

Fall 2023

MA Course Descriptions

ENGL 636: History of Literary Criticism

Tue 4:40pm-6:30pm

Prof. Steven Kruger

Course Number: 24334

We all read theoretically. That is, we all read with some set of assumptions (both explicit and implicit) about what the written (or other cultural) work in front of us *is*, how it was fashioned, how readers (like us) are meant to respond to it, whether and how we are supposed to “figure it out,” what its role in a larger cultural (and social and political) frame might be, and so forth. In this course, we will examine a wide range of literary and cultural theory, works that reflect explicitly on what it is that a text does in the world and how it means; what authorship is, and the ways in which authors are implicated in their historical moments; how the cultural, social, political, and historical surroundings of a text are significant; and how readers read. The course will touch on a number of influential theoretical approaches (such as psychoanalysis, Marxism/materialism, formalism, (post)structuralism, feminism, queer theory, critical race and post-colonial theory), but any survey of such a large field will be necessarily incomplete. Our main goals will be (1) to grapple with a set of challenging and exciting theoretical essays and (2) to examine how working with these texts might make us better, more self-aware, flexible, and innovative readers.

ENGL 701: Seminar in Graduate Methodology

Wed 4:40pm-6:30pm

Prof. Hillary Miller

Course Number: 24332

This course is an overview of the skills, methods, and resources needed to succeed in graduate-level writing and research. What are the expectations of graduate-level coursework and research? This course explores some of the “hot topics” of English Studies (and its sub-fields) and considers relevant changes to the discipline over the past decades. We will read scholarly writings in the humanities and adjacent disciplines, and study the methodologies that scholars use to interrogate literary texts. We will also interrogate our own assumptions about literature and literary study, and prepare to navigate graduate study while defining our interests and objectives. Where do we situate ourselves in contemporary scholarly conversations? How do we generate research questions and intervene in already existing scholarly debates? We will familiarize ourselves with the research tools available to execute our work, including academic databases, scholarly journals, scholarly reference guides, digital tools, and archives.

Throughout, we will sharpen and deepen our reading and writing strategies, and support each other's progress.

ENGL 681: Transnational Modernism in Italian and American Literature

Wed 6:40pm-8:30pm

Prof. Fred Gardaphe and Anthony Julian Tamburri

Course Number: 24333

Team-taught by Distinguished Professors Fred L. Gardaphe and Anthony Julian Tamburri, this course examines the development of Modernism in Italy and how it impacted U.S. literature. This will be accomplished by viewing major writers in both countries through the lenses of ethnicity and gender. Beginning with four major Italian Modernists the course will introduce students to Modernism in an Italian context. Following this, students will explore the practice of Modernist writing in the works of American authors of Italian descent to determine transnational influences on cultural development. Designed to introduce students to the development of Modern Italian literature and the role that ethnicity plays in the development of U.S. American modernist literature this course will help students examine and understand the transnational influences that shape the writers under consideration. It is also designed to give students alternative and comparative views of Italian and American Modernism. Instructor and guest lectures on the Modernist traditions of both countries will contextualize readings as they relate to cultural developments in Europe and the United States.

ENGL 726: Insurgent Possibilities and Partisan Enclosures: Early American Cultural Expression after 1776

Wed 6:40pm-8:30pm

Prof. Duncan Faherty

Course Number: 24327

Since its earliest formations, the field of early American studies has often privileged the more revolutionary aspects of the emergence of the United States after the break from colonial control. Such a critical focus has trumpeted the rise of democratic forms of citizenship and belonging while muting the ways in which the certain elements within the emerging post-revolutionary society often sought to curtail more radical ways of thinking and belonging from taking hold. This course seeks to explore both divergent terrains of cultural production, those which sought to both circumscribe operant concepts of Americanness and those which sought to expand its definition beyond inherited European boundaries. In so doing, we will take up questions of mobility, fracture, commodification, dislocation, equality, and revolutionary circulation. We will explore, in other words, how the post-Revolutionary United States was formed by the exchange of goods, ideas, and peoples. In so doing, we will grapple with the shifting structures of feeling that define notions of democracy, citizenship, empire, nation, complicity, dissent, gender and sexuality, and the human after the rupture in colonial relations.

Possible authors we will consider include Deborah Sampson, Charles Brockden Brown, Susannah Rowson, David Walker, Leonora Sansay, Tabitha Tenney, Unca Eliza Winkfield, Abigail Adams, Rebecca Rush, Olaudah Equiano, and Uriah Derick D'Arcy.

ENGL 733, Asian American Literature

Wed 6:40pm-8:30pm

Prof. Seo-Young Chu (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)

Course Number: 23880

English 733 explores literature written by and about Asian Americans and the theoretical and critical literature written by and about Asian Americans and the theoretical and critical questions and methodologies of Asian American studies as a field. Topics include activism, aesthetics, canons, demilitarized zones, disability, gender, the "generation" as a unit of analysis, globalization, immigration, mental illness, the "model minority," postmemory, sexual violence, stereotypes, Techno-Orientalism, translation, and war. Possible authors and sources include Angel Island poets, the Asian American Writers' Workshop, Hannah Bae, Carlos Bulosan, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Alexander Chee, Franny Choi, Alex Dang, Edith Maude Eaton/Sui Sin Far, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, Joan Kwon Glass, Kimiko Hahn, Cathy Park Hong, Betsy Huang, Joey Kim, Suji Kwock Kim, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jhumpa Lahiri, Rattawut Lapcharoensap, Travis Chi Wing Lau, Chang-rae Lee, Jim Lee, Min Jin Lee, Masahiro Mori, Sianne Ngai, Viet Thanh Nguyen, John Okada, Miné Okubo, Reddit, Margaret Rhee, David Roh, Shang-Chi, Stephen Hong Sohn, Min Hyoung Song, TikTok, Twitter, Saymoukda Vongsay, Ali Wong, Mia You, and you. Note: This section will take place online.

ENGL 735: Literary Study for a World on Fire

Tue 6:40pm-8:30pm

Prof. Gloria Fisk (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)

Course Number: 23875

How does contemporary literature capture the realities of a world that is literally and figuratively going up in flames? The forms and genres we inherit were honed for purposes other than telling tell the stories we have to tell today, so they have yet to develop the equipment required to narrate life as we live it amid the threat of species extinction and mass migration in the wake of climate catastrophe.

These facts of life in the twenty-first century challenge literary writers to find new ways to put them into words, and they challenge literary critics, too. Our education in Anglophone literary traditions has taught us how to read novels, poems, and plays written by people who feel safe to assume the stability of seasonal cycles in the weather, even if they assume the stability of nothing else. Now we have to learn to how to read a different way.

We'll work toward that goal in this seminar by studying the inventions that contemporary writers make to use the literary tools at their disposal—plot, for example, setting, description, dialogue, characterization, and lyric—to represent the climate crisis and the anxieties that attend it. We'll put this project in a transnational frame, too, by reading literature as it circulates in an increasingly global English. Looking critically at the small fraction of literary production that becomes accessible to us in this context, we'll look at the ways it speaks to and about a dawning awareness of disaster that is distributed with predictable inequality around the world by proportion to differences of nation, race, class, and gender.

Our reading will include the literary theory and criticism that helps us understand works like Helon Habila's *Oil on Water* (2011), Kim Stanley Robinson's *Ministry for the Future* (2020), and Indra Sinha's *Animal's People* (2007).

ENGL 781: INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING: A WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

Wed 4:40pm-6:30pm

Prof. Kimiko Hahn (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)

Course Number: 23873

We will cover three genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, and fiction. Most of the work will consist of 1) reading assigned texts that will serve as writing prompts, 2) writing from assignments, and 3) learning how to critique in a productive manner. I will introduce basic "rules of thumb" that will serve you in your own creative writing and in your teaching of creative writing. We will discuss how these assignments can play out in your own classroom. The final project will be a portfolio of creative writing, a short essay, and a curriculum unit.

ENGL 781: Speculative Memoir

Thurs 6:40pm-8:30pm

Prof. Chamara Moore

Course Number: 24302

How has the speculative become a site from which authors of color can articulate their own stories? How does telling our own stories become the practice of myth-making? By exploring texts like *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* by Audre Lorde, *Dear Senthuran: A Black Spirit Memoir* by Akwaeke Emezi, *In the Dream House* by Carmen Maria Machado and more, students will explore all of the ways that authors have combined the memoir with horror, biomythography, and science fiction to reflect their identities as they intersect with race, gender, and sexuality. We'll also explore critical frameworks like Black Feminism, Critical Fabulation, Posthumanism, and Queer Theory