing
"Let us record the atoms as they fall upon the mind in the order in which they fall, let us trace the pattern, however disconnected and incoherent in appearance, which each sight or incident scores upon the consciousness. Let us not take it for granted that life exists more fully in what is commonly thought big than in what is commonly thought small" ("Modern Fiction"). Virginia Woolf's fiction represents a self-conscious and highly experimental challenge to the conventions of Victorian and Edwardian fiction, in an effort to re-center the novel on lived experience. This course will explore the evolution of the innovative fictional forms by which she tried to bridge the gap between the experience of consciousness and its representation in language. We will also consider the links between Woolf's concern with in the fluidity of consciousness and her interest in gender fluidity and androgyny. We will read most of the major novels, probably including The Voyage Out, Jacob's Room, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, Orlando, The Waves, and Between the Acts, together with selected short fiction and critical essays.

Requirements/Evaluation: discussion, weekly journal, three 4- to 6-page essays
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: English majors, WGSS majors, seniors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
ENGL 390 (S) Robert Frost and Seamus Heaney

This seminar closely examines the achievement of two of the most influential poets of the last hundred years: America's Robert Frost (1874-1963), and Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)--the Nobel laureate widely acknowledged as the greatest Irish poet since Yeats. They have garnered high praise from elite literary critics, and also captured the imaginations of a broad reading public. They write in an idiom that is deeply rooted in the ordinary vernacular speech of their respective countries, but rises above it into a universal language that transcends place and time. Their images first focus our gaze on the natural world we can see all around us, but then subtly shift our attention to what can't be readily observed or reliably known. Their poems can initially appear simple or self-evident in their meanings, but then quietly double-back on us with unexpected forms of mystery and complexity. To get a comprehensive sense of the arc of their careers, we will read most all of their poems, with each class discussion focusing on a few particularly important texts. We will also read some of their essays and lectures on the art and purpose of poetry. Where appropriate, we will attend to the biographical, cultural, and (especially with Heaney) political circumstances that shaped their opportunities as artists.

Requirements/Evaluation: Midterm and final papers (roughly 15 pages in total) and a take-home final exam

Prerequisites: A 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, but non-majors with a strong interest in poetry are also most welcome.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2021

SEM Section: 01     TBA     Stephen Fix

ENGL 391 (S) Democratic Vistas

Cross-listings: ENGL 391 AFR 386

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar will focus on the ways in which texts create nuanced representations of democratic ideals and practices as well as, of course, representations of the failures of democratic ideals and practices. Our goal will be to explore how literature encourages readers to think about democracy, and what impact that can have on our lives as readers and citizens. To this end, we will study work across five genres--poetry, fiction, non-fiction, photography, and film--to arrange and enhance our sense of how plot, structure, figuration, and allusion occupy themselves with the challenge of the Democratic Vista: which is to say with visions of what democracy is, has been, and has the potential be. Among the texts and authors likely to be studied are Robert Hayden, Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison, Don DeLillo, Jamaica Kincaid, Ishion Hutchinson, Natalie Diaz, Octavia Butler, Colson Whitehead, Morgan Parker, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyahm Teju Cole, and contemporary films such as Ryan Coogler's BLACK PANTHER and Boots Riley's SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, two short essays, and a 12- to 15-page final paper; additional requirements will include film screenings outside of class, interactive (e.g., Skype, etc.) author visits inside of class, and campus talks germane to the seminar

Prerequisites: none, open to all students

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators and English majors

Expected Class Size: 12
ENGL 392  (F)  Wonder
Cross-listings:  COMP 392  ENGL 392

Primary Cross-listing
We tend to imagine "wonder" as a naïve, wide-eyed response, something quite distinct from the cold and sophisticated act of critical analysis. In this discussion class, we will consider wonder as an eminently analyzable concept, but one that raises provocative questions about the nature and limits of our own, distinctly modern forms of critical engagement. The course examines three historical incarnations of "wonder," each involving complex relations among the aesthetic, philosophical, and social domains: the Renaissance tradition on wonder and the marvelous (strange births, sea monsters, etc); the eighteenth-century analysis of the sublime; and twentieth-century accounts of the culture of spectacle, including cinema. We will consider writers such as Shakespeare, Sir Thomas Browne, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and W.G. Sebald (all wonderful); painters such as Vermeer and Friedrich, the photography of Andreas Gursky and Thomas Struth; films including Lang's Metropolis, Scott's Blade Runner and Pipilotti Rist; and critical or philosophical writers, including Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Benjamin, and Irigaray.

Class Format: This course will be taught virtually, but we will make absolutely every effort to ensure that it takes the form of a genuine discussion class, including breaking periodically into smaller online groups. Requirements: two papers totaling 20 pages.

Requirements/Evaluation:
Two papers totaling about 20 pages

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: English majors using the course to fulfill requirements; Comp Lit majors

Expected Class Size: 16

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 392 (D1) ENGL 392 (D1)

Attributes:
ENGL Criticism Courses
ENGL Literary Histories A
ENGL Literary Histories B

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1   TR 9:45 am - 11:00 am  Christopher L. Pye

ENGL 393  (F)  Staging Identities
Cross-listings: THEA 393  ENGL 393

Secondary Cross-listing
The construction of selfhood is always to some extent a performative act--as Shakespeare's Jacques says, "All the world's a stage / And all the men and women merely players[.]" That performance is inherently dual, since constituted both for the audience of the wider social world, and for the self who seeks to act. Drama as a genre, with its constant negotiation of the competing claims of illusion and the operations of reality, is invariably interested in the exploration of social identity, in the tensions between public and private selfhood, and in the functions of 'performance'. In this course we will examine theatre's response to the challenge of self-fashioning in the modern era, and consider the wider ontological status of performance as a category within the context of twentieth century drama and theatrical staging. Readings will include Shakespeare's Hamlet and plays by Chekhov, Pirandello, Churchill, Shepard, Lori-Parks, Beckett, Walcott, Pinter and others, along with selected criticism, theory, and psychoanalytical writings.

Class Format: Our class meetings will be conducted remotely, but with the seminar group regularly broken into small discussion sections. I will consider moving to in-person teaching for the discussion sections, depending on conditions on campus as the semester progresses.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two papers totaling about 12 pages, regular posting on discussion boards, and active participation in discussion.
**Prerequisites:** A THEA course, a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam.

**Enrollment Limit:** 14

**Enrollment Preferences:** Theatre and English majors or prospective majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 14

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
THEA 393 (D1) ENGL 393 (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C

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**ENGL 394 (S) The Nature of Nature**

**Cross-listings:** ENVI 390  ENGL 394

**Primary Cross-listing**

"Nature" is one of the commonest words in English. And yet what does it signify? Is it primarily descriptive (all living things), or normative ("natural" foods, "human nature")? This course will consider the richly incoherent ways we think about the living world, paying attention to the difficulty of narrating processes that are often too big, too small, too quick or too slow for direct human apprehension. We'll also explore the ways popular nature writing mingles scientific reporting with implicit judgments about human identity, morality, and social organization. Writers studied will include Elizabeth Kolbert, N. Scott Momaday, Bill McKibben and Charles Darwin. We'll also consider the technologica mediations of nature in documentaries by David Attenborough, Anne Sommerfield, and Lynette Wallworth, among others.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Several short written exercises, an eight page comparative midterm essay, and a final twelve to fifteen page online essay incorporating audiovisual materials. Active participation in class. Note that this course will be offered exclusively online.

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 18

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors; Environmental Studies majors and concentrators.

**Expected Class Size:** 18

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
ENVI 390 (D1) ENGL 394 (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Literary Histories C  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

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**ENGL 395 (F) Signs of History**

**Cross-listings:** HIST 395  ENGL 395  COMP 395

**Primary Cross-listing**

What is an historical event, and how do such events differ from other occurrences? How are historical changes reflected in or produced by literature, art and other cultural forms? Who or what makes history and what is the nature of historical agency? Is history always "written by the victors," as one says, or are there ways of challenging dominant accounts of the past? This seminar will attempt to answer these questions through readings of works of philosophy, poetry, history, prose fiction, film, photography, and cultural criticism that reflect upon the nature of history. Though answers will be multiple, course reading and discussion will in general strive to determine the consequences of understanding history as a site in which reading and writing, experience and narration, and action and interpretation interpenetrate. May include works by Kant, Burke, Hegel, Charlotte Smith, Marx &
Seventeenth-century philosophy was ambivalent about the senses. Around the same time as Descartes was wondering whether everything he had ever seen, heard, and felt might have been an illusion produced by an evil deceiver, Francis Bacon was placing the close observation of nature at the center of a new scientific practice. Do the senses shore up the subject by distancing her from objects and from others and by providing her with insight about them? Or do the senses make her vulnerable to a world that is endlessly and often violently imposing itself on her? We will consider this problem in cultural and intellectual history through the case of the theater, with a special focus on tragedy. Ancient Greek tragedy made the mere fact of seeing the basis of an epistemological difference between the audience (whose looking is a privileged form of knowing) and the protagonist (who is paradigmatically blind), and this difference can be understood as a way of reflecting on the conditions of the theatrical medium itself: the audience sees the character, but the character does not see the audience. Early modern tragedy drew on the Greek tradition of dramatic irony, but wondered whether looking was as straightforward as it looked, making voyeurism a two-way street: one form of seeing what others don't involves being forced to see something unbearable, and early modern theater took a special interest in obscenity, which Greek theater tended to avoid or marginalize. We will track this transformation through the history of tragedy, considered alongside the history of prose romance. In so doing, we will think about the history of science, gender and sexuality, and the relationship between power and visibility, including the role of race. We will consider works by Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristotle, Ovid, Seneca, Marlowe, Spenser, Shakespeare, Vermeer, Jonas Barish, Laura Mulvey, Jacques Rancière, and Michael Fried.

Requirements/Evaluation:  One 7-page midterm paper, one 12-page final paper, thoughtful participation in class discussions
Prerequisites: a 100-level English course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: English majors and those intending to major in English
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 397  (F)  Independent Study: English

English independent study. Kathryn Kent, as chair, is the official "Instructor," but an independent study can be advised and graded by any willing member of the department.
Prerequisites: unusually qualified and committed students who are working on a major writing or research project should first find an advisor for the project
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
ENGL 398  (S) Independent Study: English
English independent study. Kathryn Kent, as chair, is the official "Instructor," but an independent study can be advised and graded by any willing member of the department.

Prerequisites: unusually qualified and committed students who are working on a major writing or research project should first find an advisor for the project

Grading:  no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D1)

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ENGL 402  (S) The Historical Novel

Cross-listings:  COMP 406  ENGL 402

Primary Cross-listing

Setting a novel in a prior time period risks estranging a reader, yet the genre has roused deep-rooted interest, intense critical debate, and aesthetic daring. In this course, we will explore the complex and layered uses of a historical past in literary works of the seventeenth through twenty-first centuries, by way of novels by Madame de Lafayette, Scott, M. Shelley, Dickens, Eliot, Ford, Woolf, Morrison, Sebald, and Roy. Exploring the uses of gothic and sensational effects, dystopian and utopian possibilities, and fractured time, we will consider the aesthetic and political experiments historical novels have spawned. We will do so in context of the sustained critical engagement with the genre by such thinkers as Lukacs, Benjamin, Adorno, Jameson, McKeon and Moretti.

Requirements/Evaluation:  class discussion and a 20-page final paper

Prerequisites:  a 100-level English course and a 300-level English course or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit:  15

Enrollment Preferences:  English majors

Expected Class Size:  15

Grading:  yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 406 (D1)  ENGL 402 (D1)

Attributes:  ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL Literary Histories B  ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

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ENGL 407  (F) Literature, Justice and Community  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  ENGL 407  COMP 407

Primary Cross-listing

Can we imagine possibilities of justice not dictated by already determined norms? What would a community founded on such a conception of justice look like? Can we imagine a version of community not founded on exclusion? What would the members of such a community look like—what version of subjectivity would that community imply? And might literature in particular have something to say about the possibilities for such versions of community, selfhood, and justice? This course will look at recent, theoretically-oriented writing on justice and community, with an emphasis on the work of Hannah Arendt, Jacques Derrida, Jean-Luc Nancy and Giorgio Agamben. We will place this challenging and exciting philosophical work in relation to fiction from Euripides to Kafka, Farah and Kushner, films (Almodovar, Farhadi), photography (Silva, Badlands) and worldly examples of competing claims to justice. The course pursues the aims of the DPE Initiative by engaging works in which cultural difference and power differentials...
revealing the limits of universalizing accounts of law and justice, works such as Euripides’ *Bacchae*, Nuruddin Farah’s *Maps*, Louise Erdrich’s poetry, and Farhadi’s *A Separation*. But the course will equally suggest that such contingency is inherent in the concept of justice as such, insofar as the problem of justice is bound up with forms of constituting indebtedness that define humans as communal beings. In that sense, contingency, and differentials of power mark justice even in its most familiar instances—intimately and close to home, as it were.

**Class Format:** discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** one 5-page paper, and a final 15-page paper

**Prerequisites:** a 300-level ENGL course or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** English Majors; Comparative Literature Majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Materials/Lab Fee:** course packet

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ENGL 407 (D1) COMP 407 (D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course engages works in which differences of culture and power reveal the limits of universalizing accounts of law and justice, even as it suggests that such contingency is inherent in the concept of justice as such insofar as the problem of justice is inextricable from forms of indebtedness that define humans as communal beings. Differentials of power mark justice even in its most familiar instances—intimately and close to home.

**Attributes:** ENGL Criticism Courses  JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 415 (S) Theorizing Aesthetic Outrage**

Outrage has become an increasingly charged and prominent feature of public life in our current political climate. Yet it is surprisingly difficult to analyze and understand, particularly when we confront public forms of outrage, in which collective behavior may shape, complicate, and change its nature. Why are accounts of the reasons for one’s outrage so often inadequate to its vehemence? How are we to understand the strange, unconscious mimicry into which the antagonists in public outrage are so often drawn? What are the sources of the pleasure that shadows outrage? In this seminar we will attempt to theorize public outrage, drawing on a range of theoretical models from several disciplines: aesthetics, cultural and political theory, psychoanalysis, gender and sexuality studies, anthropology and sociology. We will be particularly concerned with aesthetic outrage—riots, censorship, and trials in response to literary and cinematic works, particularly where such outrage has been well documented—and will explore the possibility that such outrage is discernibly different from more straightforward instances of political outrage, such as bread riots or Black Lives Matter activism. We will also analyze the basic nature of outrage in the context of affect studies. Theoretical work by such writers as Sedgwick, Berlant, Foucault, Freud, Weber, Lévi-Strauss, Girard, Arendt, Bakhtin, Butler, Douglas, and Zizek; literary and cinematic works by such authors as Sade, Synge, O’Casey, Jarry, and Eisenstein.

**Class Format:** tutorial format once or twice during the semester to discuss writing

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active, regular class participation, a final paper of about 20 pages, written in stages (some discussed in tutorial format)

**Prerequisites:** a 300-level ENGL course or permission of the instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

**ENGL 416 (S) Postcolonial Theory and the World Literature Debates** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** ENGL 416  COMP 416
Primary Cross-listing

When publishers, scholars, reviewers, and critics talk about the massive, beautiful, prismatic literary and cultural traditions outside of Western culture, they sometimes refer to them by their geographical provenance—African literature, say, or Sumerian art—or perhaps by their historical moment—Ottoman architecture, or postcolonial Indonesian poetry—but more and more, the catch-all category of World Literature has begun to hold sway in influential places, and is changing the shape of how we think, learn, and write about non-Western aesthetics, as well as how we participate in our "own" cultures in all their complexity. If we can imagine a kind of literature that truly goes under the headings of "World Literature," or "Global Literature," what can we possibly exclude? Doesn't all literature belong to the world? What might we gain by using this term, and what might we lose? What histories are attached to the various names and classifications we assign to culture and how does cultural "othering" uphold or resist forms of economic, political, and military dominance? In this advanced seminar, we will work carefully through the history and influential writings of postcolonialism as a particular challenge to hegemonic forms of representation, cultural production, and naming, starting with a close consideration of the writings of the movement's founders and key commentators, including Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, Robert J.C. Young, Gauri Viswanathan, Partha Chatterjee, and Homi Bhabha, and consider their influence on later postcolonial writers and critics around the world. In the second half of the semester, we will turn our attention to the historical underpinnings and current firestorm of debates about World Literature, beginning with Goethe, Marx, Adorno, Frederic Jameson, Franco Moretti, and Pascale Casanova and shifting finally to critics of the ideas of World and Global Literature.

Requirements/Evaluation: two to three papers
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: students who have done relevant coursework in Division I or II
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: Theory course
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 416 (D1) COMP 416 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will consider literary canonicity and postcolonial theory's challenges through an examination of genre, criticism, institutional power, material conditions of publication, and postcolonial culture's relationship to the legacies of colonialism. We will interrogate power and the writing of history, material and cultural resource extraction, and narrative theory against developmental discourse.

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 421  (F)  Fanaticism
Cross-listings: COMP 421  ENGL 421
Primary Cross-listing

Eighteenth and nineteenth-century writers of literature and political philosophy repudiate fanaticism, whether as a religious, political or amorous posture. But what is fanaticism, and why should it be considered such a threat, particularly during a period that embraced an enlightened secular rationalism? In this course, we will examine these questions by considering literary texts that dramatize fanaticism in light of accounts by philosophers and historians. Readings will include novels by M. Shelley, Hogg, Dickens, Eliot, Conrad, among others, and political philosophy and historical writings by Voltaire, Kant, Diderot, Burke, Hume, Carlyle, Adorno, and a range of recent critics. We will also watch films by Riefenstahl, Hitchcock and Pontecorvo, and look at paintings, drawings and sculpture by Fragonard, Goya, and Shibonare. Since fanaticism has recently had considerable political currency, we will also examine contemporary accounts that reanimate the debates and concerns of the course.

Requirements/Evaluation: two shorter or one long paper(s), approximately 20 pages
Prerequisites: a 300-level English course or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: junior and senior English majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Materials/Lab Fee: cost of books
ENGL 450 (F) Melville, Mark Twain, & Ellison

As an epigraph to his novel, *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison selects a quotation from Herman Melville's story, "Benito Cereno." In the prologue to *Invisible Man*, Ellison invokes a sermon that appears briefly in the opening chapter of *Moby-Dick*. In his essays on comedy and American culture, Ellison comments trenchantly on *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Melville and Mark Twain were, in many obvious ways, as different as two writers can be. Nonetheless, they also have many surprising similarities, and it is not difficult to understand why both are so important to Ellison. This course will examine the novels, stories, and essays of these three writers, with particular attention to the themes that they have in common and to the traits that make each of them distinctive. Race, slavery, epistemology, and the nature of American democracy are among those themes.

Requirements/Evaluation: journal, a final 15-page paper

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Fall 2020

SEM Section: R1  MR 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm  David L. Smith

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ENGL 456 (F) Topics in Critical Theory: Hegel and the Dialectic

Cross-listings: COMP 456  ENGL 456

Primary Cross-listing

This course is for students of any major who wish to continue studying critical, cultural, or literary theory. Students will give close attention to a single theorist or philosophical school or perhaps to a single question as taken up by several theorists. Prior coursework in critical theory or continental philosophy, no matter the department, is strongly recommended. The subject of this semester's seminar is the dialectic. "Dialectical" is one of those collegiate words, the kind of word that some people use a lot without knowing for sure what it means. That said, there are a couple of different ways of making sense of dialectics. The word's nearest synonym is "dialogue." Broadly, then, "dialectics" is a name for any philosophy that incorporates into itself the back-and-forth of conversation. Modern dialectics, meanwhile, sets out from two ideas: first, that it is impossible to think about anything in isolation, that we understand all things via relation and contradistinction, that we couldn't call any person "female" if we weren't also compelled to call some people "male"; and second, that all such conceptual pairs (male/female, black/white, east/west) are less settled than they look. You can't not divide the world into oppositions, and all such oppositions will collapse. This is an idea that, systematically pursued, can change the way we think about language, ethics, politics, literature, and art. We will read key texts from major dialectical thinkers: Hegel, Marx, Adorno, but mostly Hegel.

Requirements/Evaluation: seminar paper of 25 pages; informal weekly writing; class participation

Prerequisites: prior coursework in critical theory or continental philosophy is recommended but not necessary, no prior coursework in English is required

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: seniors with background in critical theory

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 483  (S) Representing History

Cross-listings: COMP 483  ENGL 483

Primary Cross-listing

Moments of political turmoil expose the highly charged ways in which a culture structures itself around a narrative past. In this course, we will read literary and cinematic works that invoke such moments of upheaval—the French and Russian Revolutions as well as those of 1848, the rise of fascism and the Great Depression of the 1930s, the battle for Algerian independence, the AIDS crisis, among others—in order to explore those fraught narratives of the past. We will consider such issues as the rise of the historical novel, the aesthetics of fascism and of democracy under pressure, fantasies of decolonization, representational clashes of culture, forms of affective and sexual disorientation, and the uses of melancholy in representing historical loss. Readings will be drawn from literary works by Gay, Edgeworth, Scott, Shelley, Balzac, Eliot, Conrad, Kafka, Babel, Mann, Borges, Stoppard, Kushner, Morrison, Pamuk, Bolano, and Philip, and theoretical essays by Kant, Burke, Carlyle, Marx, Benjamin, Adorno, Foucault, de Certeau, Jameson, Lefort and Ahmed. Films will include such works as Eisenstein's October, Reifenstahl's The Blue Light, Wellman's Nothing Sacred and Pontecorvo's The Battle of Algiers.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: two shorter or one longer paper/s, approximately 20 pages

Prerequisites: a 300-level English course or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: junior and senior English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: cost of books

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 483 (D1) ENGL 483 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 493  (F) Honors Colloquium: English  (WS)

A colloquium for students pursuing critical theses and critical specializations. Students will present and critique their work in progress, and discuss issues particular to researching and structuring a long analytical thesis. We will also discuss the work of a variety of recent critics representing a range of methods of literary study. Satisfactory completion of the course will be required for students to continue on in the honors program. The course will meet synchronously online, sometimes as a full seminar and other times in tutorial-small small groups.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation and individual progress on the thesis project, which will be determined in consultation with each student's honors advisor

Prerequisites: admission to the department Honors program

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write a 20 page thesis chapter in stages and over multiple drafts. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing, with suggestions for improvement.
ENGL 494  (S) Honors Thesis: English

English honors thesis. Required of all senior English majors pursuing critical theses and critical specialization.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2021

ENGL 497  (F) Honors Independent Study: English

English honors thesis. Required of all senior English majors pursuing departmental honors in creative writing.

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2020

Winter Study ---------------------------------------------------------------

ENGL 30  (W) Honors Project: English

Required during Winter Study of all seniors admitted to candidacy for honors via the specialization route.

Class Format: honors project

Grading: pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 31  (W) Senior Thesis: English

Required during Winter Study of all seniors admitted to candidacy for honors via the thesis route.

Class Format: thesis

Grading: pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year

ENGL 99  (W) Independent Study: English

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year