

## **FALL 2009 LITERATURE COURSES**

### **ENG 275-01 4 cr (Matthew Sewell) Introduction to Literary Studies (TH 8:00am-9:45am)**

This course provides an introduction to the analysis of literature for current or prospective English majors/minors. Authors may include Twain, Chopin, Plath, Spiegelman, Foer, Alexie, Hunter S. Thompson, Toni Morrison, and Kushner.

### **ENG 275-03 4cr (Melissa Purdue) Introduction to Literary Studies (TH 2-3:35)**

In this course we will read a wide range of literature including short stories, novels, poetry, drama and non-fictional prose from different historical periods and geographical locations. We will learn fundamental techniques of literary analysis, we will gain a critical vocabulary to apply to our readings, and we will explore some of the cultural and historical contexts from which our texts emerged. Emphasis will also be placed on developing the skills necessary to write an effective literary research paper.

### **ENG 275 4 cr (Suzanne Bunkers) Introduction to Literary Studies.**

This online course is designed to offer instruction and experience in learning and practicing techniques of critical reading and analytical writing. This course is designed to be taken after English 101 has been completed and before 300- and 400-level literature courses have been taken. Because a basic grasp of English is a prerequisite for English 275, sentence structure, usage, and punctuation will not be taught in this course. As in, other English courses, all written work in this course will be evaluated in the areas of content, organization, style, and mechanics. This course will emphasize strategies for the critical analysis of literature within relevant historical and cultural contexts. Each participant will be evaluated on attendance, participation, timely completion of all reading assignments and written work, contributions to discussions, and successful completion of final examination. Because this is not a self-paced course, regular online attendance and participation in discussion forums and chatrooms are vital to one's success in the course.

### **English 320 4 cr (Harry Solo) British Literature**

In this course, we will study the literature of Great Britain from the medieval, renaissance, and neoclassical periods. We will sample a variety of verse and prose from these periods in an attempt to come to an understanding of the earliest texts in the English language and the societies that gave rise to them and to develop skill in reading and interpreting texts from times long past. Some attention will also be given to defining and appreciating the various forms of literature—long narrative poetry and sonnets, for example--that typify literature in English before 1800. Course requirements will include extensive reading in the literature, a mix of formal and informal writing, and full participation in class exercises.

### **ENG 329-01 4 cr (Matthew Sewell) Film History (TH 12-1:45)**

This course provides a foundation in film history. The course focuses on major directors, genres, and periods in film history with an emphasis on social, technological, and critical contexts in order to provide an analytical framework that will support subsequent work. Students are required to view films outside of class.

**ENG 381 4 cr (Harry Solo) Introduction to English Linguistics**

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 Fineg, *Language: Its Structure and Use* (3rd ed.)

**ENG 4/525 4cr (John Banschbach) Topics in Children's Literature: Books into Film (T 6-9).**

I have yet to decide on the reading list and on the assignments, but the general topic is this. We will study children's literature, both literary works and the films based on them. Ideally the comparison will lead us to a richer understanding of both forms. Likely books (and films) include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Tale of Despereaux*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and one of the Harry Potter series. I will post the syllabus on my department website some time over the summer.

**ENG 436.01/536.01 4cr (Gwen Griffin) Native American Literatures: Contemporary Poetry (first half 8/24-10/12) MW (12:00-1:45p)**

In this course, we will be considering the work of four contemporary American Indian poets, as well as selections from other Native writers and critics. These authors not only attest to the connections between literature and life, but also reveal the abundance and diversity of American writing. We will focus on increasing your understanding and appreciation of Native American literature in general, and your knowledge of the cultural contexts of the works studied. Texts selected for Fall 2009: *The Failure of Certain Charms* by Gordon Henry (White Earth Anishinabe); *National Monuments* by Heid Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe); *Mud Woman: Poems from the Clay* by Nora Naranjo-Morse (Santa Clara Pueblo); and *A Half-Life of CardioPulmonary Function* by Eric Gansworth (Onondaga).

**ENG 436.02/536.01 4cr (Gwen Griffin) Native American Literatures: Contemporary Fiction (second half 10/14-12/02) MW (12:00-1:45p)**

In this course, we will be considering the work of four contemporary American Indian novelists, as well as selections from other Native writers and critics. These authors not only attest to the connections between literature and life, but also reveal the abundance and diversity of American writing. We will focus on increasing your understanding and appreciation of Native American literature in general, and your knowledge of the cultural contexts of the works studied. Texts selected for Fall 2009: *The Light People* by Gordon Henry (White Earth Anishinabe); *Grass Dancer* by Susan Power (Standing Rock Dakota); *The Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe); and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene).

**ENG 433-01 4cr (Melissa Purdue) World Literature (TH 10-11:45)**

This course will focus on 20th and 21st-century literature written in English from Africa, India and the Caribbean. We will discuss issues of national and personal identity, language, gender, and hybridity. Possible texts include Oyeyemi's *The Opposite House*, Adichie's *Half a Yellow Sun*, Danticat's *Breath, Eyes*,

*Memory*, Naipaul's *Miguel Street*, Sidhwa's *Cracking India* and Roy's *The God of Small Things*. Select readings in postcolonial theory will also be used to provide a framework for analysis.

**ENG 441 4cr (Suzanne Bunkers) Literary Theory and Criticism.**

In this course, we will examine and assess a variety of critical approaches to reading and interpreting literature. We will study many primary works of literature. We will analyze each work in a number of contextual frameworks, and eventually we will apply those contextual frameworks to other works of our own choosing. Our objectives are to demystify the interpretive process and to understand how current questions, issues, and debates in interpretation are linked to past interpretive preferences and practices. Toward this end, we will work closely with the essays and literary works in our course texts. In addition, we will spend ample amounts of time engaged in online, active learning, using the D2L delivery system. Each participant will complete the following: midterm exam, final exam, documented essay, short in-class writing, and contributions to D2L discussions. Note: Attendance at class meetings is required. D2L discussion forum participation is required. Having course texts, bringing them to class, and completing assignments in them is required.

**ENG 4/545.01 4cr (Kirsti Cole) Advanced Critical Writing Workshop TR (4:00-5:45p)**

This advanced writing workshop will focus on what it means to engage in critical writing in the academy. As such, students in the course will read a series of Gothic novels and the major bodies of criticism surrounding those works. For each novel, class discussion will not only focus on the text itself but on the history, socio-political context, and critical theory applied to each work. Please note that this course will maintain a strong focus on a variety of theoretical lenses used in the study of literature. Students will engage in critical writing by finding a research theme based off of the topics discussed in class. The final project will be either (a) a conference paper, or (b) a journal article ready for submission. Works discussed in class will include *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Frankenstein*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Carmilla*, and *Dracula*. Unless otherwise specified all editions will be Broadview Critical Editions.

**ENG 606-01 4cr (Melissa Purdue) British Literature Seminar (W 3-5:45)**

This course introduces students to varied constructions of sexuality and gender in nineteenth-century Britain. We will examine constructions of masculinity and femininity, look at the emergence of the new field of "sexology," explore the links between race, colonialism and sexuality, discuss preoccupations with the nocturnal adventures of vampires, and will chart representations of prostitution. Further, we will discuss the intersection of sexual identity/ies during the Victorian era in relationship with ideologies of class, gender, race, and nationality. Our readings will center on popular fiction but will also include poetry, journalism, and early sexology. Possible readings include: *Dracula*, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Life of My Heart*, *Carmilla*, "Goblin Market," and excerpts from *The Pearl*, Foucault's *The History of Sexuality*, Freud and Havelock Ellis. The course aims to introduce students to critical scholarship on this material as well with texts like Walkowitz's *Prostitution and Victorian Society*, Showalter's *Sexual Anarchy*, Rosenman's *Unauthorized Pleasures*, and Lane's *The Burden's of Intimacy*.

**611-01 3 cr (Matthew Sewell) Contemporary American Literature (M 2-4:45)**

This course studies major trends in American literature from 1945 to present. Topics include the Beats, New Journalism, postmodernism, confessionalism, and minimalism/maximalism. Authors may include

Ginsberg, Tom Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson, Heller, Sexton, Philip Roth, Carver, Morrison, Acker, and DeLillo.

**ENG 671 4 cr (Suzanne Bunkers) Seminar in Literary Theory and Criticism.**

During the coming weeks, we will examine and assess a variety of critical approaches to reading and interpreting literature. We will study many primary works of literature. We will analyze each work in a number of contextual frameworks, and eventually we will apply those contextual frameworks to other works of our own choosing. Our objectives are to demystify the interpretive process and to understand how current questions, issues, and debates in interpretation are linked to past interpretive preferences and practices. Toward this end, we will work closely with the essays and literary works in our course texts. In addition, we will spend time discussing primary and secondary works, both during class time and via D2L. Each participant will complete a seminar paper, due during final exam week in Dec. 2009. Upon completion of this course, students will understand:

1. the history of literary criticism in the twentieth century.
2. the major figures and developmental trends in twentieth-century literary criticism.
3. the essential questions literary theory has posed.
4. the range of critical responses that literary theory has provided.
5. the strategies for writing a graduate-level documented seminar paper, based on aspects of literary theory.