

Literature Program

Spring 2025 Courses

ENGL 2210 Folk & Oral Traditions

(Prof. Jodi Corser) **TR 8:30-9:45am**

In this course we will read, listen to, and watch some of the oral histories/folk tales we have been told and are now currently telling ourselves. We will define oral histories and folk tales using various literary theories. We will see how these stories were shaped by culture and have shaped culture. We will also analyze how these stories both mirror and create values. The content will include fairy tales, journal articles, movie adaptations, and podcasts.

ENGL 2700 Introduction to Critical Theory

(Prof. Nicole Dib) **MWF 3-3:50pm**

English 2700 is an introductory course in the reading and application of literary theory, and it provides a survey of major theoretical and methodological approaches. Critical theory is a companion to literary studies; theory provides us with different lenses through which we can read literature. As scholars of literature, we study theory to learn about different approaches to reading, evaluating, analyzing, and teaching literature. In this class, we will study the major theories that apply to literary studies; these include Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Psychoanalysis, Marxism, New Historicism, Cultural Studies, Feminist Studies, Queer Studies, Ethnic Studies, Critical Race Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and Ecocriticism. By exploring the basic features and tenets of these theories, we will gain a wide range of frameworks through which we can study literature in future classes and beyond.

ENGL 2400 Introduction to Literary Studies

(Prof. Marc Fariior) **TR 10-11:15am**

In this course, you will learn to conduct literary analysis with an emphasis on form, which in fiction includes elements such as setting, plot, character, and theme. This formal analysis, referred to as “close reading,” is fundamental to the critical study of literature and to the craft of creative writing. Also fundamental is an understanding of genre. Literary works follow, and oftentimes resist or reinvent, generic conventions. We will discuss and analyze literary works in each of the three major genres: poetry, fiction, and drama. You will become familiar with the conventions of these genres and with the related terminology.

ENGL 3215 American Literature II

(Prof. Kyle Bishop) **MWF 2-2:50pm**

A study of American literature from the Civil War up to World War II. Reading will include both canonical and non-canonical works.

ENGL 3230 British Literature I

(Prof. Jessica Tvordi) **TR 8:30-9:45am**

A study of British literature from its beginnings through the Elizabethan Era. Readings will include both canonical and non-canonical works.

ENGL 3240 British Literature III

(Prof. Ryan Siemers) **MWF 12-12:50pm**

A survey of British literature from 1830 to the present.

ENGL 3260 Continental European Literature: Romance & Revenge

(Prof. Nozomi Irei) **TR 1-2:15pm**

This course will offer a study of some major works of Continental Europe with a focus on the literary traditions of romance and revenge. We will consider how, after their heyday in medieval and early modern literature, traces of both genres still appear, often modulated as themes, in a variety of narrative forms. Historical knowledge of these literary traditions will help us to be attuned to their vast literary tropes and their transformations in modern works. The course will also draw connections to the importance of these traditions to early modern British Literature. With this foundation, students will have opportunities to pursue a rigorous consideration of a variety of modern and contemporary literature—beyond the thematizing of fictions as stories about love and war; or crimes of passion; etc.,. Some texts we will study may include Gottfried von Strassburg's *Tristan*, the *Nibelungenlied*, Guillaume de Lorris' *The Romance of the Rose*, Lorca's *The Blood Wedding*, selections from Boccaccio's *Decameron*, among others.

ENGL 4210 Literary History: Women Writing, 1500-1660

(Prof. Jessica Tvordi) **TR 11:30-12:45pm**

This course focuses on women writers of the sixteenth- and early seventeenth-centuries in Britain, including but not limited to Elizabeth I, Anne Dowriche, Isabella Whitney, Mary Herbert, Aemelia Lanyer, Elizabeth Carey, and Mary Wroth. We will consider their struggles to break free from sanctioned genres and topics, explore their movement away from private literary circles to the burgeoning literary marketplace, and examine their contributions to literary history as poets, playwrights, translators, and advocates. Supplementary readings will include scholarly articles on these authors, as well as polemical works addressing the status of women in the early modern period. Students will keep a reading journal, participate in a group presentation, and write a final essay.

ENGL 4310 Major Authors: Dostoevsky & Kafka

(Prof. Nozomi Irei) TR 8:30-9:45am

This course will offer an opportunity to study the works of Dostoevsky and Kafka. Seemingly different in many ways, the writings of Dostoevsky and Kafka share a passionate affirmation of life that resists simple thematizing into convenient categories based on nationality, geography, historical time periods, religious backgrounds, politics, or social class. We will explore how, in different ways, the intense energies of Dostoevsky and Kafka's stories overflow through all narrative conventions to coalesce into singular literary creations. We will compare how Kafka's fiction challenges traditional components of narrative, such as character and plot—which are fashioned in meticulous detail in Dostoevsky's novels. In addition to their novels, we will also read some of their short stories. Some texts may include Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*, *Crime and Punishment*, *Demons*, "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man"; and Kafka's *The Trial*, *Amerika* (a.k.a., *The Man Who Disappeared*), "The Burrow," "The Metamorphosis," "The Penal Colony," among others. Supplementary readings will include critical essays on both writers; and letters and diaries of Dostoevsky and Kafka, which will offer valuable insight into their writing processes.

ENGL 4510 Topics in Literature: Visual Writing

(Prof. Nicole Dib) TR 10-11:15am

This course will explore ways that text can be laid out visually to highlight and communicate meaning. Students will explore many different media, materials, and experimental processes as they create and rework pieces of writing. We will cover the history of visual writing, explore graphic design concepts such as layout, sizing, spacing, and typographic choices as ways of creating meaning in writing, and we will consider how material explorations and iteration function as a creative process. Assignments may include collages, reshuffling/rewritings, illustrated encyclopedia entries, and letterpress creation of analytical texts.

ENGL 4800 Literature Senior Capstone

(Prof. Ryan Siemers) MWF 3-3:50pm

Only for seniors in the English Literature major. This course emphasizes mastering analytical skills and developing research proposals, abstract writing, research methodologies, and the writing of an annotated bibliography culminating in a capstone essay of original scholarly research.