ENGLISH (ENGL)

ENGL120 The Nobel Writers: Literary Institutions and the Literary Canon
Through analysis of selected texts, primarily by writers from the Americas, this course addresses the institution of the Nobel Prize as a mechanism regulating the production of literature, the literary marketplace, and the literary canon. The aims of the course are threefold: the pleasure of reading selected Nobel Prize-winning texts, an understanding of literature as shaped by and shaping global cultures, and a skills set for the analysis of literary texts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Identical With: AMST120
Prereq: None

ENGL130 The English Essay
This course will focus on the writing of nonfiction and the forms of the English essay. Readings will be drawn from a range of genres, both nonfiction and fiction, including memoirs and profiles, historical and contemporary commentary, short stories and novels.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL131 Writing Seminar I
TBA
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL132 Writing Seminar II
TBA
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL136F Not Quite Passing (FYS)
While the tradition of memoir can arguably be traced back to St. Augustine’s Confessions, there’s an equally long history of false memoirs, or “memoir minstrelsy,” where authors write memoirs about lives they haven’t lived or use false backstories to sell and publish fiction as thinly veiled roman à clef. Often these memoirs/backstories “borrow” narratives from marginalized groups and ethnicities that have traditionally had their own stories hijacked.

Students will explore the tradition of false lives recorded as reality and seek out answers to the weird and difficult questions raised by this mutated genre: What is the author’s agenda? Why is it that people in the majority consistently mine the plights of marginalized individuals? How did these stories get into our hands at all? Why are readers so willing to trust someone when an author says something is true in a book? What happens when fictional narratives are framed as personal nonfiction reportage? Students will also actively participate in writing their own false memoir, based on their close readings of assigned texts.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL140F Literature, Laughter, Philosophy: Tristram Shandy (FYS)
Laurence Sterne’s novel, THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF TRISTRAM SHANDY, GENTLEMAN (1759-67) has been described as a literary masterpiece, a hilarious satire, a sentimental tear-jerker, and an obscene abomination. Thomas Jefferson thought it formed “the best course of morality that was ever written”; it was a favorite of Karl Marx and Friedrich Neitzsche; and it was even heralded (in a recent film adaptation) as “a postmodern classic written before there was any modernism to be post about.” The book is deeply learned—engaging texts from skeptical philosophy to 18th-century science and from Hamlet to early novels. It is also, indisputably, very odd: Though Tristram is trying to tell the story of his life, he fails to get himself born in the first hundred pages, and the text is full of doodles, blank pages, madcap digressions, and missing chapters.
In this course, we will read Tristram Shandy alongside the many, many texts it references, borrows from, and mocks, as well as the many, many texts it has influenced. Throughout, we will take Tristram Shandy as our rich test case for some fundamental theoretical questions, What is literature, and why do we tell stories anyway? How is literature related to philosophy? How do our minds work? What is the meaning of human life—of laughter, learning, sex, and death?
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL141F Slavery, latifundio, and Revolution in Latin American Literature and Cinema (FYS)
In this course, we will read literatures and cinemas of Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, and Cuba that depict insurrectionist and revolutionary ruptures that take place on plantations and latifundios. We will study how insurrection and revolution are deployed by Caribbean and Latin American literary imaginations to critique the dangerous economic situations in the early 20th century of U.S.-backed client states—referred to dismissively in the United States as “banana republics” after the United Fruit Company converted U.S. naval ships into cargo boats that would import exploitativey planted and harvested bananas—and the economic schemes of underdevelopment that aligned with expanding U.S. hegemony in the hemisphere. We will read narratives of revolution that expose different systems of human oppression, beginning with the Haitian Revolution of the late 18th century, insurrections in Chiapas against casta and latifundio before and after the Mexican Revolution of 1910, and ending with revolts against U.S. economic and military interventions in Guatemala and Cuba in the 20th century. We will attend to the way that revolutions are represented both as vertical ruptures that seek to explode the past and as horizontal historical developments that continue select legacies of the past. While de-romanticizing the commercialized Che T-shirt notion of revolutions in the Americas, we will, more importantly, deconstruct revolutionary progressive discourses of heteronormativity, modernity, and development.
Among our topics will be the way fictional narratives render and aestheticize the historically dangerous proximity between dictatorship and democracy, as well as other consequences of specifically Latin American and Caribbean revolutions: the external manipulation of sovereignty, extraction of resources by military-backed force, civil wars, genocide, and the making of migrations and diasporas.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL142F Beyond Marvel: Introduction to the Graphic Novel (FYS)
Graphic storytelling is an ancient art that has gained mainstream recognition in the past twenty years. We will explore a wide variety of influential comic books and graphic novels with a focus on the means by which they expand upon and
intervene with established narratives, write about how they achieve their effect, and try our hand at writing a comic script.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL145F Body and Text (FYS)
 In this class, students will study authors who are considering their own identities and those of their writings, working through and working out affinities. Readings will generate larger discussions about language, art, genre, (body) politics, and aesthetics. Students will also write texts of various types—stories, notebooks, essays, fictions, and/or poetry.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL146F Three Big Novels (FYS)
 In this class we will read three long novels, from three different societies and eras, for the pleasure and enlightenment of their contents and style and also to examine the unique phenomenon of long-form attention to a vast fictional world.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL150F American Crazy: Four Myths of Violence and National Identity (FYS)
 Among the industrialized nations of the world, the United States has long had unusually high levels of crime, violence, and imprisonment. This course will explore five especially prominent cultural explanations for American violence. We will consider the origins of these explanations in American myth and history, and we will investigate their appearance in literary expression, journalistic reporting, popular culture, and social science.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL153F Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in the Middle Ages (FYS)
 This course concerns the invention of premodern ideas of ethnicity and race. Our focus will be on a selection of medieval texts dealing with the encounters—real and imaginary—of Western European Christians with other cultures, from the Celtic borderlands to the Mongol Empire. The readings will begin historically with the Crusades and the (often grisly) chronicles written by Christian, Muslim, and Jewish authors. Other genres will include religious polemics, autobiographical narratives of religious conversion, and travel accounts by missionaries, spies, and colonial propagandists. We will also read some later "romances" that re-imagine the crusades in terms of exoticized sexuality, racial transformation, cannibalism, and nationalist fantasy.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL155F Utopian Planning from Plato's Republic to UFO Cults (FYS)
 What does the perfect society look like? What are the barriers to realizing it? For centuries, schemers, dreamers, and radicals have turned to fiction to imagine the answers to these questions. In this course, we will look at the long history of texts that imagine ideal societies, beginning with Plato's Republic, moving through its Renaissance revivals, and concluding with 19th- and 20th-century texts that turned the language of utopia to address issues of gender, class, and race. We conclude with a section on the realization of utopia, in which we read literary works that imagine the barriers and follies that accompany attempts to put these plans into reality and look at examples of groups—cults, convents, and communes—that have attempted to create utopian communities. We will even head to the Shaker village in nearby Enfield, Connecticut to see the remains of a 19th-century utopian experiment.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL157F Caribbean Literature and Writing the Environment (FYS)
 This is a writing and reading course in which students will use Caribbean literature focused on the environment and the environment around them as starting points for writing of their own.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL159F Lost World/New World: Literature and the Anthropocene (FYS)
 The world we live in today is lost. Within a few decades, we will be living in a radically transformed, radically new world: hotter, more chaotic, with wilder weather and higher seas. How do we make sense of this change? How have humans used literature to try to understand climate change in the past? In this course, we will track "lost worlds" and "new worlds" from ancient Sumeria to 17th-century England to the intergalactic future, thinking throughout about how these texts might inform our history while enlightening our contemporary predicament.
 Offering: Host
 Grading: OPT
 Credits: 1.00
 Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
 Prereq: None

ENGL160F Lost World/New World: Literature and the Anthropocene (FYS)
 This course will expose students to the history of print culture in the United States and familiarize students with the current state of affairs in American journalism. Each week we will read historical and contemporary texts alongside one another, seeing how recent journalism continues in the tradition of older forms of public writing but also deviates from and altogether abandons them. Some of the assignments for the course will be critical, asking students to...
ENGL165 Querying the Nation: American Literature and Ethnic Studies
This course poses the study of American literature as a way to explore issues of race and ethnicity in the United States. From 1960s student strikes demanding ethnic studies courses in California to recent dismantlings of the field in some high schools and colleges, the role of ethnic studies in education has been a topic of heated debate. We will examine a range of multiethnic texts to understand how they have generated critical frameworks for cultural study that are attuned to the contradictions of various American ideals. Toward the end of the course, we will direct some of our energies to investigating how ethnic studies has circulated at Wesleyan.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
ENGL175F Staging America: Modern American Drama (FYS)
Can modern American drama--as cultural analysis--teach us to reread how America ticks? Together we will explore this question as we read and discuss some of the most provocative classic and uncanonized plays written between the 1910s and the present. Plays by Susan Glaspell, Eugene O'Neill, Mike Gold, workers theater troupe, Clifford Odets, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Amiri Baraka, Arthur Kopit, Ntozake Shange, Luis Valdez, David Mamet, Tony Kushner, Ayad Akhtar, and others will help us think about what's at stake in staging America and equip us as cultural analysts, critical thinkers, close readers of literature, and imaginative historians of culture and theater. This seminar will introduce first-year students to the kind of critical thinking developed in majors such as English; American Studies; African American Studies; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; College of Letters; Theater Studies; and the Social and Cultural Theory Certificate.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST125F, COL125F, THEA172F, FGSS175F, AFAM152F
Prereq: None
ENGL176F August Wilson (FYS)
During his lifetime, the world-renowned African American playwright August Wilson graced stages with award-winning and -nominated plays from his "Pittsburgh Cycle." This course examines the 10 plays of this cycle in the order that the playwright wrote them, from JITNEY (1982) to RADIO GOLF (2005). We will pay special attention to the playwright's use of language, history, memory, art, and music within his oeuvre.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM177F, THEA175F
Prereq: None
ENGL186 The Changing American Novel: From Jack Kerouac to Maggy Nelson
This course will discuss eleven novels, exploring changes in the styles, concerns, and attitudes of fiction from World War II to the present. The first half of the course addresses the hegemony of certain forms and issues in novels written primarily by white male authors between 1945 and 1965. The second half is devoted to diverse novels that represent some of the literary, social and political forces that have led to the heterogeneity of the contemporary American novel. The course will explicitly address ways of reading and interpreting.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: COL186
Prereq: None
ENGL190F Place, Character, and Design: Techniques in Writing Nonfiction and Fiction (FYS)
We begin this writing course with questions central to students' work in both nonfiction and fiction: how to establish characters and a narrator's voice and how to frame the spatial and emotional world of the piece. The course encourages students to explore questions of design and structure while focusing also on style and technique at the sentence level. This creative writing course explores features of narrative and design that are central to work in fiction and creative nonfiction. We will also compare the design of college papers, written for academic courses, with pieces written for general readers. Readings include works by writers interested in these questions, including, in fiction, Andre Aciman, Vladimir Nabokov, Henry James, Robert Stone, Deborah Eisenberg, and Edward P. Jones, and, in nonfiction, Brian Doyle, Junichiro Tanizaki, Joan Didion, Charles Bowden, Mark Doty, Linh Dinh, Dubravka Ugresic, and George Orwell.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
ENGL201C Ways of Reading: Texts and Territories
Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.
Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.
This course will deal with issues of territory and land in literary texts from the 12th century to the 21st century. We will focus on questions both of how texts negotiate their places and how specific territories generate texts.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
ENGL201D Ways of Reading: Reading for Genre: Form, History, Theory
Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.
Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose
narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course will explore the three major genres of literature: poetry, drama, and prose narrative. We will examine their building blocks, or basic elements, and seek to understand how individual works of literature exemplify, reveal, and experiment with them. We will attend to formal and theoretical matters ranging from the operation of words to the patterns that structure poems, plays, and plots. We will ask how literary texts respond to, represent, and capture both literary history and their historical moments by depicting their time and place and by participating in debates about art and society. Throughout, our emphasis will be on the rigors and pleasures of close reading, sustained and detailed textual analysis. We will strive to cultivate the lively, generous, nourishing, and ennobling engagement that S. T. Coleridge had in mind when he said nearly 200 years ago that "the poet, described in ideal perfection, brings the whole soul of man into activity."

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201E Ways of Reading: Gifts, Debts, and Promises
Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

In this course, our studies of 20th- and 21st-century works will focus on how various forms of "contact"—intercultural encounters, travel and migration, genre mixing, etc.—produce literary tensions that comment on broader social and political worlds. In addition to analyzing texts from a range of genres, we will situate them in their historical contexts, approach them from a variety of critical perspectives, and examine how literary expressions of "contact" shape perceptions of the contemporary world.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201H Ways of Reading: Influence, Imitation, Invention
Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course will consider how texts respond to one another and to the world, imitating and rebuffing what has come before. Looking particularly at how authors deploy generic and stylistic strategies to do this, we will examine works that use realism to imitate the world as well as those that break with such ways of seeing. As we read, we will develop a set of technical and conceptual approaches to various literary genres to generate a facility and ease with close reading. At the same time, class materials will demand we recognize the influence of historical, geographic, and social contexts on the production and reception of works of literature. Therefore, as responsible readers, we will combine attention to a text's formal properties with an awareness of its relations to worlds outside the text.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201G Ways of Reading: Contact Zones
Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.
Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course focuses on the techniques of interpretation, beginning with words and tropes like metaphor and metonymy and advancing to narrative theory. It introduces students to different theoretical approaches to the text, including formalist, psychoanalytic, cultural, and new historicist studies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201K Ways of Reading: Borrowing and Stealing: Authorship and Originality in Literature

Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course will explore the meaning of authorship and originality in literary study. What does it mean to be original within a literary tradition? How do genres retain their coherence while also enabling originality? When does inspiration become plagiarism? Where do we draw the line between borrowing and stealing in literature? What legal, ethical, and historical frameworks help us to distinguish between them? How do such norms vary across genres and media? This course will focus on the different ways that poetry, fiction, and drama foster the recirculation of particular plots, figures, and formal structures while still maintaining the value of originality. We will pay particular attention to the crises of authorship that mark what Walter Benjamin famously called the “Age of Mechanical Reproduction.” But we will also look at the central role that borrowing and rewriting has played in the very constitution of the idea of a literary tradition.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201L Ways of Reading: Forms of Difference

Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course will focus on the politics of literary form—that is, how literary form and content work together to produce arguments about the social world. We will pay special attention to how 20th- and 21st-century writers use literary form to explore, illuminate, negotiate, and challenge categories of social difference, including race, gender, and sexuality. In addition to practicing techniques of close reading on a range of texts from different genres, we will also read literary criticism from a variety of theoretical and political perspectives—psychoanalytic, feminist, postcolonial, historicist, etc.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201N Ways of Reading: Adaptations: From Page to Stage

Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature. So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems, novels, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course investigates dramatic adaptations that have originated from poetry, short stories, novels, and historical events. Through multiple modes of inquiry, we interrogate form, genre, narrative, aesthetic, and intended audience as well as the social, political, gender, sexuality, and/or racial context of each literary piece. Within these various “page to stage” adaptation processes, we track the evolution of our source texts and chart the longevity and changeable dynamics of elements, such as character, theme, plot, point of view, setting, and time, as they appear within each dramatic iteration.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL201P Ways of Reading: Autobiography

“Ways of Reading” introduces students to the characteristics thought of as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the English major, and only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

“Ways of Reading” courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry, drama, and prose
narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some
of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a
social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world
beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools
for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature.
So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly
that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems,
short stories, and plays; but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in
the discourses that shape everyday life.

Attending closely to the transformative properties of figurative language and
the structuring principles of narrative, in this “Ways of Reading” course we
will consider how language creates a life. We will begin with the lyric poetry
of Maggie Nelson, who has also published prose memoirs, and will encounter
similar pairings over the course of this semester. We will explore the formal
dimensions of lyric poetry by analyzing the ways that figurative language
simultaneously compresses and expands meanings, the significance of where
one line ends and another begins, and the creation of a speaker and addressee.
When reading prose, we will study larger structures of meaning, and learn
how to track the accretion of detail over many pages, and will explore our
expectations for how a first-person account should be structured. Throughout,
we will be exploring how literary language represents a human life, and how in a
graphic memoir visual and verbal work together.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL201Q Ways of Reading: The Pleasures of the Text
Prereq: None

Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of
as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the
English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and
techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose
narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some
of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a
social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world
beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools
for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature.
So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly
that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems,
short stories, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in
the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course introduces the bundle of characteristics we think of as “literary” and
the methods for studying them, with an eye toward pleasure: What spurs us to
read, and what spurs us to return to certain texts? We will develop strategies for
careful and close reading and techniques for the analysis of poetic and narrative
forms; we will examine the idea of literature as a social institution and explore
ways of making connections between textual details and the world beyond the
text.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL201T Ways of Reading: Literature About Literature
Prereq: None

Ways of Reading courses introduce students to the characteristics thought of
as literary and the methods for studying them. This is a gateway course into the
English major. Only one of the ENGL201 series may be taken for credit.

Ways of Reading courses develop strategies for careful and close reading, and
techniques for the analysis of literary forms such as poetry and drama, and prose
narratives such as novels and short stories. They familiarize students with some
of the protocols of the literary-critical essay, examine the idea of literature as a
social institution, and explore ways of connecting textual details and the world
beyond the text. The ways of reading learned in the course are powerful tools
for critically assessing discourses that expand far beyond the realm of literature.
So while students will become adept literary critics, they also will learn quickly
that to be a literary critic is to read critically and carefully all the time: in poems,
short stories, and plays, but also in political speech, in popular culture, and in
the discourses that shape everyday life.

This course will explore the methods, meanings, and very purposes of literature
by reading literature about literature—literature written by authors in their most
playfully self-aware and self-interrogating of moods. In one of her novels, Jane
Austen celebrates the pleasures and dramatizes the perils of novel reading, and
an array of 20th- and 21st-century fiction writers sound similarly self-referential—
if slightly more self-defeating—notes. Poets from Edmund Spenser and Alexander
Pope to W. H. Auden and Billy Collins have written poetry about poetry, and
both Shakespeare and Tom Stoppard write imaginative plays that raise questions
about the nature and limits of imagination. We will attend to the different
ways that these authors imagine the purposes and possibilities of literature,
developing a nuanced sense of literature as a culturally specific phenomenon
that fulfills constantly changing needs and desires. Throughout, our emphasis will
be on the practice of close reading, on careful attention to how texts construct
meanings and make demands on readers.

Offering: Host
ENGL203 American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War
This course considers the way a large range of American writers responded to the industrial transformation of the United States. We will look at the way writers conceived and understood the rise of the corporation, the growth of the metropolis, the surge of migration, and the expansion of American power through war and settlement, and we will consider the way such visions related to the writers’ understanding of the nature of American culture and the significance of literary expression. Among the authors discussed will be William Dean Howells, Charles Chesnutt, Henry James, Mark Twain, Stephen Crane, Sarah Orne Jewett, Mary Wilkins Freeman, Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Frank Norris, T. S. Eliot, Willa Cather, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, Ernest Hemingway, Jean Toomer, and Richard Wright.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST235
Prereq: None

ENGL204 American Literature, 1865–1945
Together we will explore not only the complexities of American literature from the 1860s to the 1940s but how this literature excels as a usable critical resource that can advance our understanding of how America has "ticked" as a culture; a socioeconomic system that established and sought to maintain class, gender, and racial difference; and a political power structure. In our ongoing analyses of the relationship of literary form and social form, we will trace connections between historical developments such as the gothic genre and gender ideologies, domestic romance and the social reproduction of labor, realism and mass-urbanism, naturalism and immigration, and modernism and imperialism. The creative works of Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Fanny Fern, Mark Twain, Stephen Crane, Henry James, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Charles Chesnutt, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, Meridel Le Sueur, Ernest Hemingway, Eugene O'Neill, Nathanael West, William Faulkner, Richard Wright, and Zora Neale Hurston will help equip us to be more imaginative readers of literature, ourselves, and America. This literature offers us expansive insights into what was at stake in America's production of "the modern." We will experience the aesthetic pleasures and critical pleasures of reading great writing.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST243
Prereq: None

ENGL205 Shakespeare
Our guiding focus will be on drama as a form of skepticism. How, we will ask, do Shakespeare's plays force us to question the legitimacy of political rule, the categories of race and gender, and the nature of the self? How do they imagine the challenge of knowing, trusting, and loving others? And how do they wrestle with the dangers of doubting too much?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA210
Prereq: None

ENGL206 British Literature in the Enlightenment: Individualism, Consumer Culture, and the Public Sphere
This course is an introduction to the drama of William Shakespeare. We will read plays representing the major dramatic genres—comedy, history, and tragedy—and study them in the context of the historical transformations that shaped early modern England, from the Protestant Reformation to New World colonization. Our guiding focus will be on drama as a form of skepticism. How, we will ask, do Shakespeare's plays force us to question the legitimacy of political rule, the categories of race and gender, and the nature of the self? How do they imagine the challenge of knowing, trusting, and loving others? And how do they wrestle with the dangers of doubting too much?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA210
Prereq: None

ENGL207 Chaucer and His World
This lecture course marks a path through American literature, moving from European fantasies and narratives of the conquest of the New World to representations of slavery, industrialization, and U.S. national expansion. We will begin by considering the role of "America" (both the idea and the real continents) in world history; the questions we raise will return often as we look closely at the literature. Whether sermon, imperial report to the metropole, memoir, poem, or novel, the forms of our texts differentiate them as much as their content sometimes unites them; therefore, we will examine the consequences, both political and aesthetic, of literary conventions. We will pay special attention to the relationship between texts and images (illustration, painting, iconography).
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST243
Prereq: None

ENGL208 Feminist Theories
In this course, we will read Chaucer's fascinating dream-visions, The Book of the Duchess and The House of Fame and his best-known work, The Canterbury Tales. We will also read selections from Chaucer's sources and consider how he adapts these texts in his own literary works. Some of the topics we will explore are the various genres of Chaucer's poetry (allergy, epic, romance, satire), medieval ideas about psychology and dreams, the ideology of chivalry, Chaucer's reinvention of the classical world, and views of gender and sexuality. All readings will be in Middle English, so we will read slowly and carefully, with attention to the language.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MDST207
Prereq: None

ENGL209 Feminist Theories
How does "feminist" (a political commitment) modify "theory" (an intellectual practice)? We will address this question by reading a range of contemporary feminist theorists working to analyze the complex interrelations of social differences (gender, race, class, sexual orientation, religion, and so on), and relations of social domination and economic exploitation in a globalized world. The question, What is to be done? will oversee our work.
Offering: Crosslisting
ENGL209 From Seduction to Civil War: The Early U.S. Novel
This course examines the relationship between nation and narrative: the collective fantasies that incited reading and writing into the 19th century. We will study the novel as a field of literary production both in dialogue with European models and expressive of changes in national culture, a form that both undermined and reinforced dominant ideologies of racial, gender, and class inequality during this turbulent period of national formation and imperial expansion. We will consider the ways the pleasure of novel-reading depends upon, even as it often disparages, the world outside the story. Throughout our reading, we will trace the ways these novels both reflect and participate in the historical development of the United States during a period that spans national founding, the consolidation of northern capitalism and an exacerbated North/South division, expansion into Mexico and the Pacific, and civil war. Through close attention to literary form, we will continually pose the question, What is the relationship between literary culture and historical change? We will examine who was writing, for whom they wrote, and the situation—political, commercial—in which the American novel was produced and consumed. We will begin with the novel of sentiment and seduction and conclude with reflections on slavery and racial revolution on the eve of the Civil War, all the time asking about the ways the novel might seduce us into either tolerating or resisting the way of the world.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST281, FGSS210
Prereq: None

ENGL210 The Rise of the Novel
The novel as we know it emerged in 18th-century England. The real questions are, how and why? Were novels first written by white men, expressing the attitudes and capitalizing on the reading practices of an emergent middle class? Or did they evolve from a somewhat less respectable tradition of romance writing by and for women? Did novelistic prose draw on scientific and economic discourses as it naively sought to present a realistic picture of the world? Or was the genre playfully self-aware, from its very origins, of the difficult relationship between reality and language? This course will explore some of the complexities of the rise of the novel, one of the most important and oft-told tales of literary history. As we read fictions filled with criminals, love letters, scandals, and satirical self-referentiality, we will think about the differences between early novels and the not-quite novels that preceded them. We will focus on how novels work through plot, character, and realistic prose, but we will also consider how critical narratives like the rise of the novel work. How do these narratives help us, as novel readers today, understand our relationship to the past and to the novel as a form?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL211 Ethics of Embodiment (FGSS Gateway)
Why is the human body such a contested site of ethical concern? Why are bodies thought to be so in need of description and regulation? Sexual practices, gendered presentations, bodily sizes, physical aptitudes, colors of skin, styles of hair—all are both intimately felt and socially inscribed. Bodies exist at the intersection of the most private and the most public and are lived in relation to powerful social norms. In this course, we turn to the critical work of feminist and queer scholars committed to analyzing how bodies matter.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-FGSS
Identical With: AMST281, FGSS210
Prereq: None

ENGL212 Edgar Allan Poe and Literary Culture
Edgar Allan Poe is best known for his grotesque characters and macabre plot-twists. But though Poe seems capable of offering readers only a very specific form of literary experience - dark, brooding, atmospheric - what's striking about his work when taken as a whole is its variety. Poe was a writer of short stories, a poet, a novelist, an essayist, and an editor. He invented the detective story, wrote science fiction, and published tales of romance, family discord, and horror. This course sets out to appreciate Poe's eclectic literary output in the context of the emergent nineteenth-century publishing industry, seeing Poe - whether playing the role of novelist, poet, or critic - most of all as a writer struggling to earn a living in the 1830's and 1840's.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST212

ENGL213 Contemporary British and American Fiction
This course will introduce students to some of the most influential British and American novels of the past 35 years. In addition to close readings of these challenging and rewarding texts, this course will introduce students to key terms and concepts in postwar literary history such as postmodernism, romance, postcolonialism, realism, and magical realism. Central to our investigation of Anglo-American fiction will be the divergent political and economic fortunes of the United States, on the one hand, and the U.K., on the other.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL214 Literature of London
This course examines the role of London in the literary imagination of Great Britain from 1800 to 1914. A vibrant multiclass and multiethnic jigsaw puzzle, London was a world city at the center of the empire, the seat of crown and Parliament, and a place of both danger and opportunity. In addition to being the economic and political center of Great Britain, some authors viewed London as the nation's narrative center as well. Others saw the ugliness of the city, its poverty, and noisy, crowded streets as inimical to literature. As this tension between visions of London as the core of British culture and as its anathema suggests, literature about London mediated upon the relations between art and society, progress and poverty, and literature and social fact.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL215 Place, Belonging, and Sound in the 20th c. Latina/o/x, Black, & Caribbean Imaginations--NYC
Throughout the latter 20th century, New York City has held a voyeuristic allure as a site of excess and pleasure that is nevertheless “seedy,” “gritty,” and segregated. Through select literary, cinematic, and performance optics of Latina/o/x, Black, and Caribbean writers and artists, this course will focus
ENGL219 Homer and the Epic

In this course we will read both the Iliad and the Odyssey (in English translation). These two great epics are recognized as the first major texts of the Western literary tradition, and they have had an incalculable influence on everything from literature, to history, to the visual arts. Through a close reading of both epics, we will consider issues such as Homeric composition and poetic practice, heroes and the heroic code, the relation between humans and gods, the role of fate, and the literary tradition, and they have had an incalculable influence on everything from history, to the visual arts. Through a close reading of both epics, we will consider issues such as Homeric composition and poetic practice, heroes and the heroic code, the relation between humans and gods, the role of fate, and the structure of Homeric society (e.g., the status of women; clan and community).

We will also read a number of contemporary critical essays to help us frame our discussions.

Offering: Crosslisting
Gradning: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: CCIV220
Prereq: None

ENGL220 Armchair Adventurer: Popular and Literary Fiction at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

At the turn of the twentieth century, stories of travel, action, and adventure enjoyed enormous market success and cultural prominence. This course examines the interaction between the adventure stories told in popular genre fiction--science fiction, historical fiction, adventure stories, detective novels, romance, children's literature, etc.--and their 'high' literary cousins. In the first half of the course, we will read classic works of genre fiction in order to understand the appeal of these stories and storytelling modes, for both writers and readers, and to identify their generic structures, plots, and premises. In the second half of the course, we will turn to four works of literary fiction that emerged in a close conversation with these popular forms.

Offering: Host
Gradning: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL221 The African Novel I: Nervous Conditions

This class will consider several canonical novels from sub-Saharan Africa. Our focus will be on their aesthetic and thematic properties; the novels are not meant as introductions to African histories, cultures, peoples, or practices. We will explore, instead, the specific subjects and styles of each work in the context of wider debates about orality, language, colonialism, gender, and the novel.

To better understand the political and aesthetic stakes of African literary canon formation, we will also attempt to identify what makes a work canonical.

Offering: Host
Gradning: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL222 Slavery and the Literary Imagination

Enslavement in America and the New World was inextricably linked to the written word. What, then, does it mean to write the story of enslavement, loss, forced migration, liberation, and restoration? How does one tell the story of enslavement when that effort depends on articulating the unspeakable?

The works and writers examined in this course will prompt students to consider how one revisits history and what is required to imagine, write, and rewrite the stories and histories of people, places, and nations. We will discuss the ways in which specific literary forms enable, contain, and transform unwieldy, complicated, and stunning stories of enslavement, liberation, self-determination, activism, racialization, and nationhood.

Our readings will include an array of well-known, understudied, and newly recovered primary works and materials by and about individuals such as William Wells Brown, Charles Chesnutt, Frederick Douglass, Briton Hammon, Jupiter Hammon, James Mars, Pauline Hopkins, Mattie Jackson, Mary Prince, Chloe Spear, and Phillis Wheatley. Additional primary materials will include writings published in 18th- and 19th-century newspapers such as the "Boston Weekly Newsletter," "The Connecticut Journal," "The Liberator," and "North Star."

Offering: Crosslisting
Gradning: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: FGSS221, AFAM222
Prereq: None

ENGL223 The African Novel II: After Achebe

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 2003 novel, PURPLE HIBISCUS, summons Chinua Achebe, the "grandfather of African literature," in its opening line: "Things started to fall apart at home when my brother, Jaja, did not go to communion." While Achebe is a formative influence on Adichie and on many
other contemporary African writers, the central preoccupations of African literature have shifted considerably in recent years. This class will consider recent topics animating the field. These include debates about Afropolitanism, the role of publication houses and prize committees in the canonization and circulation of texts, queer African literature, African-language literature, and the position of African literature vis-à-vis world literature. Readings will be chosen from among the newest novels and short stories in publication.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL224 Medieval Drama: Read It and Be in It
It was and still is revolutionary theater! This course will examine early English drama in its many forms, from the civic mystery cycles of the 15th century to the morality plays Mankind and Everyman. We will cover topics including the role of drama in defining communal identities, dramatic interpretations of gender, and the responses of drama to contemporary social and religious controversies. Most readings will be in modernized and annotated Middle English, so we will pay close attention to language.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MDST224, THEA224
Prereq: None

ENGL225 Darwinian Fictions
This class tracks the discourse surrounding evolutionary science as it circulated through various spheres of American intellectual life in the decades after the Civil War. If the ideas proposed by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer fundamentally changed the way scientists and politicians understood the natural world and human beings' relation to it, these ideas would also influence the way writers understood the function of literature. Best summed up by Emile Zola's suggestion that, through literature, we are capable of "possess[ing] knowledge of man, scientific knowledge of him, in both his individual and social relations," authors during this period began to explore the literary possibilities of evolutionary science. By reading works of literature alongside influential scientific treatises, this course encourages students to think about the kinds of knowledge literary experience gives us access to, and the relationship between literary knowledge and other disciplinary forms that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST257, SISP225
Prereq: None

ENGL226 Romantic-Era Extremities: Madness, Revolution, Sublimity, and the Celtic Fringe
This course examines the Romantic fascination with psychological, political, aesthetic, and geographical extremes. We will explore how Romantic writers, who were by turns attracted and repelled by these extremities, found literary means of investigating and representing them. In the process, they refashioned forms such as the Gothic tale and verse narrative, and they reconsidered artistic categories such as sublimity, disorder, and fragmentation. Some questions we will ask include, How did the idea of extremity shape Romantic ideas about literary form? How did various sorts of extremity become aligned with one another? How did writers present the relationship between the center and the periphery, between norm and deviation? Were extreme experiences or states of being, whether individual or collective, aberrant parts of life, or were they intrinsic to what it meant to be human, or to be a society? Did extremity offer wisdom as well as danger, and, if so, how were the two related to one another? Might one grow from extremity toward a maturity that was at once stable and wiser for having ventured into those dangerous places?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL227 Reading The Victorians
Why read the Victorians? To know more about how an industrializing, urbanizing, commercial, and imperial nation imagines itself; to understand better how middle-class culture is established and comes to work all by itself; to explore the power of representations of sexual difference—the famous separate spheres for 19th-century men and women--and of the great divide that opens between the public and the private; to understand how sexuality extends the reach of disciplinary power, and how money, increasingly nothing but paper, extends value. Our primary focus will be on novels. We will study how large Victorian "triple-deckers" project intricately detailed worlds populated with compelling, three-dimensional characters. We will consider how novels represent the way we live now.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MDST264, CEAS231
Prereq: None

ENGL230 Introduction to Asian American Literature
This course surveys how Asia and Asian Americans have figured in the U.S. cultural imaginary from the middle of the 19th century to the present, from Herman Melville's American epic Moby-Dick to Ruth Ozeki's comic novel about transnational television, trade, and activism My Year of Meats. As the choice of these framing texts suggests, we will be exploring two kinds of representations. On the one hand, we will examine the narratives, tropes, and images through which dominant American culture has envisioned its incursions into Asia and the reciprocal movement of Asians into the United States; on the other, we will also explore the ways in which Asian Americans have sought to represent their own varied and uneven encounters with U.S. culture. The course is organized chronologically in order to emphasize the ways in which these cultural artifacts reflect and influence their social and historical contexts. In the latter half of the course, as we enter the period beginning with the 1970s in which Asian American literature becomes an institutional category in its own right, we will add to this historical framework a number of other analytical frames that have emerged from within Asian American Studies itself: cultural nationalism; gender and sexuality; postcoloniality; cultural assimilation; and globalization.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST264, CEAS231
Prereq: None

ENGL231 Contemporary Puerto Rican Art and Literature
This course studies the works of contemporary Puerto Rican filmmakers, performance artists, poets, novelists, painters, conceptual artists, musicians and sound artists. Puerto Rico continues to be one of the U.S. military's and its corporate guises' favorite laboratories; its beauty and complexity are part of what filmmaker Beatriz Santiago Muñoz calls a "chimerical ecology." In this course, we will think with this key phrase, "chimerical ecology," and many aesthetic survival strategies generated by contemporary Puerto Rican literature and art. We will consider the many forms of camouflage set into play in this "chimerical ecology," which reveal the multiple forms of destruction at work by the U.S. war machine, the debt crisis, tourism, and other forces, and the forms of resistance, transformation, and life that only art help us see. How do you
prepare to see what is camouflaged? How do you get ready for what you don’t know? Can we reshape our sensorium to feel out and make possibilities that capitalism and settler colonialism render impossible? We will study what appears to hide out in language and visual codes, along with the disidentifying discourses, counter-discourses, aesthetics, poetics, and live art forms that transform the sensorial experiences of space. Students who do not read and think in Caribbean Spanish are very welcome to take this course, but a minimally playfully bilingual attitude is encouraged.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST251
Prereq: None

**ENGL232 Mystics and Militants: Medieval Women Writers**

In this class we will read a wide range of works written by European women between ca. 1100–1400, including courtly, devotional, and polemical texts. The course will explore ideologies of gender in the Middle Ages and examine the ways in which our authors confronted the misogynist discourses of their eras with learning and imagination. We will consider such topics as constructions of sexuality and the body, “courtly love,” mystical religious experience, heresies, humanism, and utopian realms. In short, we will read works by women who created their own forms of authority and in doing so, both influenced and defied the authorities of their time.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MDST238, FGSS224
Prereq: None

**ENGL234 Jane Austen and the Romantic Age**

In this course we will read--and reread--three novels by Jane Austen. Our first reading will track the development of Austen’s unique approach to the realist novel. Our rereading will investigate how that unique approach participated in Romantic debates about art, personhood, and politics. Austen was an active participant in these debates, a sharp, subtle, and principled writer who tended to explore competing arguments and assumptions rather than render explicit judgments. She weighed in on aesthetic controversies involving beauty and the picturesque, the appropriate language for literature, the ethics of readers’ identification with characters, and the truth claims inherent in realism. She considered philosophical questions about how individuals come to know the world and themselves and the value and danger of a complex inner life of emotion and imagination. She examined the competing claims her contemporaries made for the primacy of the individual, the family, and the community, and for local rootedness and cosmopolitan independence.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST241
Prereq: None

**ENGL235 Childhood in America**

Probably the first literature we fall in love with, children’s literature shapes individuals and cultures in profound ways, investing us with important mythologies and guiding our identities and behaviors. This course will examine fairy tales, some works from the “golden age” of children’s stories, and some contemporary works. We will enrich our reading of the fiction with some of the central theorists of this genre, including Bruno Bettelheim, Jack Zipes, and Maria Tatar.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

**ENGL236 The British Modernist Novel, 1900–1945**

This course will introduce students to British novels from the modernist period of 1900-1945, a time of massive formal innovation. We will explore the formal, thematic, and philosophical features of British modernist fiction through close readings of novels and through occasional readings in essays of the period and more recent criticism. This course will provide a broad, if necessarily selective, picture of modernist fiction in all its considerable variety. In addition to some iconic examples of high modernism, we will read some arguably minor novels as well. Much of our attention will be on modernism’s recurrent concern with the meaning of modernity itself. Are modernism and modernity identical, antagonistic, or mutually dependent? How is modernism implicated in Britain’s waning imperial fortunes? Is modernism avant-garde or canonical, elitist or engaged with popular culture?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

**ENGL238 Contemporary African American Poetry and Its Pasts**

In this course, students will engage African American poetry after 1960. Alongside gaining a thorough understanding of the currents of literary history from the civil rights movement through the age of Obama, students will gain an appreciation of what traditions contemporary poets engage. Using ANGLES OF ASCENT: A NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN POETRY as the primary text for the course, students will be able to gain a comprehensive overview of the rich literary moment of which they are a part. At the same time, students will explore the meaning of the anthology itself as a mechanism of canon-making. How does being part of a canon affect the possibilities in one’s literary production?

By engaging the traditions upon which contemporary African American poets build their own poetics, students will gain a deeper understanding of the poetry itself. In addition, students will read critical works by the poets as part of their course-work gaining insight into the poets’ creative processes. In addition to developing their critical voices through analytical papers, students will have a chance to develop their own poetics through a semester-long poetry collection assignment.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM247
Prereq: None

**ENGL239 The Empire Writes Back: Readings in Postcolonial Literature**

This course is organized around some central concerns of postcolonial thought and considers works by both colonial and postcolonial writers, theorists, and filmmakers. Topics of discussion include the role of literature and culture in processes of colonization, decolonization, and neo-colonization; relationships between oral, written, and visual cultures; and connections between physical conquest and literary authority. Case studies are drawn from Algeria, the Caribbean, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, the United States, and Zimbabwe.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
ENGL240 Introduction to African American Literature
This course is a survey of the history and traditions of African American literature from its earliest origins to its most modern manifestations. We will examine, in particular, the poetry, essays, and fiction produced by people of African descent from the 18th to the 21st centuries. The courses will focus on the ways African Americans used literature to document their New World experiences, bear witness to enduring traditions, and shape American society. We will work with poetry, drama, short fiction, essays, and novels, alongside music and visual culture, as we explore African American literary and cultural aesthetics, African American literary history, and issues of class, gender, and place.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM202, AMST275
Prereq: None

ENGL241 Special Topics: Merging Forms
Students will explore, both in the readings and their own work, forms of writing that don't fit neatly into traditional genres such as fiction, essay, or criticism. Readings will include Maxine Hong Kingston's THE WOMAN WARRIOR (which combines fiction and personal essay), Eduardo Galeano's MEMORY OF FIRE: GENESIS (historical writing combined with fiction), and selected short works by Donald Barthelme, Rebecca Brown, Wayne Koestenbaum, and others (all playing with genre in various ways).
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL242 Storied Places: Revival, Renewal, and African American Landscapes
Conceptions and histories of place figure prominently and powerfully in African American literary, social, and cultural histories. Writers and artists have used the written word, images, and film to explore issues of presence and absence, claim and trespass, ownership and dispossession, as well as safety and vulnerability. We will use this course to think about how African American writers and artists in particular have used word, image, sound, and movement to highlight the histories of iconic places and terrains and to reclaim erased histories and disappeared bodies. We will also consider how revival and renewal function both as essential tropes and necessary efforts in the work to make African American life and history visible. Readings may include works by Gwendolyn Brooks, Octavia Butler, Langston Hughes, Randall Kenan, Gloria Naylor, Marilyn Nelson, Natasha Trethewey, Alice Walker, Dorothy West, and Richard Wright.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM314
Prereq: None

ENGL243 Caribbean Writers in the U.S. Diaspora
The Caribbean cloaks a complex history in a Club Med exterior. While white sands and palm trees proclaim it the "antidote to civilization," Caribbean writers undertake to represent a fuller picture of the individual in a world shaped by colonialism, slavery, nationalism, and cultural striving. This course will examine selected literary texts as part of an ongoing dialogue among the region's history, mythology, and aesthetics.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM243, AMST247, LAST247
Prereq: None

ENGL244 Kill Anything That Moves: The Vietnam War in Literature and Film
This course examines various forms of literature and film to understand the legacies of one of the most transformative events in American culture and history: the Vietnam War. "Kill anything that moves" were the orders that American soldiers reportedly received while on the ground in Vietnam, yet, to a large extent, the historical focus on the American experience of the conflict has overshadowed other perspectives. Thus, this class will take a comparative approach, exploring works by canonical and noncanonical American, Southeast Asian, and Southeast Asian American authors and directors. Among the diverse genres we will study are prose, poetry, graphic narrative, and narrative and documentary film. To think about the Vietnam War's broader relevance, we will situate the works under study within current debates concerning refugees, genocide, human rights, and the complex politics and aesthetics of war representation. Students will have the opportunity to investigate an under-studied aspect of the Vietnam War toward the end of the semester.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST363
Prereq: None

ENGL245 The Book as Object
Look at this paragraph. A decade ago, you would have found it flipping through the pages of a printed course catalog, a book marked with your highlights and dogeers. Now you scroll through it on Firefox or Chrome; you click through to check the textbooks; you copy and paste the description in an e-mail to a friend; or else you hit the back button and move on to something better. Is this the same paragraph, and are you the same reader?

This course is an exploration of the material forms in which we encounter the written word—from the scroll and the codex to the Word document and the website. Medium matters, and our goal will be to understand how. We will ask how different media technologies shape us as readers and writers; why books have come to mean so much to us as cultural objects; and how moments of media shift (like the rise of the Internet) transform our relation to words. Readings will set essays in the history of the book and media studies alongside literary case studies, and projects will engage with textual materiality through the creation of book-objects of our own.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL246 Personalizing History
How much are we shaped by our historical times and places? How much power do we have to make our historical conditions respond to our needs and desires? These questions and others are at the foundation of this course, which includes both memoir writing and memoir reading. We will construct narratives about our times and selves in a series of writing workshops. There will be some exercises where you will be asked to research specific aspects of your times and places. For example, you might be asked to research and write about such questions as when and where were you born, what were the major cultural or political currents of that time, and how was your early childhood influenced by them? Or you may be asked to bring in a photograph of someone important in your personal history and write about that person.

The memoir is a distinct genre, with topics/themes particular to it. Some of the most important are memory itself, childhood, place and displacement, language, loss/trauma/melancholia/nostalgia, self-invention or transformation, family, and generational differences. The class will engage with these topics.
in the analysis of the readings and also in the writing of memoirs. Specific techniques will be highlighted for writing practice: the catalog, diction, dialogue, metaphor, description, point of view, and narrative structure, including temporal organization, the doubled narrative, and the narrative frame.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

ENGL247 Narrative and Ideology
When ballads were popular songs that told stories, Andrew Fletcher (1655–1716) emphasized the importance of controlling dominant narratives: "If a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation." Nowadays, stories take various forms, among them cinematic, and they circulate and are consumed in vast quantities. People make stories, and the consumption of those stories, in turn, "makes" people, helping to construct individual subjectivity and collective discourse. How do narratives function as the vehicles for both overt and covert ideologies? How do stories change as they become such vehicles, and how do ideologies change when they are embedded in stories? This course pursues these questions through the analysis of the narrative structure of post-1980 American films, supplemental by reading some film theory. It combines short lectures (mainly in the first few weeks) with much discussion.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL249
Prereq: None

ENGL249 Contemporary Plays: Writing and Reading
Students will read plays currently or recently produced around the nation and write short-form dramatic pieces in response to and in conversation with the techniques and styles encountered. The course may be taken separately but is intended as a prelude to THEA399, Advanced Playwriting: Long Form.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA249
Prereq: THEA199

ENGL250 Contemporary U.S. Poetry
In this course, we will read contemporary poetry, focusing on the work written in the period 1980 to the present, by understanding diverse poetic roots and routes through American literature, multiculturalism, post-9/11 and environmental anxieties to an art that speaks to the present. We will sharpen our analytic skills and practice close reading and annotation to build our capacities to write responses to poetic texts as literature and cultural expression.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL251 Epic Tradition
This course studies the poem of history, tracing its evolution from the heroism of strife to the heroism of consciousness and studying the construction of the soul, death, the state, the patriarch, and sexuality from the dawn of history to the emergence of the modern age.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL252 Animal Theories/Human Fictions
The question of "the animal" has become a recent focus of theory, although depictions of nonhuman animals can be traced to the very origins of representation. This course will move among literature, philosophy, art, and theory in an effort to trace the changing conceptions of human-animal difference and human-animal relations from 18th-century fictions of savage men and wild children to current theories of the posthuman. We will consider the ways that the representation of "the animal" intersects with theories of gender and race as it also contests the grounds of representation itself. Authors may include Rousseau, Poe, Sewell, Mann, Colette, Coetzee, Heidegger, Agamben, Derrida, and Haraway.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: FGSS239, COL238
Prereq: None

ENGL253 Science and/as Literature in Early Modern England
Seventeenth- and 18th-century England saw the development and popularization of the "new science." Microscopes, telescopes, airpumps, automata, and experiments captured the popular imagination. The first important scientific societies and journals were founded, and the public learned about new discoveries through sermons and coffeehouse lectures. This course will trace the literary reaction to these cultural changes. A female natural philosopher wrote utopian science fiction, and Jonathan Swift satirically skewed mathematicians and experimenters. While the best of early 18th-century nature poetry takes Newton quite seriously as it depicts the way light glimmers off objects, by the century's end, William Blake villainized Newtonian thought as reductive and deadening. We will try to understand what writers found exhilarating, scary, confusing, hilarious, or important about science at this key moment of its development. At the same time, we will read this science as literature—considering, say, Francis Bacon's symbolically fraught "idols" and Robert Boyle's "literary technology," the role of poetry in spreading scientific ideas, and the importance of analogy and metaphor to the very logic of scientific thought. The disciplines of science and literature were not as cleanly separated in this period as they are now, and we can better understand both by exploring their intersections.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: SISP253
Prereq: None

ENGL254 India and the World: Fiction and Film About India and Globalization
India has made international headlines for being a globalization success story and a new global superpower. In this course, we will read literature and watch films that shed light on how globalization has actually impacted the country. We will discuss questions such as, Is globalization a good thing for India? Is it inevitable? Is it really something new? We will read texts that examine key historical and social issues, including Partition, colonialism, and Hindu-Muslim conflict. We will read English language texts and also fiction translated from Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
ENGL255 Writing on the Land of Freedom: The Pastoral in African American Literature
Landscape figures prominently and powerfully in the African American literary imagination. Writers have crafted evocative meditations on the natural world as they grapple with sobering realities of life, dramatic assertions of self, and transformative historical moments. This course will consider African American invocations of idealized, mythological, sacred, and knowable land and move toward a delineation of the African American pastoral aesthetic and tradition. We will read novels, poems, short stories, essays, letters, and journal entries by writers such as David Bradley, Charles Chesnutt, Lucille Clifton, Rita Dove, Charlotte Forten Grimké, Zora Neale Hurston, Randall Kenan, Victoria Earle Matthews, Gloria Naylor, and Marilyn Nelson.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM252
Prereq: None

ENGL256 The Emergence of World Literature(s)
In the past four decades, the traditional study of national territories, their cultures, and literatures has been supplemented and challenged by concepts and phenomena such as the transnational, the diasporic, the global, and the cosmopolitan, as well as by new curricular categories such as world history, world politics, and world literature. This course will focus on world literature and will examine literary, historical, and theoretical texts to ask what is at stake in this new area. Topics will include, but are not limited to, the networks along which narratives circulate; the aesthetic and other standards that regulate the selection of plots and themes that appeal to the cultural gatekeepers; the politics of continued domination, subordination, and cultural imperialism; inclusion and exclusion; and margins, peripheries, and centers. There is as yet no single accepted theory, no consensus history, and no established canon or geography of world literature—all are evolving as literary scholars attempt to weave together elements of comparative and postcolonial literatures with the above-mentioned concepts into a new object of readerly experience and critical knowledge. We will use literary and theoretical texts to explore how world literature is being created.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-COL
Identical With: COL256
Prereq: None

ENGL257 Topics in Journalism: Literary Journalism
In this course, we will explore the art and craft of magazine-length journalism that strives to do something different than reporting the news—it aspires to achieve the goals of literature. While this kind of writing tends to be timely, as almost all journalism must be when it's first published, at its best, it ought to be worth reading for decades to come. Truman Capote, for example, conceived of IN COLD BLOOD, which he first published as a series of articles in THE NEW YORKER in 1965, as a "non-fiction novel": a work of journalism that employed the techniques and artistry of fiction. We will study the writing of new journalists such as Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe, Nora Ephron, and Gay Talese, who pioneered the idea that there is no such thing as unbiased reporting: The writer can’t help but bring a point of view to his or her storytelling, so why not admit it? These writers broke with journalistic convention and admitted that there was an "I" behind the typewriter, a mediator between the "true" story and the reader. We will focus on reading and writing two forms in particular, the profile and the essay. While an excellent profile can be a straightforward examination of another person and his or her place in the world, in the hands of a master like Janet Malcolm or George Trow, it can become an eruption of invention. Essays ask a question or argue a point—but how? There are as many ways as there are writers who explore the form, and in this course we will seek to join them.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT250G, CSPL250G
Prereq: None

ENGL258 New World Poetics
God and money, love and beauty, slavery and freedom, war and death, nation and empire: The themes of early American poetry will carry us from London coffeehouses to Quaker meetinghouses, from Massachusetts drawing rooms to Jamaican slave-whipping rooms. Our texts will range from pristine salon couplings to mud-bespattered street ballads, from sweetest love poems to bitterest satire. Digging deeply into the English-language poetry written, read, and circulated after the first English settlement in North America, we will trace the sometimes secret connections between history and poetic form, and we will listen to what these links can tell us about poetry and politics, life and literature in our own time. Our poets ignored false divisions between art and society, and so will we.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST269
Prereq: None

ENGL259 The Art of the Personal Essay
The personal essay is short-form, first-person, narrative nonfiction that encompasses many genres: memoir, reflection, humor, familial and social history, and cultural criticism. Yet even these boundaries often blur within a single essay, and the personal essay can expand to include almost any topic. Writing personal essays—what author and critic Philip Lopate calls "the self-interrogative genre"—helps us find out what we think, often makes us change our minds, and, ideally, leads us to new insights. In class, we will discuss the assigned readings, participate in group responses to each others' writing (workshops), and write in response to prompts. We will study both traditional and unconventional techniques of nonfiction, focusing on the elements of craft: structure, voice, clarity, the use of descriptive detail, and revision.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL260 The Word for World is Information: Ideologies of Language in Science Fiction & Film
By the middle of the 20th century, it had begun to seem possible to produce a grand theory of communication that would use language as a basis for understanding all of human thought, behavior, and culture. As competing versions of such a theory circulated through academic disciplines as disparate as anthropology, neurophysiology, and the emerging field of computer science, they also filtered out—sometimes in strangely warped or oversimplified forms—into popular culture.
This course will examine the most interesting and influential of these theories, both in their scholarly origins and in their most puzzling and promising elaborations in works of literary and filmic science fiction. We will be particularly attentive to the ways that the narrative logic of science fiction texts can gloss over certain logical and philosophical inconsistencies in these theories while revealing others.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
ENGL261 Pirates, Puritans, and Pequots: Literatures of the Renaissance Atlantic
This course opens the traditional canon of Renaissance literature westward, examining the connections between English Renaissance authors and the slaves, indigenes, and colonists living in and around England’s emerging colonies in the New World. What picture emerges when New World authors ranging from Puritans to pirates to Pequots are put in sustained dialogue with the points of view of investors, planners, and dreamers “at home” in England? We will answer this question by surveying a variety of texts and objects including travel narratives, pirate plays, indigenous craftwork, maps, eccentric political tracts, diaries, colonial promotion materials, and early ethnographies produced by authors all around the Atlantic rim (some even in 17th-century Connecticut!). Together, we will think about the relationship between these objects and slavery, religious radicalism, indigenous-European relations, inter-European conflict, exploration, and trade.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: AFAM266, THEA266, FGSS276
Prereq: None

ENGL262 Beyond the Talking Book: Reading African American Literature in the Newspapers
The majority of late-nineteenth and early twentieth century African American writers, such as Frances Harper, Martin Delany, Pauline Hopkins, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Cyril Briggs, published their work in African American periodicals. In this course, we will examine the works of these canonical authors (as well as some lesser known ones) in their original publication context, the magazine archives of The Christian Recorder; The Anglo-African Magazine; The Colored American Magazine; The Crisis; The Crusader; Opportunity; and Fire!! The guiding question in our readings is this: how does our understanding of these canonical texts change when we read them in their original context—as either serial novels, or as components of a larger composite magazine, consisting of multiple different texts and images? In addition to honing students’ literary close-readings skills, this course aims to teach students how to do original research and critically engage with multi-genre, mixed forms like the magazine.
Authors we will read include: Frederick Douglass, Charles Chesnutt, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, W.E.B. Du Bois. In order to get a better understanding of the literary conventions of the serial form, students will read one of the assigned serialized novels (Pauline Hopkins’ Of One Blood) in its original installment-format, week-by-week. Reading these works serially will also enable them to play closer attention to each installment’s relationship to its surrounding texts and images.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST261
Prereq: None

ENGL263 Black Performance Theory
What does it mean to perform identity, to perform race, to perform blackness? How is blackness defined as both a radical aesthetic and an identity? In this course, we will focus on theater and performance as a resource for thinking about black history, identity, and radical politics in excess of the written word. Following recent work in Black Studies and Performance Studies, this class will pay particular attention to the doing of blackness, the visible, sonic, and haptic performances that give over to a radical way of seeing, feeling, and being in an anti-black world. Plays, films, and texts might include works by Fred Moten, Alexander Weheiyle, Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, Suzan Lori-Parks, Danai Gurira, Shane Vogel, Adrienne Kennedy, Sarah Jane Cervenak, Dee Rees, Celiné Sciamma, Saidiya Hartman, Huey P. Copeland, Darby English, Lorraine Hansberry, Hilton Als, Spike Lee, Isaac Julien, Martine Syms, Tavia Nyong’o, and Daphne Brooks.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL258
Prereq: None

ENGL264 Outsiders in European Literature
Modern literature is replete with protagonists who represent a position or identity that is outside an accepted mainstream; they are different, peculiar and/or attractive, and potentially dangerous. This course will focus on the experience of being or being made into such an outsider, or other, and on the moral, cultural, racial, gendered, sexual, or national norms or boundaries such an outsider establishes for the inside. Reading both fiction and theory, we will ask how the terms of inside and outside are culturally and historically constructed as we also look for proposals for dealing with outsiders and their otherness. Authors may include Kafka, Mann, Camus, Colette, Fanon, Sartre, Beauvoir, Duras.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: COL274
Prereq: None

ENGL265 Future Visions: Temporality and the Politics of Change
What is the time of political change? This course explores alternative temporal frameworks embraced by artists, writers, activists, and interdisciplinary scholars from diverse social and cultural locations. We ask, How do concepts of temporality help us understand, resist, contest, and transform prevailing social orders?
We will begin by assembling some conceptual tools for understanding the relationship of time to historical change and to racial, sexual, cultural, and national difference. Drawing on psychoanalysis, literary theory, history, trauma studies, anthropology, African American studies, queer theory, feminist studies, and postcolonial studies, we will explore the telos of modernity and narratives of liberal progress. We will then consider some of the critical and oppositional possibilities of being out of sync with dominant temporal frameworks, asking, Are there other, perhaps more livable, temporalities? Next, we will consider the possibilities for memory and memorialization to work against historical forgetting and cultural amnesia—alongside the ways historical pasts might be appropriated to serve nationalist ends. Finally, we will turn to the question of the future as found in meditations on utopias and dystopias; in political, cultural, and ecological justice movements; in ideologies of newness; and in rhetorics of apocalypse.
Our readings include three texts that highlight the form and futures of political change: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s Dictee, an avant-garde text that uses multiple genres (poetry, autobiography, history, photography, etc.) juxtaposing historical trauma and aesthetic experimentation; Kim Fortun’s Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders, an experimental ethnography of environmental disaster and its aftermath; and Octavia E. Butler’s Kindred, a speculative fiction about time travel and the memory of slavery. As we consider social change, revolutions, and new “ends” and beginnings, students are invited to explore current social justice movements.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
ENGL266 Special Topics: Creative Writing for New Media
This course prepares creative writers for the evolving marketplace of electronic text and media, experience writing in varied media such as the Internet, eBooks, video games, mobile devices, and emergent social narratives. We will consider the exciting potentialities of a growing field as well as its limitations while wrestling with critical issues about digital literacy, ethics, Internet culture, and the implications of our online artistic creations.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL267 The 1850s
The 1850s was a period of tremendous social unrest in the United States. And yet, for all of its upheavals, the decade that immediately preceded the Civil War also witnessed the publication of some of the country's most iconic works of literature, what a later generation of scholars would call the "American Renaissance." This course sets out to explore the relationship between literature and its historical context(s). What were the material, political, and economic conditions that led to the production of so many great works of American literature? How does a literary text overcome its own embeddedness in history to become a "classic," a work of universal, timeless value? Keeping our own historical moment in mind, this class will examine the 1850s to determine whether periods of political turmoil produce better literature. (Let's hope that they do!)
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL268 Reading and Writing Fiction
This demanding, reading- and writing-intensive course focuses on character, structure and plot, sentence structure, development of a strong and idiosyncratic voice, the role and history of the narrator, points of view, and writing with meaning.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL269 Introduction to Playwriting
This course provides an introduction to the art and craft of writing for theater. In the course of the semester, students will create plot and characters, as well as compose, organize, and revise a one-act play for the final stage reading. The course will help students develop an artistic voice by completing additional playwriting exercises, as well as reading and discussing classic and contemporary plays. The instructor and students' peers will provide oral and written feedback in workshop sessions.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA199
Prereq: None

ENGL270 Writing Creative Nonfiction
Practice in writing literary and journalistic nonfiction--for example a profile, narrative, review, commentary, travel essay, family sketch, or personal essay. Students are also welcome to try science writing, arts or music reviewing, and other specialized writing designed to engage general readers. Readings include work by Joan Didion, Annie Dillard, William Finnegan, George Orwell, Brian Doyle, Andre Aciman and many others.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL271 Distinguished Writers/New Voices
The writing exercises in this course give students an introduction to nonfiction writing in several forms, both literary and journalistic. Talks by visiting writers in other genres--fiction, poetry, or drama--offer students a broader sense of writers' techniques and an introduction to interesting contemporary work. Students will attend lectures and readings by the visiting writers, meet in classes and workshop sessions, and work on short writing assignments.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL272 Modernist City-Texts
Since the 19th century, the city has been both a privileged and a problematic object of representation for narrative realism: privileged because urban spaces have increasingly been seen as shaping or producing the very social relations and individual experiences that realism wants to describe; problematic because the city itself, as a coherent totality that might explain those relations and experiences, is too vast, heterogeneous, and complex to be represented through the traditional techniques of realism.

This course will approach the problems and possibilities of the city for realism through a close reading of two large, ambitious texts that attempt to represent the city as a totality: James Joyce's novel ULYSSES (1922) and David Simon's television series THE WIRE (2002-2008). We will be particularly concerned with two techniques, pioneered by Joyce, for representing the city: stream of consciousness, which creates a tour of the city from the perspective of a single, mobile flâneur; and montage, which creates a map of the city by juxtaposing various cross-sections of social life or various institutions central to the city's functioning.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL270
Prereq: None

ENGL273 American Autobiography
This class will explore various forms of life writing--autobiographies, memoirs, graphic narratives, and fictional autobiographies--to understand how authors make and unmake the American "I." We will focus on how autobiographical selves relate to various categories of region, nation, and transnation, as well as how they are shaped by histories and legacies of travel, migration, slavery, and war. Toward the end of the course, we will consider how new technologies of writing the self, from Twitter to Facebook, are transforming the landscape of life writing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
ENGL277 Race and Ethnicity on the Shakespearean Stage
In this class, we will take up the question of race in relation to the Shakespearean canon. We will look at four plays by Shakespeare and one by Christopher Marlowe, each of which features a major character that early modern audiences would have perceived as racially "other" (e.g., Moors, Jews, Indians, Turks, Egyptians), as well as some relevant Shakespearean poetry. We will set these plays against other texts and artworks that explore and make arguments about racial/ethnic difference, investigating the ways in which ideas about race intersected with ideas about geography, climate, religion, custom, and sexuality in 16th- and 17th-century Europe. Our goal, throughout, will be to come to grips with historical ideas about racial difference that will seem alternately alien and familiar from our contemporary perspective, as well as to interrogate the popular understanding of Renaissance Europe as exclusively "white." In the course's final section, we will look at the subsequent history of Shakespearean performance and race, reading and watching adaptations from the 18th to the 21st century and discussing issues ranging from colorblind casting to arguments over whether "original practices" such as blackface still have a place in the repertory.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA235
Prereq: None

ENGL278 Writing On and As Performance
This course focuses on developing descriptive critical writing skills. Through close readings of texts by authors including José Esteban Muñoz, Jennifer Doyle, Eileen Myles, Lydia Davis, Hilton Als, Claudia Rankine, Eve Sedgwick, and Ann Pellegrini, this course will challenge students to craft ideas and arguments by enhancing critical reading, creative thinking, and clear writing. We will experiment with style and form from academic essays to performative writing, performance lectures, and free form prose. Students will complete in-class writing assignments and exercises in response to written, recorded, and live performances by a range of contemporary artists.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL278
Prereq: None

ENGL279 Introduction to Latina/o/x Literature and Art: Border, Citizen, Body
This course will engage Latina/o aesthetics to think about borders, desire, citizenship, personhood, and embodiment. By engaging the Latina/o artistic imaginary, we will consider the emergence of contradictory social phenomena, such as dreamers, assimilative drives, utopic desires for anti-assimilative places of habitation, the minuteman militia, consumer drives for representations of "spicy" and "exotic" and "degenerate" brown bodies, rejections of Latina/o artists of brownness, spiciness and degeneracy, as well as laws in Arizona, Texas, and California that endow police with the power to discern visually whether a brown body is "legal" or not. Several questions and themes will focus our engagements of literature, cinema, and music: How does the Latina/o aesthetic imaginary depict distinct migrant journeys and rural or urban forms of labor? How do intersecting discussions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class in relation to Latina/o aesthetics complicate the existing definitions of these terms in the United States? How do artists interrogate heteronormativity in Latina/o and dominant U.S. cultures? How do they conceive of their specific crises of representation, which include the demand for realism and personal narratives by critics and mainstream readers? What deviant and beautiful forms of life does Latina/o aesthetics make imaginable for everyone?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
ENGL280 Staging Race in Early Modern England
This course analyzes the dramatic representation of race in the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. We will examine the historical emergence of race as a cultural construct in relation to related conceptions of complexion, the humoral body, gender, sexuality, and religious, ethnic, and national identity. Readings focus on three racialized groups: Moors, Jews, and Native American "Indians." After reading the play-texts in relation to the historical moment in which they were first produced (using both primary and secondary sources) we will then consider their post-Renaissance performance histories, including literary, theatrical, and film adaptations.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CHUM289, FGSS320
Prereq: None

ENGL282 Old Poetics for New Poets
We today tend to assume that poetry is lyrical, personal, emotional, and short. These assumptions are not universal truths but products of a specific historical moment; they were popularized by Romantic poets such as William Wordsworth at the turn of the 19th century. This class will explore poetry and poetics before Romanticism, when poems were as often public and political as personal, as often philosophical and scientific as emotional, as often book-length as quite short. These are poems in which metaphors are stretched to their furthest limits, and passions pop to life in allegorical plots. In them, the lyric "I" is less important than the didactic "you," the narrative "he"/"she," or the satirical persona. We will explore the workings of different forms and figures in this old poetry, including rhymes, couplets, personas, personifications, periphrases, and conceits. Wonderfully, some of these old techniques are in the ascendant again today: hip hop privileges rhyme, and posthumanism raises new questions about personification.

Students in this course will read poetry, but they will also write it. We will think about how older poetic techniques and tropes offer resources to new poets. Both trained and amateur poets are welcome!

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL284 Afrofuturism
Mainstream readings of the African American literary and cultural canon have tended to emphasize texts with a social realist bent, those that present their audience with a supposedly "authentic" version of the African American experience. However, as cultural critic Greg Tate observes, 20th-century African American literary history includes "huge dollops of fantasy, horror, and science fiction" because, in his view, "Black people live the estrangement that science fiction writers imagine." While Tate's statement perhaps overly generalizes the black experience, there seems to be something to his notion that, in part because of the fact that they were forced to live an often "alienated" experience in America, there has always been a strong element of the speculative in black literary and cultural expression. This course traces this under-examined speculative strain in 20th and 21st-century African American literature, music, film, and visual art, as black artists explore, or speculate, on the possibilities that imagining alternative realities and modes of living open up. The course will focus especially on speculative and Afrofuturist aesthetics as they manifest in hip hop music and culture. We will examine the ways that black artists have employed elements of the speculative genres in order to re-envision the African American past, present, and future--rendering versions of historical African American experience and subjectivity that exceed traditional notions of "authenticity," complicating contemporary regimes of identification, and presenting alternative visions of the futures of blackness.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM224
Prereq: None

ENGL285 Enlightenment to Modernism: British Literature, 1780-1914
This course offers an introduction to modern British literature and culture, with an emphasis on the ways in which literary form responds to and shapes the movements of history. We begin with the emergence in the late 18th century of two new literary forms with substantial debts to the Enlightenment--the novel and Romantic poetry--and trace the development of these genres in the hands of later writers, from George Eliot's panoramic depiction of a small city at a moment of profound historical, social, and economic transformation to E. M. Forster's portrait of two sisters who exemplify a country caught between its ideals and the reality it has made for itself; from Robert Browning's reputation of Romantic confession to Oscar Wilde's definition of art as artifice, or "lying." Central themes include changing concepts of personhood; the relation among science, nature, and faith; the politics of class and gender; the tension between the language of everyday life and the language of literature; and the role of art in a rapidly changing, chaotic, and often exhilarating modern world.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
ENGL288 Poets, Radicals, and Reactionaries: Romantic Poetry in Conversation
This course is an introduction to major poets and themes: nature; memory, imagination, and creativity; the poetic I; form and prosody; responses to the French Revolution; and social and economic change. Focusing on issues of nation, gender, politics, and form, the course places poets in conversation with one another and with broader dialogues about poetics, politics, and society taking place during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL289 Intertextual Aesthetics in African American Culture: From Signifyin(g) to Sampling
Intertextuality, the integration of references to multiple texts into a single artistic work, has long been considered a hallmark of postmodern aesthetics. This course will begin from the premise that this intertextual approach was a foundational aesthetic technique for African American cultural producers long before any discourse around postmodernism entered the lexicon. From David Walker’s “sampling” of the Declaration of Independence in making his 1830 anti-slavery Appeal, to Kara Walker’s incorporations of imagery and artistic techniques of the antebellum South to comment on contemporary realities of blackness, African American artists have long made use of intertextual aesthetics not merely in the service of postmodern indirection, but in order to represent the realities of black lived experience in America. This course will investigate the transmedial history of this intertextual black aesthetic, examining African American literature, music, film, and visual art, and will consider various ways in which black intertextual aesthetics have been theorized, from Henry Louis Gates’ notion of “signifyin(g),” to discussions of hip hop sampling and Black Twitter. As mass-mediated technologies have proliferated in the 20th and 21st centuries and representations of “Blackness” writ large have exponentially multiplied in the popular imagery, contemporary artists increasingly sample and signify on these representations themselves. So a significant piece of our work in the course will be in analyzing the ways that the intertextual aesthetic is mobilized in the contemporary moment to speak to material realities of postmodern blackness, and to articulate nuanced black subjectivities in the face of subjection.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM276
Prereq: None

ENGL290 Place, Character, and Design: Techniques in Writing Nonfiction and Fiction
We begin this writing course with questions central to the students’ own work in both nonfiction and fiction: how to establish characters and a narrator’s voice and how to frame the spatial and emotional world of the piece. The course encourages writers to explore questions of design and structure while focusing also on style and technique at the sentence level.
Readings include works by writers interested in these questions, including, in fiction, Andre Aciman, Vladimir Nabokov, Henry James, Robert Stone, Deborah Eisenberg, and Edward P. Jones, and, in nonfiction, Brian Doyle, Junichiro Tanizaki, Joan Didion, Charles Bowden, Mark Doty, Linh Dinh, Dubravka Ugresic, and George Orwell.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL291 The First Stories: Oral Poetry in Greece and Anglo-Saxon England
An introduction to the themes, techniques, poetics, and ideologies of the oldest surviving poems in Greek and Old English.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL292 Techniques of Nonfiction
This course will focus on how to craft and revise short pieces of nonfiction writing that draw on our own life experiences and our observations of the world around us. To achieve this goal, we will constantly be creating and editing our own prose, and we will perform various writing exercises. Moreover, we will read our colleagues’ nonfiction prose and offer them thoughtful, generous feedback. Finally, we will read various published nonfiction essays—memoirs, musings, reviews, and reportage—and we will analyze these pieces in order to understand how veteran authors narrate “real-life” stories in a way that is engaging, beautiful, and meaningful. Upon completing this course, you will have a deeper knowledge of how to construct resonant nonfiction narratives, and a better understanding of various literary concepts, including pacing, arc, imagery, place, and character. You will have learned how to harvest experiences and observations from your own life in order tell a story that reveals subtle but acute information about the larger world.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL293 Love, War, and a Few Monsters: An Introduction to Medieval Literature
This course engages with a selection of French and English literature from ca. 1200 to 1400, with an emphasis on the popular genres of romance and epic. Our authors and works will include Marie de France’s and Béroul’s poems of magical and doomed love; contacts between Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Song of Roland and the Song of the Cid; and finally Chaucer’s masterpiece The Canterbury Tales. The topics that we will examine include the politics of chivalry and crusading, medieval views of gender and sexuality, religious controversies, and representations of the world beyond Europe.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL294 Reading Theories
In this survey of theories that have shaped the reading of literature and the analysis of culture, emphasis is on key concepts—language, identity, subjectivity, gender, power, and knowledge—and on key figures and schools such as Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Saussure, Barthes, Gramsci, Benjamin, Althusser, Foucault, Lacan, Deleuze, Jameson, postmodernism, and U.S. feminism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
ENGL296 Techniques of Fiction
This introduction to the elements of fiction and a range of authors is for students who want to write and, through writing, increase their understanding and appreciation of a variety of short stories.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL297 Creating Children’s Books I
In this course each student will create and illustrate a children’s book, at the picture book or illustrated chapter book level. Assignments include examining a variety of children’s books (from 1930 to the present) and emulating specific authors and illustrative techniques as we develop original work. We will discuss both text and illustration in published picture books, and the creative assignments and workshop discussions will focus on both components, and their interaction. We will look at a range of questions: What is this book for? Who is it for? Does it appeal to children and adults in different ways? What assumptions does it make about the world of childhood and the relationships children have? How does it obscure, reveal, comment on, or attempt to change the truths of life—things like love, desire, satisfaction, hurt, difference, sickness, and death? What values or norms does it establish—or subvert? What do the words and pictures do to each other? What values or expectations are at stake as the story or pattern unfolds? We will use questions like these to help drive our experiments and revisions as we workshop all stages of our books.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: WRCT264
Prereq: None

ENGL298 Richard Wright and Company
This course offers an in-depth consideration of the work and career of Richard Wright, a defining figure in 20th-century African American literature, and seeks to understand Wright’s interactions with a wide array of mentors, protégés, and enemies. By placing Wright amid the network of supporters, admirers, and detractors who surrounded him, we will gain a deepened understanding of Wright’s development and a useful map of 20th-century African American literary expression and American literary history more broadly. Writers to be covered in the course may include, along with Wright, Hannah Arendt, James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Horace Cayton, Ralph Ellison, James T. Farrell, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Chester Himes, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Alain Locke, Gertrude Stein, Margaret Walker, John Williams, and Frank Yerby.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: WRCT264
Prereq: None

ENGL299 A Playwright’s Workshop: Intermediate
This course will help students discover the power of research as a source of theatrical inspiration. We will research the techniques of playwrights such as Suzan-Lori Parks, Dario Fo, Doug Wright, Caryl Churchill, and Arthur Kopit (along with others you will choose on your own) to find out what can be learned by borrowing, adapting, transforming, rejecting, inventing, or reimagining elements of their work. We will also research historical and contemporary events as sources for the creation of effective theatrical characters and situations. To use Parks’ metaphor, we will use research as a way to dig for the bones, hear the bones sing, and write it down.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA299
Prereq: [THEA199 or ENGL269]

ENGL301 Philosophy of Memory in African American Literature
This course will consider the importance of memory in African American literature and will explore the many ways in which authors of African descent engage, transform, and build on long-established intellectual traditions of the mind. Students will explore the importance of the idea of “memory” to these intellectual traditions of the mind and will trace the praxis of remembering as a literary act through African American literature of the long 19th century. Finally, students will explore how persons of African descent are dehumanized through a systematic reduction of their mental capacities in these same philosophical traditions of the mind. We will discuss the ways in which memory specifically figures into this dehumanization and how authors of African descent used these very theories to resist the reification and overdetermination of both their literary works and their selves.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM304
Prereq: None

ENGL302 Matter, Community, Environment
In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to consider human communities without also considering questions of “nature” or “environment.” Actor-network theory condemns nature/society dualisms; ecological theory argues that there is indeed no “nature” or “society”—only the anthropocene; and, drawing from the former two positions, object-oriented ontology conceives of ideas (such as “community” or “society”) as objects and ecological actors. In this seminar, we will consider various approaches taken in recent years to thinking about our relationships to the worlds we inhabit. We will attempt to think not only outside a focus on “us” as humans in the first place but even outside a focus on sentient life or life in general. Examining theories of matter, community, and environment, we will discuss and analyze work by philosophers, evolutionary biologists, literary scholars, and sociologists, among others. We will pay special attention to how theorists and critics are blurring the boundaries between nature and society, environment and community, life and matter. In addition to class participation and a series of brief reading responses, students will be required to produce a final paper dealing with any topic related to the course.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: SISP303, CHUM305, COL303
Prereq: None

ENGL303 Narrative Theory
Narrative, one great critic suggests, may be the central function of the human mind. It is, as another once wrote, “simply there, like life itself.” As these claims indicate, narrative gives form to our collective experience: from the shadow of history and the shape of the future to the very texture and meaning of time itself. This course provides an introduction to the tradition of narrative theory—theory of how stories work and of how we make them work—through a sustained engagement with three core narrative-theoretical concepts: structure, text, and time. A single book will anchor and orient each of the course’s units: for structure, Vladimir Propp’s MORPHOLOGY OF THE FOLKTALE; for text, Roland Barthes’s S/Z; for time, Gérard Genette’s NARRATIVE DISCOURSE. Herman Melville’s novella BENITO CERENO will supply our “control text,” a narrative to which we will return as we study the theory and through which we will test the powers and the limits, both analytical and historical, of our theorists. In each of our units, we will begin with a careful reading of our main theorist,
move on to consider work that elaborates on the theory, and then turn to robust approaches--Marxist, historicist, queer, psychoanalytic, sociological--that challenge or modify the theoretical terms with which we started.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL304 Lyric Poetry and Music: The Color and Politics of Cry, Sound, and Voice

Lyric poetry may be the most musical of literary forms. In one of its basic definitions, the lyric poem begins after the overhearing of a sound. This sound may be familiar and pleasant, like the timbre and cadence of a lover's voice. Or it may be unrecognizable and terrifying. It may be imbricated with other senses and feelings, provoking a memory that stimulates a sense of touch or smell. Or it may stimulate a sense of horror at the inevitability of death. In any of these cases, sound is thought to reveal an attachment, a memory, and to give rise to composition in the poet's effort to reshape memory and feeling in lyric form. But such articulations do not always come out as evenly as this description may imply. Indeed, moans, screams, stutters, cries, and the madness of possession by the Muses are part of lyric's history and practice. In this course, we will read from African American, African diasporic, Caribbean, Latina/o/x, and Indigenous poetics, and we will consider their relation to myth and musical forms, such as the blues, son, bomba, biguine, jazz, reggae, hip-hop, salsa, among others. The dynamics between lyric speakers and musicians, sound and story, seen and voiced language will play out.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST302, AFAM305
Prereq: None

ENGL305 Shakespeare's Macbeth: From Saga to Screen

A close reading of Shakespeare's play that will position the play in terms of its historical and political contexts and its relation to early modern discourses on the feminine, witchcraft, and the divinity of kings. We will begin with a consideration of the historical legends that constitute Shakespeare's "sources," then read the play slowly and closely, coupling our discussions with readings from the period, exploring how Shakespeare's contemporaries thought of the political and cultural issues raised in the play. We will then compare how our contemporaries have recast these concerns by comparing scenes from films of MACBETH from 1948 to the present.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA310
Prereq: None

ENGL306 Special Topics: The Beats and Their Discontents

Without a doubt, three important, foundational works of the Beat movement threaten to stand in for all others. In this class we will do time with the better-known HOWL and ON THE ROAD and NAKED LUNCH, but we will also invest in more contemporary memories and the continuing practices of those days of post-World War II America, when "a group of friends worked together on poetry, prose, and cultural consciousness" (Ginsberg). We will work likewise, in a variety of forms, assessing their moment and writing out our own.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL307 Britons and Other Life Forms

George Eliot wrote in Middlemarch that "if we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel's heart beat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence." This course will require us to think about the various ways in which writers conceive of and represent precisely our potential—or, as Eliot suggests, our inability--to comprehend "all" life, or even just "other" life forms. We will consider literary approaches to relationality, with an emphasis on 19th-century British literature: How do these writers envision the connections between individuals and organisms, and how do they conceive of intimacies, environments, and totalities? To what extent do they imagine themselves as able to represent those connections? And how to these understandings impact literary form and political understanding? We will focus on formal questions, such as those of protagonist and minor character, poetic "I" and listener, as well as on two major forces of 19th-century culture: an emergent social theory that tried to conceive of humanity in terms of communities, populations, and "social bodies," and an increasingly prominent science that was starting to think in terms of environments and ecologies (it's worth noting that the terms "environment" and "ecology" are 19th-century in origin).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM304
Prereq: None

ENGL309 Entertaining Social Change

Our seminar advances critical entertainment studies. The fundamental question we will bring to all texts is: how has the systemic critique of social contradictions been popularized in modern times? We will consider the diverse strategies that progressive songwriters/performers, radical historians (working with cartoonists), and mainly moviemakers have developed to entertain Americans--teach, fascinate, persuade, provoke, and move them through laughter, tears, and not least of all ideas--so that Americans will be more inclined to entertain social critique that inspires social change. We will explore the popularizing (and selling) of social critique in several genres: art (Barbara Kruger); graphic history (Howard Zinn, Paul Buhle); songs/song lyrics of protest singers (Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Phil Ochs); folk-rockstars such as Jackson Browne, Ani DiFranco, Father John Misty; the political development of hip-hop (Gill Scott-Heron, NWA); politically edgy comedy (Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert); and movies (Spike Lee's MALCOM X and WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE, STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON, EL NORTE, SMOKE SIGNALS, NETWORK, WHERE TO INVADE NEXT, MATEWAN, WALL STREET, THE BIG SHORT).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST315, FGSS315
Prereq: None

ENGL311 Modernist Writers: Virginia Woolf and Jean Rhys

This course will allow readers to explore and engage with the oeuvres of two important but very different female modernist writers. We will read major and minor works of both novelists, but we will also dip into their short stories, essays, diaries, and/or memoirs. In addition, we will also read some of the most significant criticism on both authors to understand how their critical status has been established and modified in the decades since their works were first published.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
ENGL312 Special Topic: Girls: Character Development Across Genres
In this special topics course we will study the craft of character building. We will focus on how novelists, short story writers, film makers, poets and essayists over the 20th and the beginning of 21st century have crafted the female child in literature to have a broad but challenging conversation about narration, voice, subjectivity, and agency. We will use the course materials and discussions as impetus to write characters that challenge easy tropes while also contributing to ongoing conversations about literature and writing.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL313 Special Topic: The Art of Revision
Revision is considered the final stage of writing, but what is it, exactly? What does the process entail? What constitutes a revision? How do other writers revise? And what are the rules writers can follow to make revision a cornerstone of their writing process? Students will find out in this class. Revision, simply, is not correction. Revision is not changing “red” to “crimson” or running your spell checker. Revision is a change in your point of view. This class’s goal is to help students learn how to change their writing point of view. Specifically, students will learn how to read critically, articulate criticism constructively, define uniqueness in both their own writing and others’, and self-edit and revise. This course is especially designed for students who have previous experience in creative writing.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL314 Circulating Bodies: Commodities, Prostitutes, and Slaves in 18th-Century England
In the newly booming consumer culture of 18th-century England, people were constantly buying and selling things—bespoke suits and manufactured trinkets as well as prostitutes and slaves. This course will explore the period’s circulating bodies as they were passed from hand to hand, valued and revalued, used, abused, and discarded. We will trace processes of circulation in 18th-century novels and poetry and listen as the “things” themselves tell stories: in the period, commodities, prostitutes, and slaves all wrote memoirs (or had ones imagined for them). We will read these texts alongside contemporary debates about economics, abolition, and women’s rights, and we will return again and again to fundamental questions about personal identity, individual agency and passivity, commodification, objectification, and the very limits of the human.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL315 Writing and Drawing Comics
This is an intensive workshop course for students interested in making comics. We will read comic strips and books that vary widely in genre and style, and learn to identify and emulate cartooning techniques.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL316 Rethinking World Literature
Globalization has changed the speed at which people, goods, information, and ideas circulate in space. It has also changed how we read and write, and what we read and write. What does the “world” in “world literature” mean, and who writes world literature? To better understand how recent economic, cultural, environmental, technological, and political transformations affect our understanding of world literature, we will read key theoretical works that interrogate world literature as a category, along with literary works that thematize the scales of global comparison.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL317 Special Topics: Plot
In this special topics course, we will study classic and contemporary novels, stories, and television dramatic series that immerse the reader and viewer in an absorbing fictional plot. Our priorities will be close reading and watching for the pleasure and enlightenment of the works as wholes, as well as an examination of the choices storytellers make to snag our imaginations, drag them into a fictional world, and keep them there. The study will culminate in new creative work: short stories you will write and the class will critique in a workshop setting.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: WRTC317
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL318 Special Topics: Living Room: Place and Structure in the Novel and Short Story
In this special topics course, we will study classic and contemporary novels, and who writes world literature? To better understand how recent economic, cultural, environmental, technological, and political transformations affect our understanding of world literature, we will read key theoretical works that interrogate world literature as a category, along with literary works that thematize the scales of global comparison.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL319 Crossing the Color Line: Racial Passing in American Literature
Narratives of racial passing have long captivated readers and critics alike for the way in which they provocatively raise questions about the construction, reinforcement, and subversion of racial categories. This course will consider several examples of the “literature of passing” as it has been established as a category within African American literature alongside more ambiguously classified 20th-century narratives of ethnic masquerade and cultural assimilation as a way of exploring how literary and filmic texts invoke, interrogate, and otherwise explore categories of race, gender, class, and sexual identity.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Identical With: AMST279
Prereq: None

ENGL321 Special Topics: A Poet’s Tour of the Essay: Innovative, Aversive, and Engaged Prose
This special topics seminar will tour “exceptional approaches” to essays and prose and provide opportunities for prose experiments by seminar participants. Reading and writing assignments will explore issues of style, accessibility, and
difficulty through the work of Michel de Montaigne, Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, Ralph Waldo Emerson, W. E. B. DuBois, Victor Shlovsky, Raymond Queneau, Audre Lorde, David Antin, Lyn Hejinian, Nathaniel Mackey, Wayne Koestenbaum, Claudia Rankine, and others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL326 Advanced Nonfiction Workshop
This workshop offers students with prior experience writing nonfiction a chance to analyze a wide range of published texts, develop and revise new work of their own, and collectively consider the possibilities of the genre.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL327 Criticism and Psychoanalysis
This course introduces some classical psychoanalytic methods of reading and interpretation, with accent on the four concepts Jacques Lacan identified as foundational: the unconscious, repetition, the transference, and the drive. We will approach psychoanalysis as a style of close reading whose influence on forms of interpretation—especially literary interpretation—has been immeasurable. One central concern will be the capacity of psychoanalysis to force us to read ourselves reading, to make the interpretive situation itself the object of our analysis. Students with an interest in literary-critical methods will benefit from the course, as will students with an interest in the internal logic of an important body of thought.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL328 Brown, Black, and Queer Forms and Feelings
Given how brutally not neutral the world is to black, brown, and queer forms of life and pleasure, this course thinks with "otherwise" spaces, figures, and feelings, like the queer club, the dance floor, abnormality, errancy, illegality, fugitivity, rage, indifference, and love. We will take up José E. Muñoz’s invocation of a "minoritarian theory of affect" that insists that "whiteness is a cultural logic which can be understood as an affective code that positions itself as the law." We will study affect beyond whiteness through attention to sonic forms and "audio-visual shapes" in African diasporic, Latina/o/x, and Caribbean arts. We will consider the diasporas and collectives grouped together in the terms "minoritarian," "brown," and "black" as normals that generate alternative modes of moving through and feeling ourselves in the world. We will study for radical potentiality in the beautiful, obscene, and off-kilter affects of brown, black, and queer aesthetic and poetic forms.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST327, AFAM328, FGSS308
Prereq: None

ENGL330 Writing History
This course is an intermediate-level playwriting workshop. We will examine plays that use different dramaturgical strategies to grapple with, question, and invigorate the historical record, including Miller’s The Crucible, Jacob Jenkins’s An Octaroon, Miranda’s Hamilton, and Shakespeare’s histories. We will then write original plays that spring from, react to, and grapple with the past as it has been told and hidden from telling. In addition to numerous short exercises, students will research and write a 40-page history play.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Prereq: None

ENGL332 American Modernism
This research seminar considers the renaissance in avant-garde and innovative writing that transformed American literature during the first decades of the 20th century. We will seek to identify some of the major schools and fashions of the era’s new literature, and we will attempt to understand their relation to developments in the history of publishing and media, as well as to broader developments in American culture and politics.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Prereq: None

ENGL333 What Was the Public Sphere?
The origins of the American Revolution are often thought to be found in the emergence of the "public sphere." In addition to organized boycotts and mass demonstrations, colonists in the 18th century also started a paper war with Great Britain, articulating their demands through newspapers and pamphlets, and mobilizing an intercolonial public of readers. This course will explore the material and social conditions that gave rise to the public sphere. We will examine institutions that helped produce new forms of political affiliation. We will consider the role of rational discourse in expressing and adjudicating political claims. We will ask whether the public sphere ever actually existed, and whether it does—or can—exist in our current historical moment.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST234
Prereq: None

ENGL334 Black Power and the Modern Narrative of Slavery
The historical moment immediately after the civil rights and black power movements saw an explosion of African American writing about slavery. In the past half-century, black writers have written award-winning novels that have given unprecedented attention to the intricacies of the life of people who are enslaved and to slavery as a system that they suggested could help us better understand late-20th-century American culture. We will read some of the most important works written by contemporary African American writers to see how and why they transformed the first autobiographical form for black writers—the slave narrative—into a fictional form that has served them as they dissect their own cultural moment.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST324, AMST334
Prereq: None

ENGL345 Intermediate Nonfiction Workshop
This workshop offers students with some background in writing a chance to experiment with essay forms, develop and revise their own new work, discuss a wide range of published texts, and collectively consider the possibilities of the genre.
ENGL332 Romanticism, Criticism, and Theory
This course offers an introduction to major trends and approaches in literary theory and criticism since World War II by way of an examination of the cultural historiography of the Romantic period. Many important theorists and critics, from new criticism to new historicism, from structuralism to poststructuralism, have also been Romanticists, and in their writings we can see how methodological and theoretical principles at once propel and are propelled by literary critical insights or questions—that is, how theory and criticism work together. This course assumes no prior knowledge of literary theory or critical schools. We will have three goals: to deepen our understanding of Romantic literature, of literary theory, and of criticism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL334 Special Topic: Something in the Air: Mining the Oral/Aural Tradition in African American Poetry
In his book-length manifesto, Poetry as an Insurgent Act, Lawrence Ferlinghetti claims that "the printing press killed poetry." What he seems to be lamenting—at least, in part—is the privileging of the written word to the detriment of poetry's musical, or aural, qualities. In this advanced-level workshop, we will focus on the poem as something intended to be read aloud and listened to. This course will also examine the roots and evolution of the African American oral poetic tradition with special attention paid to the rhetorical strategies derived from the black church, adopted by civil rights leaders and speech writers, and used to varying degrees by poets ranging from those of the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and '70s to practitioners of contemporary hip-hop and spoken word. Some of the poets under consideration include Amiri Baraka, Oscar Brown Jr., Jayne Cortez, Gil-Scott Heron, June Jordan, The Last Poets, Carl Hancock Rux, Sonia Sanchez, Patricia Smith, Jessica Care Moore, Laini Mataka, and Saul Williams.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL335 Twentieth-Century Gothic Fiction
The Gothic novel dates from the 18th century, but it is in the 20th century that the genre proliferates and expands, taking on new iterations that reflect a rapidly shifting world. In this course, we will examine the definition of the Gothic and trace its development in the fiction of the past century. Of particular interest will be how this genre has reflected, and responded to, cultural anxieties over gender, sexuality, and the body. How do the Gothic tropes of violence and horror come to represent readers' own fears, and how do readers take pleasure in exploiting such fear? To this end, we will look at the subgenres of "female," "male," and "queer" gothic, as well as the influence of the Gothic on popular genre fiction.
Finally, we will look at the Gothic in a global context and examine ways that this genre expresses contemporary concerns with the technologization of the body. Authors to be read will include Daphne du Maurier, Shirley Jackson, Angela Carter, Kazuo Ishiguro, Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates, and Patricia Highsmith, among others.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL336 Intermediate Poetry Workshop
How does poetry express what, at first, might seem inexpressible? In this project-based workshop, we will explore this question in an attempt to say the unsayable. Guided by immersive writing and reading experiments into language's limits, students will craft a cohesive, project-centered body of poems while cultivating an engaged daily writing practice.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL337 Advanced Poetry Workshop
This seminar-style course will focus on the reading and constructive discussion of poetry submitted by members of the workshop. We will explore an extensive reading list of contemporary poetry as well as philosophies of art-making written by both writers and artists. A final book arts project—consisting of 15 pages of revised poetry and a statement of poetics—is due at the end of the semester.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL339 Intermediate Fiction Workshop
This workshop is for students who already have a basic understanding of how to write literary fiction, either by having taken an introductory course (e.g., ENGL296 Techniques of Fiction) or by other means.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL341 Archiving America
How do we know what we know? This seminar will explore the notion of archives as a way to understand the politics of knowledge production. We will read primary works in which archives—in the form of documents, photographs, postcards, and more—feature prominently and compel us to question how we determine what an archive is and what its meanings are. We will also examine theoretical texts to understand how the archive can be used to discipline knowledge, but when used creatively and critically, can also reveal new forms of understanding. Work with Wesleyan's Special Collections and Archives will give us a hands-on approach to the course's subject matter, and students will have the option of conducting their own archival projects to illuminate something new about our understanding of America.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None

ENGL342 Advanced Fiction Workshop
This course in short fiction is for people who have already had an introduction to fictional technique and, preferably, an additional course in creative writing. Students will generate and engage in their own writing projects.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
PreReq: None
ENGL347 Special Topics: Day Books, Diaries, Notebooks, Etc.
This class will take as its focus both creatively and critically the daily and episodic tracking of our own and others’ insights, observations, inspirations, motivations; incidents and encounters that seem worthy of (personal) note, whether this be for instant gratification, imprint, or later expansion, simple records as well as flights of writing. We will read and keep journals of various kinds. Very little will be out of bounds.
reveal the rifts and conjunctions among the categories citizen, "savage," "gente sin razón," slave, illegal, pervert, and deviant.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM350, AMST350
Prereq: None

ENGL351 Debate and Destruction: Jews and Christians in the Middle Ages
This course will consider relations between the Jewish minority and their Christian neighbors in England before the Jews' expulsion in 1290. We will also look at how the Jews are depicted in subsequent Christian writing. We will read texts originally written in Hebrew, French, and Latin (all in translation) as well as English, giving us a sense of the conversations that took place between two groups that were both inextricably bound together and set apart by centuries of conflict and persecution. Among the issues we will explore are the popularity of Jewish-Christian debate as a literary form, the Crusades, gender roles and gender fluidity, Jewish and Christian apocalyptic programs, and the curious afterlife of Jews in Middle English literature.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: RELI351, MDST351, CJST351
Prereq: None

ENGL352 Developing a Perspective: Looking at the World Afresh
The most valuable quality a writer can have is a singular perspective, a way of engaging with the world that is the writer's alone. Partly this perspective is shaped by narrative voice; partly it is shaped by choosing what to focus upon. We will use techniques from various creative fields to look at our surroundings afresh while simultaneously developing our composition skills to form these observances into literature.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL353 Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in Medieval Literature
Why do white supremacists celebrate the European Middle Ages as a lost era of racial and religious purity? This course approaches that question by considering the invention of medieval ideas of race, ethnicity and religious difference. Our focus will be on a selection of texts dealing with encounters -- real and imaginary -- of Western European Christians with cultures from the Mongol Empire to the Celtic "borderlands." The readings will begin historically with the Crusades and the grisly chronicles written by Christian, Muslim, and Jewish authors. Other genres will include religious polemics and travel accounts by missionaries, spies, and colonial propagandists. We will also read some later romances and plays, fictions that re-imagine the past in terms of exoticized sexuality, racial transformation, cannibalism, and nationalist fantasy.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MDST353
Prereq: None

ENGL354 Reading and Rereading Moby Dick
For many, Herman Melville's Moby Dick is the greatest novel in all of American literature, an undisputed classic. "It is a great book, a very great book," D.H. Lawrence declared. "It moves awe in the soul." E.L. Doctorow once proclaimed that American literature begins with Moby Dick, "the book that swallowed European civilization whole." When Moby Dick was first published, however, it was a critical and commercial failure. This class will encourage students to reflect on the nature of literary experience by reading Moby Dick twice. We will try to figure out why readers overlooked the novel when it was originally published, and why readers later, after a second closer inspection, gained a greater appreciation for the novel. We will think about what happens when we encounter a text for the first time, and how different kinds of meaning might accumulate over multiple readings. We will consider whether twentieth-century institutional structures, from the modern seminar to the cheap trade paperback, made Moby Dick more likely to be read and reread. In the end, this course offers students the chance to study a literary classic in depth. We will read and reread Moby Dick to better understand how literature works, and how American literary history has taken shape.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL355 Scribes, Book Worms, and Bibliomaniacs: The Thrall of the Book
Even in the age of electronic and audiobooks one still hears book lovers exclaim on the unique sensation of "holding the physical book," the smell of its pages, and the pleasures (or transgressions) of being able to write notes in one's own physical copy. Loving books thus amounts to more than reading text, it often involves a relationship with the physical objects of books. The course has a two-pronged focus: the history of the evolution of the book as medium and the literature on the creation, collecting, and circulation of books. This means that we will be tracing the evolution of reading and writing as technologies on the one hand, and reading literary representations of this evolution on the other. Our discussions of bibliomania and the preservation impulse of archivists and book collectors will be accompanied by practical exercises with physical books in Special Collections.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL356 Theories of Translation
This course will examine a range of predominately 20th-century theoretical approaches to literary translation in the fields of philosophy, linguistics, literary criticism, and translation studies. In an effort to derive a definition of literary translation, we will focus on two questions. First: What is literal (or word-for-word) translation? How does it differ from other kinds of translation; how does it conceptualize meaning; what are its purposes; and what oppositions (e.g., literal vs. figurative) can we use to make sense of it? Second: What is the relationship between language and culture? Can translation give us access to an unfamiliar culture; can literary translation affect the culture in which it is produced; or does translation simply colonize foreign texts by transforming them into something legible to a domestic culture?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL336
Prereq: None

ENGL357 Writing for Television II
This advanced course requires that each student act as writer, producer/network executive, and lead discussant on one of the professional scripts we read. Students will be responsible for two meetings with the professor during the semester, two to three meetings with their producing partners, and one meeting with their actors (who will perform a short scene from the student's script at the end of the semester). Each student will conceive of and pitch three story
ENGL358 Writing the War on Terror: Crafting Literary Responses to Fiction, Film, and Television after 9/11

In this interdisciplinary, nonfiction writing seminar, students will work on writing book and film reviews, op-ed pieces, blogs, memoirs, and narrative non-fiction as they explore the ways contemporary literature and film have depicted the post-9/11 War on Terror. They will watch documentaries by Laura Poitras, as well as Alex Gibney's We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks. They will read fiction by Mohsin Hamid, Elina Hirvonen, Deborah Eisenberg, and Martin Amis, and nonfiction prose by Dunya Mikhail, Pankaj Mishra, and George Packer. There will be a workshop component to this course. Students will focus on presenting their ideas in sophisticated, accessible prose, paying close attention to language, style, and syntax at the line and paragraph levels.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FILM459, WRCT263
Prereq: None

ENGL359 Criticism and Marxism

This course introduces students to the Marxist (or historical-materialist) tradition, with accent on its centrality to interpretative methods in literary studies and related fields in the human sciences. We will study foundations, beginning with Marx and Engels, and our reading will carry us through the range of Marxisms that inform contemporary critical practice. We will focus on historical materialism as a style of dialectical thought, uniquely equipped to grasp both our immediate objects of study (literary texts and other cultural productions) and the social forces through which those objects are determined. In the same dialectical mode, we will reflect often on the relation between our work in the classroom and our contemporary social and historical situation. Students with an interest in literary and social theory will benefit from the course, as will students who know a little bit about Marxism but want to understand the logic of this crucial body of thought.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL360 Special Topics: Writing Lives

In this course, students will read profiles, biographies, and theories of biography, texts that focus on the stakes of writing the lives of women, people of color, people with disabilities, and queer subjects. As we analyze these attempts to capture a life, to define the problems of this form, and to expand its possibilities, students will work on their own biographical writing. Throughout the semester, we will ask: Whose lives get written, and by whom? What constitutes evidence of a life, according to whom—and what gets left out? What kinds of research are necessary? How does a writer’s relationship to her subject inform such a portrait, and what are the ethics of that relationship?

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL

ENGL361 After Orientalism: Asian American Literature and Theory After 2000

From early articulations of cultural nationalism pride to today’s transnational, intersectional, deconstructive, feminist, and queer critiques, Asian American studies is a field that has radically expanded and transformed since its original emergence out of the Third World and student strikes of the late 1960s. This course seeks to take the temperature of Asian America today by exploring a range of contemporary works published after the millennium, more than 30 years after the field’s inception. Alongside a selection of novels, poetry, short stories, and graphic novels by some of the most acclaimed contemporary writers in America, we will also consider critical and theoretical texts that offer different perspectives on our contemporary historical moment, exploring frameworks of modernity, postmodernity, neoliberalism, and the university as ways of situating contemporary Asian America’s aesthetic innovations.

Though not required, it is strongly recommended that students have taken ENGL230 Introduction to Asian American Literature or a comparable substitute prior to enrolling.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST313
Prereq: None

ENGL362 Friendship and Collaboration: In Theory, In Practice

How do we conceive of friendship, collaboration, love, and collectivity? In an interview, Michel Foucault stated that the relational task of the homosexual was to “invent, from A to Z, a relationship that is still formless, which is friendship: that is to say, the sum of everything through which they can give each other pleasure.” This course considers theories and performances of relationality, queer belonging, and friendship with an emphasis on forms of belonging and recognition that exceed normative protocols. We will ask how queer practices, black thought, brown study, and indigenous epistemologies inform our own imaginings of collaborative projects. Beginning with philosophical determinations of friendship, we will branch out to imagine ways in which artists, lovers, friends, and/or cohabitators enact togetherness. Artists and projects to be discusses include: Andy Warhol’s Factory, Hugo Ball, Emily Johnson, Black Salt Collective, My Barbarian, Harriet’s Apothecary, General Sisters, the Critical Indigenous Photographic Exchange, Betalocal and more.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: AFAM364, THEA364
Prereq: None

ENGL363 The Sounds of Black and Brown Performance

This course organizes itself as a scene of listening with care to black and brown sounds, where listening is conceived as a mode of audience engagement of performances informed by avant-garde, queer, and critical race theories. Listening, then, is part of the artistic-theoretical practices that students will both read about and act out in this course. Here, we will engage theater, dance, and performance with the demand of listening in brown for the distinct sounds made in different performances, whether by identifyably racialized artist-subjects or not, and how they compel us to think of embodiment. If to say black is to say abjection, prison, AIDS, as well as the generative, the contra-rationally beautiful (Moten), and if to say “gender-y” is to say threatening, off-kilter, violable, as well playful, and transformative (Sedgwick, Doyle), then what happens when we listen in brown, that is, with the headphones of melancholia, depression, as well as wildness, the excessive, the “hot and spicy” as critiques of the violence of the whitened norm (Muñoz)?
ENGL364 Special Topic: Experiments in Fiction
In this special topics fiction course we will experiment with forms, realities, and language in order to open new paths to writing fiction. We will add dimension to our own fiction writing by venturing into other literary genres such as poetry and drama. The goal is to "stretch" while learning from literary examples and ideas past and present.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL365 Ethics and Literature
P. B. Shelley's claim that "the great instrument of moral good is the imagination" lacks the 20th-century pessimism of his inheritor, W. H. Auden, who wrote that "poetry makes nothing happen." Beginning from this disagreement about the influence of creative work on social and material relations, this course will explore the ethical effects of aesthetic production. Drawing on a historically broad set of readings—from the Enlightenment and Romantic period through the 21st century—we will look at how writers and philosophers have addressed the relationship between literary and cultural works and moral transformation. These works help us examine how "words are also deeds," as Wittgenstein puts it.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL366 Ethics and Literature
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Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL367 Nature Description: Literature and Theory
What happens to the world when we describe it using language? What happens to language? Do different modes of description and figurative language do different things to the world? Might we think of such modes--and the literary genres that offer them--as tools that help us approach and understand nature? And in what ways do these modes and the unexamined assumptions that structure them limit what we can see? How much can we really know about nature as it is, in itself, outside of our representational strategies? Further, how have modes of description changed over time, and what can we today learn from studying other ways of understanding how language reflects, touches, and transforms the material world?
This course will grapple with big questions about nature, language, literary form, and human minds—as well as the complex interactions between and among these. We will seek answers by attending closely to both literary and theoretical texts.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: SISP365
Prereq: None

ENGL368 Incarceration and American Literature
This course offers a consideration of the image of imprisonment in American literary and cultural expression and its relation to the history of corrections and criminal justice in the United States and to prominent ideas about democracy, freedom, and citizenship.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CSPL368
Prereq: None

ENGL369 Sex, Death, and God: English Metaphysical Poetry from Donne to Marvell
This course surveys 17th-century English metaphysical poetry, a body of verse known for both its formal experimentation and its transgressive choices and combinations of subject matter. Surveying poetry by the major metaphysicals (e.g., Donne, Herbert, Marvell), as well as lyrics by more minor poets, we will examine the central concerns of the metaphysical lyric: sex, death, God, and politics. We will think about how these authors used poetry to imagine a whole range of bodies and desires, from Crashaw's homoerotic "liquid poetic" to Donne's intertwined desires for profane and divine love to Marvell's imaginative preoccupations with plant bodies and their sexuality. We will discuss how these poems think about the prospect of death and what comes after, as their authors imagine their future selves as skeletons, as angels, as dust and their poems as tombstones, as wills, as relics. We will talk about 17th-century Christianity, asking how these poems characterize the relationship between the human, organized religion, and the divine, as well as how these poems imagine other religious traditions. Finally, we will think about politics, asking how and if these famously self-contained, abstract lyrics engaged with contemporary political issues from changes in agricultural labor to New World exploration to the regicide of Charles I.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL370 The Graphic Novel
Since the groundbreaking publication of Art Spiegelman's MAUS in 1993, "graphic novels" have entered the global cultural mainstream. A truly multicultural genre, comics created by men and women around the world now appear in U.S. high school and college curricula, hold the attention of academic critics, and earn big box-office returns in cinematic adaptations. Though dubbed graphic novels by publishers to signal their high-culture aspirations and achievement, outstanding examples of the contemporary book-length comic actually appear in many literary genres. In this course we will survey the current field and read works of fiction (such as THE WATCHMEN and JIMMY CORRIGAN), autobiography (MAUS, PERSEPOLIS, FUN HOME, and 100 DEMONS), journalism (PALESTINE and SAFE AREA GORAZDE), and what we might call "comic theory" (UNDERSTANDING COMICS). And just as comics have become a global medium, they are perhaps inherently postmodern. Many contemporary comics are self-conscious about questions of form and theories of representation, a characteristic that will help us formulate new versions of the questions often considered in literary study. How do words and pictures drawn together in sequential narratives tell stories? What different skills are needed to comprehend this complex play of image, language, and time? What can graphic books do that other books cannot, and what are the constraints that shape this form?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL371 Sister Acts: Black Feminist/Womanist Theater of the African Diaspora
This course surveys the dynamism and scope of contemporary feminist/womanist drama written by black women playwrights of the African Diaspora. Reading select plays from Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, England, and the United States, alongside theory and criticism, we examine the impact of race, gender,
identity, and sexuality politics on black feminist/womanist theater. Throughout our study of these dramatic texts, their performances, and their subsequent critiques, we are equally invested in the bridges and the gaps, the audibles and the silences, and the overlaps and the divides, as they are formed. Significantly, this analytic undertaking involves a simultaneous critique of the role of the playwright, the spectator, and the critic of black feminist/womanist theater. At all times, consideration is given to the ways in which these playwrights collectively use theater as a platform to explore black and female and diasporic subjectivities across regional, national, and, at times, linguistic differences.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FGSS371, THEA371, AFAM371
Prereq: None

ENGL373 From Courty Love to Cannibalism: Medieval Romances
Romance is the narrative form of medieval sexualities and courtly love, but it also gives literary shape to social worlds in which a protagonist loses gender, skin color changes with religion, and a dog might be the hero of a tale. In this course, we will begin with texts that date from the Romance’s origins in 12th-century France and continue with the form’s development up to the well-known Middle English texts of the 14th century, including Sir Gawain and the Green Knight set at King Arthur’s court. Some of the topics we will consider are Romance’s engagement with the religious and ethnic conflicts of the Crusades, theories of good and bad government, and, of course, Christian mysticism and the Holy Grail.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MDST373
Prereq: None

ENGL374 Special Topic: Unreliable Narrators
An unreliable narrator may be devilish or deceitful, but any of us can become unreliable narrators when forced to confront and explain unpleasant truths. In this special topics course we will study the unreliable narrator in both fiction and nonfiction. We will examine how the subjectivity of all narrators gives them limited access to the truth, and how we can use this interesting psychological phenomenon in our own writing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

ENGL375 Black Global Cities
In this course, we will analyze representations of cities and Black urban modernity in Afro-diasporic literature of the twentieth and twenty-first century. Placing special emphasis on the global hubs of London, Cape Town, Kinshasa, Lagos, New York, Marseilles, and Kingston, we will ask what makes these former imperial sites Black global cities? We will read literary works on and from Black Global Cities alongside sociological texts on urbanization, globalization and discuss the extent to which literary representations either collude with or challenge dominant national and transnational narratives about Black urban modernity. Although each week’s readings will focus on a different location, we will approach these locales as nodes in larger global networks of people, texts, and goods rather than as discrete, bounded places. To this end, we will trace how histories of racial formation move across borders and are transposed onto different spaces, and to what effect. Authors we will read include: Claude McKay, James Baldwin, Gabeba Baderoon, Petina Gappah, Kei Miller, and Teju Cole. We will also watch films such as Girlhood (2014), Black Panther (2018), The Harder They Come (1972), Bad Friday: Rastafari After Coral Gardens (2011), Welcome to Nollywood (2007).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FGSS375, THEA371, AMST375
Prereq: None

ENGL376 The New York Intellectuals
This course is a research seminar on the lives and work of the small group of mainly Jewish left-wing intellectuals who reshaped American culture in the two decades after World War II. We will consider how it was that a small group of poor Jewish kids, who had grown up thinking themselves marginal to American society, ended up becoming among the most revered and influential intellectuals of the postwar era. Our main focus will be on the development of their ideas about art, politics, and culture and on the way their ideas bore fruit in some of the important literary expression of the postwar decades. But we will also consider the sociological and political factors that help explain their rise to influence. Among the writers whose work we will discuss will be Woody Allen, James Baldwin, Daniel Bell, Saul Bellow, Ralph Ellison, Clement Greenberg, Elizabeth Hardwick, Irving Howe, Alfred Kazin, Irving Kristol, Dwight Macdonald, Mary McCarthy, Norman Podhoretz, and Lionel Trilling. Readings will include critical essays, novels, poems, memoirs, and short stories. Viewings of paintings, photographs, and documentary films will be recommended.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL377 Crossing Borders on the Early Modern Stage
This course looks at the ways in which seven fascinating plays by Cervantes, Shakespeare, Lope de Vega, John Webster, and Philip Massinger responded creatively to and still challenge narratives about a period in which many situate the origins of globalization. Written from 1580 to 1630 for the first public, commercial theaters of the Western world (in Madrid and London), these plays explore the anxieties, hopes, dangers, and pleasures generated by a century of displacements—of peoples, ideas, goods, capital, and diseases—that had transformed the look, feel, and taste of daily life even in remote villages of Spain and England. From Cervantes’ use of Roman history to dramatize the contemporary wages of empire, to Massinger’s and Cervantes’ evocations of Christian captivity in Tunis and Algiers (which Cervantes experienced in the flesh for five years), to Lope’s and Webster’s markedly distinct versions of a celebrity murder (of the Italian Duchess of Amalfi, killed by her brothers for marrying the commoner steward of her household), to Shakespeare’s and Lope’s romantic comedy exploration of conflicting loyalties and shifting gender roles in a world of accelerated social mobility, these plays often resort to seemingly remote places (ancient Rome, Islamic Algiers and Tunis, Renaissance Milan and Naples) to examine the exoticism, immorality, internal conflicts, and injustices of the supposedly familiar worlds of their audiences in Madrid and London. Organized around the careful reading of seven key play-texts in English, together with historical, critical, and theoretical readings, this seminar will offer students multiple ways to approach early modern plays through printed and online resources and Wesleyan’s Special Collections and Archives. We will pay particular attention to the local conditions that help explain why Spanish and English theatrical cultures were so similar despite divergent political and religious trajectories (their commercial orientation, for instance) and also why, on the other hand, even plays that drew on the same sources could differ so markedly (because, for instance, of the prominence of actresses on the Spanish professional stage in roles played by boy actors in England). Those interested in translation and performance will have opportunities to pursue them in class presentations, papers, and final projects.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
ENGL378 Queer Times: Poetics, Activisms, Temporalities
This course will explore relationships among textuality, sexuality, and temporality by analyzing a range of literary, visual, and theoretical works from the early 20th century to the present day, from iconic modernist texts to contemporary queer activist, artistic, and theoretical production, with a focus on works responding to the AIDS epidemic.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FIST302, COL314, THEA322, SPAN302
Prereq: None

ENGL386 Special Topic: Improvisation—Collaborating with the Unknown
To improvise is to compose as one goes along, to arrange the unexpected, to make work from whatever materials and sources are at hand without previous planning. In this course, students will cultivate their relationships with what lies outside their realm of knowledge or experience in order to invent unforeseen but dynamic written works. We will study contemporary practitioners (e.g., poets, composers, essayists, dancers, and visual artists), who use found materials, somatic experiments, creative acts of translation, divination, and other innovative modes of improvisation to generate work. Together, while always keeping language close, we will create a forum in which bewilderment guides us. The class will culminate in an installation of creative writing projects spanning fields.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296 OR ENGL216

ENGL388 Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing: The Literature of the American 1960s
This workshop course will give students experience in writing for public audiences about literary and social history, along with practice in editing and collaborating to produce effective prose. Our focus will be on the literary and social history of the 1960s in the U.S. Each student will select an author or publication to research and report on and will work collaboratively with classmates to sharpen his or her writing. Featured genres in which students will practice will include: book review, interview, profile, memoir and others.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: ENGL292 OR ENGL296 OR ENGL216

ENGL389 Advanced Playwriting: Long Form
This is an immersive workshop for students working at a rigorous, committed level of playwriting. We will focus on long form as students begin, develop, and rewrite full-length plays, challenging themselves to expand their technique as they articulate their creative vision.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA399
Prereq: [THEA199 or ENGL269]

ENGL399 Advanced Fiction
This demanding, reading- and writing-intensive course focuses on character, structure and plot, sentence structure, development of a strong and idiosyncratic voice, the role and history of the narrator, points of view, and writing with meaning. (This course previously carried the title Reading and Writing Fiction II.)
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: WRCT260
Prereq: None

ENGL388 Survey of African American Theater
This course surveys the dynamism and scope of African American dramatic and performance traditions. Zora Neale Hurston’s 1925 play COLOR STRUCK and August Wilson’s 2006 play GEM OF THE OCEAN serve as bookends to our exploration of the ways in which African American playwrights interweave various customs, practices, experiences, critiques, and ideologies within their work.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA323, AFAM323, FGSS323
Prereq: None
ENGL407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ENGL408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ENGL409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

ENGL420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

ENGL420A Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U

ENGL420B Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U

ENGL465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL406 English (ENGL)

ENGL420A Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U

ENGL420B Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U

ENGL465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT