

Spring 2013 Literature / English Studies Course Descriptions

ENG 112W-01: Introduction to Poetry and Drama (4 cr)

TH 12:00-1:45 pm

Instructor: Lesley Jacobs

This course is designed to cultivate your ability to read, to enjoy, and to write effectively about poetry and drama. We will spend a good deal of time in the class considering how to respond thoughtfully to literature and how to construct engaging, analytical arguments about what we have read. Because this is an intensive writing course, we will also be working on developing your writing skills in relation to the texts we read. Poetry textbooks will be *The Norton Introduction to Poetry, Ninth Edition* and Stephen Fry's *The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within*. Likely plays include Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, and Stoppard's *Arcadia*.

ENG 118-01: Literature and Film of Diverse Cultures (4cr)

TH 2:00-3:50 pm

Instructor: Mary Susan Johnston

This course focuses on literature and film of diverse cultures. We will read Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*, Julie Otsuka, *When the Emperor Was Divine*, Mahbod Seraji, *The Rooftops of Tehran*, Jean Kwok, *Girl in Translation*, Anuradha Roy, *An Atlas of Impossible Longing*, and Julie Epstein, *The Painter from Shanghai*. We will watch several excellent films that accompany these works of fiction. Students will write short essays and do an oral presentation.

ENG 211W-01: Perspectives in Literature: Multi-Cultural Literature (4 cr)

F 12:00-3:45 pm

Instructor: Anne O'Meara

Students will read novels, view films, and write essays to increase their understanding and appreciation of the literatures, films, and cultures of diverse groups in the United States. Likely books: *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka; *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri; *Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez; *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston; *Flight* by Sherman Alexie; *The Late Homecomer* by Kao Kalia Yahg; and other books and movies. Students will write short responses, analytic, and researched essays. This general education course satisfies requirements in Category 1c (Writing Intensive), Category 6 (Arts and Humanities) and Category 7 (Human Diversity) and Diverse Cultures--Purple.

ENG 275-01: Introduction to Literary Studies (4cr)

MW 10:00-11:45 am

Instructor: Mary Susan Johnston

This course is a prerequisite to survey and upper-division literature courses. Students in this course are introduced to literary genres, literary analysis, the process of writing about literature, and literary research. Assignments include short essays and a research paper.

ENG 275-02: Introduction to Literary Studies (4 cr)

TH 4:00-5:45 pm

Instructor: Lesley Jacobs

This course examines both the conventions of literary form and the ways that literary texts are generated by and respond to various social and historical influences. We will consider formal elements and terms of poetry, drama, and fiction – including imagery, meter, point of view, characterization, symbols, setting, theme, and tone – in addition to more ideological concerns. In our reading and in our discussions and writing about literature, we will pay careful attention to the language of literary texts and the ways words and patterns of words are deployed to create specific literary effects. We will also be giving our attention to the expectations generally made of writers in English courses: argument, organization, use of evidence, format, tone, and style. Novels may include Lewis' *The Monk* and Twain's *Pudd'n'head Wilson*; plays may include Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. You will also be asked to buy *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*.

ENG 275-03: Introduction to Literary Studies (4cr)

MW 4:00-5:45 pm

Instructor: Kirsti Cole

The catalogue describes ENG 275 as follows: “An introduction to literary genre and to techniques of writing about literature.” This course description allows for a broad range of possibilities within the semester that we will work together. To summarize, however, what we will be doing is finding out “What happens next?” We will spend the semester reading, thinking about, writing about, and most importantly, talking about stories. This course will focus on a broad overview of stories and storytelling practices, including primarily, short fiction, poetry, drama and longer fiction. We will use the texts that we encounter in order to analyze elements of various genres, critically analyze the contexts of the texts, and discuss the socio-historical framework for each author and idea we discover. Our course goals will be: to understand the major components of literature, to analyze features of various genres, to employ critical analysis, to think about the time, place, and ideology that grounds a text, to find practical applications for critical thinking, reading and writing, and to interpret the irrepressible creativity and imagination of storytellers.

ENG 285-01: Practical Grammar (2 cr)

MTWR 2:00-2:50PM AH310

Instructor: Harry Solo

This course will run for a half-semester. We will work with the rudiments of the grammatical analysis of English sentences. By the end of this course, you should be able to identify the basic patterns of most simple English sentences and analyze the combination of these basic patterns in most more-complex structures. In the course of learning to do this, you should come to a clear understanding of the traditional parts of speech and how words in each category function within sentences. You should be able to understand a traditional grammar text and be ready for the study of linguistic theory as well as a variety of practical applications of a knowledge of English grammar. Class time will be devoted to lecture/discussion and to doing exercises. There is no required course textbook. Course material will be presented in class and on D2L.

ENG 316-01: Topic: Graphic Narrative (4 cr)

MW 10:00-11:45 am

Instructor: Matthew Sewell

This course provides an introduction to the study of graphic narrative. It focuses on three major genres: autobiographical/memoir, superhero, and fiction. In addition, the course emphasizes critical contexts in order to provide an analytical framework that will support subsequent work studying graphic narrative. Authors include Art Spiegelman, Alison Bechdel, Harvey Pekar, R. Crumb, Phoebe Gloeckner, Joe Sacco, Chester Brown, Frank Miller, Alan Moore, Lynda Barry, Fábio Moon and Gabriel Bá, Chris Ware, and Grant Morrison. For more information, see the instructor's website: <http://english2.mnsu.edu/sewel/m/>

ENG 316-02: Topic: Literature of Madness (4cr)

MW 12:00-1:45 pm

Instructor: Kirsti Cole

The notion of what it means to be mad radically changed in the early twentieth century with Sigmund Freud's development of the practice of analysis. In this course, we will read several of Freud's case studies in the context of a long history of representations of madness in literature. Our survey will begin in Ancient Greece with *Oedipus Rex* before reading two plays of Shakespeare in detail, *Hamlet* and *King Lear*, asking how madness can be scripted and what role gender has in the representation of insanity. Later in the semester we will study Victorian depictions of mental illness and read selections from Michel Foucault's *Madness and Civilization: The Birth of the Asylum*. We will end with more modern and postmodern depictions of madness in literature and film.

ENG 321 -01: Survey of British Literature 1785-Present (4 cr)

MW 2:00-3:45 pm

Instructor: Mary Susan Johnston

This course focuses on the major writers and trends of the British Romantic Period, the Victorian Age, and the Twentieth Century. Assignments include essay examinations and a literary research paper.

ENG 321-02 British Literature 1785 to Present (4 cr)

TH 12:00-1:45 pm

Instructor: Melissa Purdue

This course is partly a traditional survey, moving chronologically through history from the Romantics to Modernism in order to trace changes and continuities among canonical British literary texts. Yet, it also covers some non-canonical texts, including *The History of Mary Prince* and New Woman short fiction, that revise traditional literary history. In addition to reading this literature, we will also study some historical documents in order to trace the interconnections among literary works and their cultural contexts. Possible authors include Matthew Lewis, Jane Austen, the Brontës, Elizabeth Gaskell, Christina Rossetti, Oscar Wilde and Virginia Woolf.

ENG 325-01: Children's Literature (3 cr)

MTH 12:00-1:00 pm

Instructor: Jacqueline Arnold

Our topics are the study of a variety of books for children, the purposes and types of children's literature, and ways of responding to children's literature. The course textbook is *The Joy of Children's Literature* by Denise Johnson.

ENG 325-02: Children's Literature (3cr)

MTH 1:00-2:00 pm

Instructor: Jacqueline Arnold

Our topics are the study of a variety of books for children, the purposes and types of children's literature, and ways of responding to children's literature. The course textbook is *The Joy of Children's Literature* by Denise Johnson.

ENG 328-01 American Literature 1865 to Present (4 cr)

TH 4:00-5:45 pm AH310

Instructor: Gwen Westerman

This course will cover American authors from after the Civil War through contemporary times, as well as some of the forces that shaped the literature of this period. As a survey course, we will discuss the impact of the emergence of a literature attempting to represent and deal with the rapidly changing character of the American nation as it entered the industrial, modernist, and post-war eras with a markedly more diverse and larger population. We will attempt to understand writers in relation to their cultural and historical situations, and how culture, power, and society shaped not only our literature but also our identities as Americans.

ENG 328-02 American Literature 1865 to Present (4 cr)

M 6:00-9:45 pm AH208

Instructor: Anne O'Meara

In this survey course in American literature, we will read representative poems, fiction, and non-fiction from the close of the Civil War to the present. We will learn to identify characteristic themes and styles of these periods, to understand the relationships among these writers, and to situate them in their cultural and social contexts. We will practice analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating literary works and various critical interpretations of them. One short paper, three essay exams, and weekly discussion posts. Texts: *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 7th ed. Vol. C,D,E.

ENG 381-01 Introduction to English Linguistics (4 cr)

H 6-9:45 PM AH302

Instructor: Harry Solo

In this course, we will explore the English language, both structurally -- making observations about its sounds, its words, its sentence structures, and its system for conveying meaning -- and socially -- considering how it influences and is influenced by the structure of English speaking societies. Frequent comparison will be made between English and other languages with regard to both its structural and its social properties. Course requirements will include a mix of formal and informal writing, problem sets, examinations, quizzes, and participation in class exercises. Textbook: Edward Finegan, *Language: Its Structure and Use* (5th ed.).

ENG 403-02: Selected Authors: Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Ovid (4 cr)

MW 2:00-3:45 pm

Instructor: Lesley Jacobs

This course is meant to guide students through the influence of one of Rome's greatest classical poets on two of his (much later) English successors. Chaucer used Ovid's *Heroides* in constructing his *Legend of Good Women*, and both authors' work contains many allusions to Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* and *Metamorphoses*. Selections from Ovid will be in translation, but we will read Chaucer in the original Middle English. We will read and compare Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* to its literary descendant, Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*, and will also cover such Ovidian-influenced plays as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*. Graduate readings will push further into theories of allusion and intertextuality, exploring how previous authors' work helps to construct later texts. If you do not already own it, you should buy *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*.

ENG 405-01 Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories (2 cr)

TH 10-11:45 AM AH310

Instructor: Harry Solo

This course will run for a half-semester. We will study 5 of Shakespeare's comedies/histories: *Henry IV Part 1*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *or What You Will*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Tempest*. In addition to literary considerations, we will pay particular attention to issues of performance, both historical and modern. Textbook: *The Riverside Shakespeare* (Houghton-Mifflin). Students may substitute editions of the individual plays, as long as they clearly and consistently show the act and scene divisions as well as LINE NUMBERS (any version of the plays without line numbers will be useless to us).

ENG 406-01 Shakespeare: Tragedies (2 cr)

TH 10-11:45 AM AH310

Instructor: Harry Solo

This course will run for a half-semester. We will study 5 of Shakespeare's tragedies: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *King Lear*. In addition to literary considerations, we will pay particular attention to issues of performance, both historical and modern. Textbook: *The Riverside Shakespeare* (Houghton-Mifflin). Students may substitute editions of the individual plays, as long as they clearly and consistently show the act and scene divisions as well as LINE NUMBERS (any version of the plays without line numbers will be useless to us).

ENG 425: Topics in Children's Literature: Fantasy (4 cr)

T chat 5:30-6:30 p.m. (online)

Instructor: Jacqueline Arnold

Students will become familiar with fantasy literature and topics of interest to upper elementary, middle school and high school students. Students will experiment with a variety of methods of responding to and analyzing literature.

ENG 435: World Novel (2cr)

TH 6:00- 9:45 pm (first half of semester)

Instructor: Jacqueline Arnold

Description: The course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of contemporary world novels. We will examine how a western literary form like the novel has been adapted to different cultures, especially third world cultures.

English 438-01: African American Literature (4 cr)

TH 12:00-1:45pm

Instructor: Matthew Sewell

This course studies African-American literature from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. Texts include slave narratives, novels, essays, short stories, and poetry. Authors include Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ellison, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Rita Dove.

ENG 463: Adolescent Literature (4cr)

M 6:00-9:45 pm

Instructor: Jacqueline Arnold

The goals of the course are to familiarize students with a wide range of literature either popular with adolescents or appropriate for adolescents and to familiarize students with a wide range of approaches for using such literature in grades 7-12. (Course text besides listed tradebooks: *An Introduction to Poetry* by Kennedy)