The English Department offers courses that foster critical thinking about the relationships among literature, culture, and history. Students of English become adept critics of poetry, novels, essays, and plays. They develop knowledge of the history of literary culture and about the evolving genres, forms, and ideologies of literary expression. They study the relation of literary texts to their historical contexts, and they learn to read both literary and non-literary texts critically. As they develop their knowledge, students of English hone their skills as critical writers and explore their potential as creative voices.

**FACULTY**

**Sally Bachner**  
BA, Reed College; MA, Princeton University; PHD, Princeton University  
Associate Professor of English

**Lois Brown**  
BA, Duke University; PHD, Boston College  
Class of 1958 Distinguished Professor; Professor of English; Professor of African American Studies; Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Lisa Cohen**  
BA, Brown University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University  
Douglas J. and Midge Bowen Bennet Associate Professor of English; Associate Professor of English; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Christina Crosby**  
BA, Swarthmore College; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, Brown University  
Professor of English; Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Rachel Ellis Neyra**  
BA, Freed Hardeman College; PHD, SUNY at Stony Brook  
Assistant Professor of English

**Harris A. Friedberg**  
BA, Harvard University; PHD, Yale University  
Associate Professor of English

**Matthew Carl Garrett**  
BA, Bard College; MA, Stanford University; MPHIL, Cambridge University; PHD, Stanford University  
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**Anne F. Greene**  
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**Sean McCann**  
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Professor of English; Director, Academic Writing

**Rashida Z. Shaw McMahon**  
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**Marguerite Nguyen**  
BA, Duke University; PHD, University of California, Berkeley  
Assistant Professor of English; Assistant Professor, East Asian Studies

**Ruth Nisse**  
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**Joel Pfister**  
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Olin Professor of English; Professor of English; Professor, American Studies

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**Lily Leopold Saint**  
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**Hirsh Sawhney**  
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Associate Professor of English; Associate Professor, Science in Society

**Amy Cynthia Tang**  
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Professor of English; Chair, English

**Tiphanie Yanique**  
BA, Tufts University; MFA, University Houston Univ Pk  
Associate Professor of English; Director, Creative Writing; Associate Professor, African American Studies

**AFFILIATED FACULTY**

**Amy B. Bloom**  
BA, Wesleyan University; MSW, Smith College  
Shapiro-Silverberg Professor of Creative Writing; Professor of the Practice in Creative Writing; Professor of the Practice, English

**Alice Berliner Hadler**  
BA, Mount Holyoke College; MA, Columbia Teachers College  
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VISITING FACULTY

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EMERITI

Henry Abelove  
AB, Harvard University; MAA, Wesleyan University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University  
Willbur Fisk Osborne Professor of English, Emeritus

William B. Coley  
MAA, Wesleyan University  
Professor of English, Emeritus

John Anthony Connor  
MA, Manchester University; MAA, Wesleyan University  
Professor of English, Emeritus

Sherman H. Hawkins  
MAA, Wesleyan University  
Professor of English, Emeritus

Gertrude Reif Hughes  
BA, Mount Holyoke College; MAA, Wesleyan University; MAT, Wesleyan University; PHD, Yale University  
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BA, Oberlin College; MA, Harvard University; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, Harvard University  
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Phyllis Rose  
BA, Radcliffe College; MA, Yale University; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, Harvard University  
Professor of English, Emerita

Richard S. Slotkin  
BA, Brooklyn College; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, Brown University  
Olin Professor of English, Emeritus

William W. Stowe  
BA, Princeton University; MAA, Wesleyan University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University  
Benjamin Waite Professor of the English Language, Emeritus

Alfred Turco  
BA, Brown University; MA, Harvard University; PHD, Harvard University  
Professor of English, Emeritus

Ann duCille  
BA, Bridgewater State College; MA, Brown University; MA, Brown University; PHD, Brown University  
Professor of English, Emerita

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Professors Stephanie Weiner, Hirsh Sawhney, and Courtney Weiss Smith are serving as advising experts. Responsibility for transfer of credit and study-abroad courses for non-majors is assigned to a specific faculty member and can change from year to year. Please refer to the department website: wesleyan.edu/english/contact/ (https://wesleyan.edu/english/contact/).

- Undergraduate English Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/engl/ugrd-engl)

ENGL110 Poetry and Democracy

Politics and poetry both activate a broad range of issues related to voice and representation. In this course we will study 19th- and 20th-century American poetry, focusing on poems that explicitly or implicitly engage with American ideological concerns. In conjunction with our textual analysis, we will consider specifically the representation of individual and group identity, the relation between poetic form and political change, and the special demands on art in times of war.

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

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 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
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 About Places
This course is one in a series called "writing about places" exploring the long tradition of writing about travel and places and changing attitudes toward crossing cultural and geographical borders. Readings will focus largely on the writings of 20th-century travelers and will include an examination of the phenomenon of migration. We will examine historical and cultural interactions/confrontations as portrayed by both insiders and outsiders, residents and visitors, colonizers and colonized, and from a variety of perspectives: fiction, literary journalism, travel accounts, and histories. Writing assignments will include critical and analytical essays and will encourage students to examine their own experiences with places and cultural encounters.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CGST131
Prereq: None

ENGL131B Writing About Places: Africa
This course is one in a series called "writing about places" that explore the long tradition of writing about travel and places and changing attitudes toward crossing cultural borders. We will examine historical and cultural interactions/confrontations as portrayed by both insiders and outsiders, residents and visitors, colonizers and colonized—and from a variety of perspectives: fiction, literary journalism, travel accounts, and histories. Writing assignments will include critical and analytical essays as well as encouraging students to examine their own experiences with places and cultural encounters.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CGST131B
Prereq: None

ENGL132 Writing Medicine and the Doctor-Writer
In this course we read a range of works across a variety of literary traditions, mainly by writers who were also medical practitioners (including Chekhov, Bulgakov, Lu Xun, William Carlos Williams, and Che Guevara), but also non-doctors who write compellingly about medically-related subjects (Camus in THE PLAGUE, Tracy Kidder on Paul Farmer, and Anne Fadiman on cultural clashes).
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL136 Not Quite Passing
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL140 Literature, Laughter, Philosophy: Tristram Shandy
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 Nietzsche; 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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL141 Slavery, Latifundio, and Revolution in Latin American Literature and Cinema
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 exploitively 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 hetero-masculinity, 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 sovereignity, extraction of resources by military-backed force, civil wars, genocide, and the making of migrations and diasporas.

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

ENGL142 Beyond Marvel: Introduction to the Graphic Novel
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL145 Body and Text
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL146 Three Big Novels
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL150 American Crazy: Four Myths of Violence and National Identity
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL151 American Revolutions and Counterrevolutions
This course examines the pendulum swings of struggle in three realms whose conflicted history defines the American Enlightenment: democracy, racial equality, and early feminism. We will study the Great Awakening in New England, the American Revolution and the conflict over the U.S. Constitution, the impact of the French and Haitian revolutions in America, and the transatlantic influence of Mary Wollstonecraft. Our focus will be on a narrow historical period, less than three-quarters of a century, but we will gesture toward generalizations about the nature of Enlightenment thought as such: how its claims on behalf of universal humanity could (and can) be used as a tool to effect real social equality, and how we are to understand the relationship between political speech and social conflict. Our texts are not specifically literary, but we will pay attention to literary and rhetorical effects. Our interest lies not only in the political claims of these texts but also in how our writers make their claims. We will close the course by opening a discussion on the current state of claims for universal human rights.

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

ENGL152 The Armchair Adventurer
At the turn of the 20th 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, seafaring tales, historical fiction, adventure stories, detective novels, romance, and children’s literature—and their “high” literary cousins. In the first half of the course, we will read classic works of genre fiction 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 three works of literary fiction that emerged in a close conversation with these popular forms: Henry James’s THE AMBASSADORS, E. M. Forster’s A ROOM WITH A VIEW, and Joseph Conrad’s LORD JIM.

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

ENGL153 Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in the Middle Ages
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CJST153
Prereq: None

ENGL154 Maps, Globes, Moons: Renaissance Worldmaking
When Margaret Cavendish wrote of her desire to be “authoress of a whole world,” she voiced an era’s fascination with the idea of the world. Spurred by Galileo’s discoveries about the cosmos and reports from what Europeans called “the New World,” writers and readers in the Renaissance sought new ways to chart this world—and to imagine other worlds. In this course, we will read stories of global exploration, utopian fantasy, and moon travel. We will also examine
ENGL162 The Past and Present of American Journalism
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 describe, explain, and make arguments about the texts they encounter; others will be creative, asking students to generate their own journalistic practices informed and inspired by the assigned readings.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL165 Utopian Planning from Plato’s Republic to UFO Cults
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL160 Lost World/New World: Literature and the Anthropocene
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL161 Captive and Confined: Literatures of Imprisonment
Is it more than just a metaphorical turn of phrase that causes us to speak of being held captive by works of literature and art? Or are there links between writing, reading, and being imprisoned that are as material as they are psychological? Our class will consider the relationship between spaces of confinement and writing to explore how various writers have used writing to respond to various states of captivity. Is carceral writing particularly captivating to readers, and if so, why? We will read texts about prisons (physical and psychological), as well as texts written in prisons, to explore relationships among writing, power, literacy, and freedom.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL175 Staging America: Modern American Drama
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 troupes, 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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST125, COL125, AFAM152, FGSS175, THEA172
Prereq: None
ENGL176 August Wilson
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA175, AFAM177
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

ENGL190 First-Year Seminar (FYS): Place, Character, and Design: Techniques in Writing Nonfiction and Fiction
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 George Orwell.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: COL186
Prereq: None

ENGL201A Ways of Reading: Adapting Shakespeare
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 examines how select works from Shakespeare's corpus adapted works by his predecessors and contemporaries, how they were revised in print during his lifetime, and how they were revised and adapted by his successors on the stage, page, and screen. Through guided exercises and short papers on topics such as textual criticism, formalism, historicism, intertextuality, and genre, students will learn crucial tools, methods, and concepts of literary analysis.

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

ENGL201B Ways of Reading: Narrative Forms
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 looks at a series of narratives in different forms--lyric poetry, short stories, and a play of Shakespeare's--to see how authors produce stories appropriate to the form they employ and how they develop and transform the form they deem appropriate to the stories they wish to tell. We will also look at one career in greater depth, that of Langston Hughes, to see how he employed narrative over the course of a long career as a storyteller in poetry and prose.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
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.
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.

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

ENGL201F Ways of Reading: Literature About 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 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
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 will offer an introduction to the formal study of literature. Our discussion will be oriented by a consideration of poems, plays, and novels that address the bonds created among people by the exchange of gifts, promises, and debts. We will consider the ways changing ideas about such bonds have been represented in literary texts and the way such ideas have affected our understanding of literature.

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

ENGL201H 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.

In this course, our studies of 20th- and 21st-century works will focus on how various forms of "contact"—interracial 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 rebutting 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

**ENGL201L Ways of Reading: Forms of Difference**  
Ways of Reading courses introduce 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
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

ENGL201M Ways of Reading: Writing in New England
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 literature written by New Englanders from the 18th century to the present day. As we consider works of poetry, memoir, drama, and fiction, we will consider the ways in which New England writers shaped the American literary tradition and developed lasting and transformative traditions of purposeful writing and politicized assessment. We will consider substantial literary movements such as transcendentalism; think together about the nature of realism, regionalism, and sentimentality; and discuss the power of gender, place, race, and religion in the writerly imagination. Reading and writing assignments will involve spirited close reading and careful textual analysis.

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, novels, 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
Prereq: None

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

ENGL203 American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War
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

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 ausable 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: AMST235
Prereq: None

ENGL204A American Literature, 1865–1945
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
Prereq: None

ENGL205 Shakespeare
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

ENGL206 British Literature in the Enlightenment: Individualism, Consumer Culture, and the Public Sphere
England was changing rapidly in the 17th and 18th centuries. Indeed, it is often said that this period was crucial for the emergence of individualism, consumer culture, and the public sphere—for the modern world itself. The period is sometimes described as the Age of Reason, but it was also an age of bawdy laughter, intense emotion, brazen self-promotion, serious faith, and gossip in coffeehouses and magazines. It was an age, too, of flourishing marketplaces, imperial expansion, slavery and abolition. This course will track how literary writers celebrated, condemned, participated in, or simply tried to make sense of their changing moment (and the changing understandings of literature available in it).

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: COL204
Prereq: None

ENGL207 Chaucer and His World
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 (allegory, 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
ENGL208 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
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS209
Prereq: None

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 disavows, 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: AMST298
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 full of 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

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 will 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: FGSS210, AMST281
Prereq: None

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 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
Prereq: None

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 on memory, representation, form, sound, and the imagination in the layered and shifting site of mid-20th to 21st century New York City—and even more specifically, of Harlem, the Bronx, the Lower East Side, Brooklyn, and Elizabeth, NJ. Fictionalizations, poetizations, and performances of first-person memories and re-imaginings of overheard stories from older generations about life in the U.S. South and life in the Caribbean will feature in the works that we will study in this course.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
ENGL216 Techniques of Poetry
This course introduces students to the fundamentals of writing poetry and to some of the major issues in contemporary poetics. Emphasis will fall on reading and discussing contemporary poetry, writing in both open and closed forms, working with structural elements beyond traditional poetic forms, and developing a methodology for critical discussion.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL217 Recent American Fiction
This course explores American fiction of the 21st century. We will discuss the particular demands that contemporary texts place on their readers while developing a map of the styles and preoccupations that mark our own moment of literary production.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL218 Shakespeare and the Tragedy of State
Power, rebellion, class, and justice in English Renaissance tragedy.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA218
Prereq: None

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 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
Grading: 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
Grading: 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
Grading: 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
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM222, FGSS221
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," and NoViolet Bulawayo's 2013 novel WE NEED NEW NAMES obsessively refers to Achebe's title as well. While Achebe remains a formative influence on many contemporary African writers, the central preoccupations of African literature have shifted considerably in recent years. This class will consider recent topics animating the field. This may include debates about Afropolitanism, the role of publication houses and prize committees in the canonization and circulation of texts, 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 20th century.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: SISP225, AMST257
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 extremes, 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
Identical With: AMST264, CEAS231
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
Prereq: None

ENGL229 The New York School: Poetry, Art, Movies, and the Mimeo Revolution
The primary poets of the New York school’s first wave—John Ashbery, Frank O’Hara, James Schuyler, and Barbara Guest—were deeply involved in the world of art, art criticism, and film. In this course, we will study the primary work of these poets in conjunction with the art and film they were viewing and the art criticism they were writing. We will also study their work in the context of key political and social movements of their time: feminism, gay liberation, and the civil rights movement. Finally, we will address later generations of the New York School, the life of small presses and magazines, and the effect of the Mimeo Revolution.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
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 sense. 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 Spanishes 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, religious, 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 experience, heresy, 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

ENGL233 History of Musical Theater  
This course is a survey of American musicals produced in theater and film, roughly from the 1940s to the present. We use early revivals of Oscar Hammerstein II’s SHOW BOAT and George Gershwin’s 1935 production of PORGY AND BESS as the entry points of our analysis and end with RENT. Using Broadway, Hollywood, the contemporary Chitlin Circuit, and regional theaters across the country as sites of investigation, we trace the development of American musicals as they traverse different racial, social, cultural, and aesthetic boundaries. In each case study, our analysis is supplemented by a review of historical production documents, theater criticism, and theoretical texts.

Offering: Host  
Grading: A–F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL  
Identical With: THEA208, MUSC276, AMST248  
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  
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  
Identical With: AMST241  
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

ENGL237 On The Border: Chicana/o, American, and Mexican Literatures and Cinemas  
The U.S.-Mexico border as militarized zone. The border as desert wasteland. As ground for incarceration complexes for the illegal and unassimilable. As burial ground. The U.S. national media frequently flashes these images today in its representations of the ongoing war on drug cartels. These images form part of a chain that tightens around the lived experience of different peoples of the U.S. Southwest and northern Mexico, one that is linked to a dominant desire to erase the historical nuances of transitivity, movement, and exchange in the region. This course will consider some of the literary and cinematic representations of the border and of the way they respond to the ideology and history of citizenship, exclusion, and oppression.

Offering: Host  
Grading: A–F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL  
Identical With: AMST270  
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 neocolonization; 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
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
dogears. 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 you were 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: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST245
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 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: COL238, FGSS239
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 skewered 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 literary 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 couplets 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
Offering:
Hilton Als, Spike Lee, Isaac Julien, Martine Syms, Tavia Nyong’o, and Daphne Sciamma, Saidiya Hartman, Huey P. Copeland, Darby English, Lorraine Hansberry, Gurira, Shane Vogel, Adrienne Kennedy, Sarah Jane Cervenak, Dee Rees, Celiné Moten, Alexander Weheilye, Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, Suzan Lori-Parks, Danai being in an anti-black world. Plays, films, and texts might include works by Fred haptic performances that give over to a radical way of seeing, feeling, and
Following recent work in Black Studies and Performance Studies, this class about black history, identity, and radical politics in excess of the written word. course, we will focus on theater and performance as a resource for thinking
How is blackness defined as both a radical aesthetic and an identity? In this
Prereq: None
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Credits: 1.00
Grading: A-F
Crosslisting
ENGL260 International Crime Fiction
In this seminar, we will read works by Jean-Claude Izzo, Graham Greene, Paco Ignacio Taibo II, Saadat Hasan Manto, and William McIlvanney. The objective of the seminar will be to examine the connection between crime fiction and urban spaces and how crime fiction tackles social and existential issues. This will be a writing-intensive course in which students will also scrutinize the craft of crime writing to create their own works of crime fiction.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

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, utopian fictions, 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-ENGL

ENGL262 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 racial 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 Weheilye, 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-THEA
Identical With: THEA266, AFAM266, FGSS276
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 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
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST266, ANTH205, FGSS266
Prereq: None

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 several forms of literary and journalistic nonfiction—a profile, narrative, review, commentary, travel essay, family sketch, or personal essay, for example. Students are also welcome to try science writing, arts or music reviewing, and other somewhat specialized writing designed to engage general readers.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AMST371
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
Identical With: AMST371
Prereq: None

ENGL274 Caribbean Poetry and Cinema: "Fields of Islands" in an Open Sea
It is a longstanding colonial trope to render the Caribbean as a space outside of time, outside of history, perpetually under the sun and, were it not for machetes, filled with redundantly bursting vegetation. This course will present an array of 20th-century Caribbean poetry and films that challenge this image. We will consider literary and cinematic texts that envision embodiment within alternative, aesthetic temporalities. In particular, we will consider Caribbean poetry and cinema that present radical images of the Caribbean as a “field of islands” in an open, relational sea. And we will investigate the way these texts make use of the figures of sea and plantation and of historical images of slavery, uprising, escape, revolution, and apocalypse. In addition, we will consider the way these texts respond to discourses of nationalism and “underdevelopment.”

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

ENGL275 Race and Place in Early American Writing
As the age of the Middle Passage took shape and the rendition of Africans to the New World intensified, memory became one of the most invaluable and provocative tools with which enslaved and forcibly relocated people could achieve self-preservation, maintain their humanity, and negotiate the
unpredictable and disorienting world of North America. The writings of early America that attend to matters of race and place shed light on the power of genre, the influence of piety and religiosity. We will think together about the evocative connections between memory and place as we work with primary documents generated by and about people of African descent in 18th-century America. We also will attend to African American literary production from the 18th century through the 1850s that insistently links narratives of race and place to the deployments of literary forms. Finally, we will consider the rich intertextuality in these works that locates African American writing in the larger African, African, and Western literary traditions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM275
Prereq: None

ENGL276 Diasporic South Asian Writing and American Studies
The South Asian diaspora spans the world; communities are located in Africa, the Middle East, England, North and South America, the Caribbean, as well as Southeast Asia. Using novels, poems, short stories, and film, as well as scholarship on history, this course will focus upon the literary and cultural production of the South Asian diaspora in the United States. We will examine the conditions of historical arrival and identity-making under shifting regimes of politics, economics, and culture. What does being in the United States mean for the claiming of “Indian” and “American” identities, and how is this reflected by relationships with other ethnic or racial communities? The relationship with an often romanticized “India” is a central question, expressed through the concepts of diaspora, exile, and transnationalism. Consequently, what are the conditions of “authenticity,” and of cultural authority? What aesthetic forms, questions, and issues express or preoccupy the artists of the South Asian American community? Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Identical With: AMST273
Prereq: None

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 repertoire.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
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: THEA235
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, reclamations by 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 artistic 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
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL280 Staging Race in Early Modern England
This course aims to historicize the representation and staging of race in early modern England. We will examine the emergence of race as a cultural construct in relation to related conceptions of complexion, the humoral body, gender, sexuality, and religious, ethnic, and cultural identity. Readings will focus in particular on three racialized groups: Moors, Jews, and Native American “Indians.” We will first read the play-texts in relation to the historical contexts in which they were produced (using both primary and secondary sources) and 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: FGSS320
Prereq: None

ENGL281 Award-Winning Playwrights
With textual analysis and intellectual criticism at its core, this course examines the dramatic work of award-winning playwrights through theoretical, performative, and aesthetic frames. The first half of our investigation explores companion texts written by premier playwrights. In the latter end of the course,
we examine singular texts written by acclaimed newcomers. A select range of reviews and popular press publications help to supplement our discussions. In all cases, we are interested in surveying the ways in which these playwrights work within varying modes of dramatic expression and focus their plays on such topics as class, ethnicity, era, disability, gender, locale, nationality, race, and/or sexuality.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM279, THEA280
Prereq: None

ENGL282 Narrative: Theory and Practice
What is "narrative" and how does it shape the way we understand the world around us? How are stories constructed in language? How do writers create a sense of time, plot, and character? In this course, we will explore these questions by identifying the strategies and structures of narrative across various media. Genres under study will include folktales, prose fiction, and film, but also less traditional subjects of narrative inquiry, such as journalism, poetry, photography, and digital media. Students will put theory into practice, investigating the mechanisms of narrative by writing in multiple genres. For the final project, students will have the choice of either a critical essay or a work of creative writing.

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

ENGL283 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 to figure 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

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

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
Prereq: None

ENGL292 Techniques of Nonfiction
This course is an introduction to contemporary creative nonfiction writing. We will analyze works of memoir, travel literature, profiles, and other essays that exemplify a range of formal approaches to the genre. The course is also an introduction to workshop procedures: Students will work on their own nonfiction in exercises, experiments, and longer essays and will develop a critical vocabulary for analyzing each others' writing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
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
Identical With: MDS1295
Prereq: None

ENGL295 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, postmodernity, and U.S. feminism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: COL339, CCIV393, CEAS340, FIST290, GRST231, RUSS340, RULE340, REE340
Prereq: None

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: WRC264
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, inverting, or reimagining elements of their work. We will also research historic 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 relations 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: CHUM305, SISP303, 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
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 imbued 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
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
Prereq: None

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

ENGL308 The Grumbling Hive: Ethics and British Literature, 1660–1800

This course will explore the ethical imagination in the 18th century by looking at literary representations of social organization and encounters with the other alongside readings from moral and political philosophy. Both literary and philosophical discourses were deeply invested in normative claims about how men and women should live their lives, but they often developed radically divergent concepts of consent, virtue, the "State of Nature," natural sociability, and rational autonomy. We will explore these divergences by taking seriously the intersections and impasses that emerge when literature and philosophy are put into conversation. Discussion and assignments will address the ways in which different literary forms and traditions develop, and critique "practical" philosophies and how the "realisms" of literary and philosophical representations tell different stories about moral imperatives.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: COL299
Prereq: None

ENGL309 Entertaining Social Change

How has the systemic critique of social contradictions been popularized in modern times? We will consider the diverse strategies that artists, songwriters/performers, radical historians (working with cartoonists), and moviemakers have
developed to entertain Americans--teach them, fascinate them, move them, persuade them, provoke them, make them laugh--so that Americans will be more inclined to entertain social critique. We will explore the popularizing (and the selling) of social critique in several genres: art (Barbara Kruger); graphic history (Howard Zinn, Paul Buhle); songs/song lyrics (Woody Guthrie/protest folk singers); folk-rockstars such as Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, Jackson Browne, Ani DiFranco, and Father John Misty; the political development of hip-hop (Gil Scott-Heron, NWA); politically edgy comedy (Lenny Bruce, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert); and movies (Malcolm X, Straight Outta Compton, No, 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, CHUM334
Prereq: None

ENGL310 The Senses and the Subject in Cinema and Poetry
In this course, we will study a mixture of emotionally stimulating and taxing cinema and lyric poetry to intensify our capacity to articulate a notion of the senses, which presumes some notion of the subject. The cinema and poetry selected invoke several national traditions and political events that will pressure our thinking of individual sense experience and how it reaches toward others to fight the effacement of the human subject. While these two art forms might seem like strange neighbors, we will think of cinema and lyric poetry as "repositor[ies] of synesthesia" wherein one feeling can dub into another—an image stimulating an effect on hearing, for example—in measured intervals of time that are generative of images.

The films and poetry selected will carry students into cuts of Sweden, Germany, Spain, Mexico, France, United States, Senegal, Mali, and Japan at distinctly urgent moments in the 20th and early 21st centuries. The threads that will sew the course's images together and bind them to the human subject and senses are the death of God, displacement, migration, fascism, colonialism, globalization, and, of course, love.

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

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: None

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: ENGL292 OR ENGL296

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
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: WRCT317
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 the craft of structure and setting. We will focus on how novelists and short story writers have made use of architecture and the environment as a means to shape story, reveal character, and direct plot. We will apply our learning to our own fiction by writing work that reveals a sophisticated awareness of the relationship between content and form.
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

ENGL320 Shakespeare, Milton, and Wordsworth
In Wordsworth’s day, Shakespeare and Milton represented two clearly divergent conceptions of poetry and the poet. Shakespeare was the chameleon poet who disappeared inside his characters, the self-made man who worked in a commercial theater, and the original artist who reinvented both lyric and dramatic verse. Milton was the wise poet whose presence was always palpable, the political writer who worked for a revolutionary democracy, and the Janus-faced artist who generated a synthesis between received and new forms. Wordsworth’s reading of Shakespeare and Milton partook of these Romantic ideas, and it also exceeded them. In this course, we will examine the legacies that Shakespeare and Milton left to Wordsworth, and the many uses he made of them, from formal innovations in blank verse and a dynamic interaction among lyric, drama, and epic, to generic preoccupations with the sonnet and the monologue; to political questions concerning the narration of revolution and the representation of anarchy; to philosophical problems about individual identity, responsibility, and agency.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
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

ENGL322 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-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL323 Trauma in Asian American Literature
The relationship between Asian Americans and the U.S. nation-state has been understood by a number of scholars as reciprocally traumatizing. The incorporation of racially-marked Asian Americans into the United States has been historically perceived and figured as an incursion, a wound, a rupture in the homogeneity of a national body that must be managed through legal exclusions and discrimination. Meanwhile, many argue that these historical exclusions have in turn "traumatized" Asian American identity, such that, as Anne Cheng wrote, "in Asian American literature... assimilation foregrounds itself as a repetitive trauma." This course will examine the concept of trauma and the cultural work it performs in both Asian American fiction and criticism. As we explore the ways trauma has enabled certain discussions about immigration, assimilation, and historical memory, we will also ask questions about the limits of trauma as a model for understanding these processes and consider what discussions this widely prevalent paradigm might obscure or occlude.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Prereq: None

ENGL324 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
ENGL325 Intermediate Nonfiction Workshop
This workshop offers students with some background in writing a chance to develop new work and to discuss a wide range of published texts. Class meetings will focus on the collective analysis of these assigned texts and critique of essays submitted weekly by members of the workshop.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: THEA289
Prereq: [THEA199 or ENGL269]

ENGL331 Topics in African American Literature: Charles Chesnutt and Pauline Hopkins
This course is meant to introduce students to an understudied period in African American literary history—the 1890s—and to two relatively understudied writers from that period—Charles Chesnutt and Pauline Hopkins. It is meant to broaden the reach of African American literary studies at Wesleyan.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM330, AMST332
Prereq: None

ENGL332 Postwar American Writers: Philip Roth and Don DeLillo
This course centers on two prolific and influential authors of the late 20th and the early 21st centuries: Philip Roth and Don DeLillo. We will read widely in their bodies of work, including early, middle, and late fiction.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL333 Meaning and Materiality: Recent Trends in Theory
Some of the most exciting recent trends in literary and cultural theory interrogate the relationship among humanity, materiality, and meaning. These scholars ask, How do people relate to the material world, and how do these relationships impact our understanding of literature? For example, book history
explores the materiality of the book as it shapes our understanding of the text contained therein: Does it matter who printed the book, or how a given page looks? Other scholars focus on the materiality of readers and readers’ minds: How do books work on our bodies, and can cognitive science help us understand our investments in novelistic character? Works in eco-criticism, animal studies, history of science, and “thing theory” ask other kinds of questions: What are the ethical, historical, and philosophical implications of the way objects are depicted in literature? In this course, we will familiarize ourselves with these theoretical trends as we grapple with the relationships between materiality and meaning. We will also map the various ways these trends intersect with or diverge from one another. What do each of these have in common with older, Marxist kinds of materialist thinking? Or with the kinds of postmodern thought that are often accused of neglecting “the real”? Why do these theoretical paradigms have such explanatory power right now? How do they speak to the concerns of our moment?

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

ENGL334 Romantic Poetry and the Sense of History
What does history feel like? What does it mean to imagine that your present moment is part of a larger historical trajectory? Or, that you are making history in that moment? The period of Romanticism, roughly 1780-1830, is charged with ideas about revolution, progress, and the power of the imagination. Yet it is also a period deeply obsessed with its relationship to the past in a manner unlike any era before it, as writers and thinkers explored the feel of history in radical new ways. This course will survey the major Romantic poets—Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, and Keats—with special attention to the sense and meaning of history in their writing. We will read Romantic narratives of personal development, chants of eternal revolution, satires on modern life and government, and excavations and fantasies of a medieval past. We will consider how Romantic writers spun both art and argument on the axis of history and found themselves reflected there, and we will examine, in turn, our own relationship to the literature of the past as 21st-century readers.

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
In this course, we will be guided by contemporary poets who create at the interstices of critical, creative, visual, and performative methodologies. We will study poets who are also performers. Poets who are witches and diviners. Poets that work across the sciences. Poets who are activists. Poets who find inspiration deep in the archives. Poets who are installation artists. And, together, while always keeping language close, we will allow our practice-based enquiries to help us curate, complicate, and develop our own interdisciplinary bodies of work. The class will culminate in a series of poetry projects spanning fields.

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

ENGL338 Poetry, Print, and the Sung or Spoken Word
For a long time now, poetry has belonged primarily to the page—but never entirely. In this course, we will examine a range of methods poets who wrote for print employed to harness the resources of the spoken or sung word. Our main readings will be groups of poems, usually books, in which the nexus between printed, oral, and/or musical forms is a crucial issue. We will also read prose treatises and works of 20th-century literary theory that engage this nexus. We will concentrate on a few main (intertwined) methods our print poets used: songs and hymns (Blake, Dickinson), dialect (Barnes, Clare, Hopkins, Berryman), speech (Whitman, Hass), storytelling (Scott, Manning), drama (Shakespeare), ballads (Wordsworth, Coleridge), and sound-based forms such as villanelles and roundels (Swinburne).

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

ENGL340 Death and Afterlife in the Middle Ages
What happens to us after we die? Medieval authors had a variety of answers to this eternal question, ranging from the shocking to the amusing. We will read about visions, punishments, rewards, martyrdoms, and that scary place between life and death.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
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

ENGL343 Contesting American History: Fiction After 1967
The American novel of the late 1960s onward is preoccupied with history and the American past. Indeed, this obsession with history is central to what critics mean when they talk about postmodernity. This course will explore the theories of history fostered by novelists over the past five decades. What visions of American history do these novels construct and contest? How, if at all, do they change our notion of what counts as history? This course will try to understand what is at stake in the turn to history, how it shapes our understanding of the past, and what claims for and against fiction it makes.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL344 Women's Lib, Women's Lit
The social movement known as second-wave feminism, but often referred to at the time as "Women's Lib," took center stage in much of the best-selling fiction of the 1970s. This course will look at popular fiction that concerned itself with women's issues and the way it popularized, memorialized, complicated, and contested feminism in the popular imagination. We will look at a range of novels that focused attention on the nature of and possible solutions to women's political, material, and sexual subjection by men. Although our focus will be on the 1970s, we will look at both some important pretexts, and some later responses to the ongoing crises of gendered inequality in the 1980s. We will pay particular attention the gendering of publishing and reception, exploring the contexts in which these books were produced, marketed, reviewed, and read.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FGSS345
Prereq: None

ENGL345 Forms of Presence in Renaissance Lyric
Lyric poems depend on immediacy—on the sense that, when we read them, we hear a real voice, speaking right now. Yet the presence that lyrics create is always at risk of being exposed as fantasy, an illusion conjured by the written texts in which we encounter them. How, then, do lyrics bring voices to life? What gives those voices the thrill of immediate presence? And what do lyrics do to us, the readers whom they seek out or evade, seduce or resist, sometimes all at once?
These questions were particularly urgent in early modern England, where an astonishing outpouring of lyric poetry coincided with the rise of print. In this course, we will take this historical coincidence seriously: studying the major lyric poets of the period by paying special attention to the material forms in which their poems reached readers. Our approach will be guided by readings in lyric theory and the history of the book; together, they will prompt us to ask how the book as medium shapes and troubles lyric's imagined presences—and the problems of self, love and desire, of sex and gender, of religious belief and political commitment, with which lyric wrestles.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL346 The Black South
This course will examine the enduring and often unanticipated connections between African American and southern literature. We will consider the ways in which the American South remains a space that simultaneously represents and repels an African American ethos.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM313
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.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL348 Modernism's Kids: Children in Modernist Fiction
Modernist art—from the writings of Gertrude Stein to Picasso's painting—has frequently been derided as something that could be made by children. The gibe is, perhaps, to be expected. Central to the modernist project was the aim to recreate the world with the unstrained and unfettered vitality of children. The child embodies modernist hopes for a transformed future, but the child is also the repository of the past, of the more vital self each adult loses through their passage into adulthood. Representing the consciousness of children—and even, at times, inducing such a consciousness in its adult readers—is a strategy that informs a wide range of modernist texts.
This course will explore the fascination with and investment in children in Anglophone modernist prose by authors based in Europe. In addition to exploring the central role that child characters play in many key modernist
novels, we will explore the way in which ideas about childhood inform authorial experiments with form and narrative voice. To inform this inquiry, we will read selections from texts in philosophy and psychology and psychoanalysis that were influential in shaping modernist conceptions of language, culture, consciousness, and the human life cycle. Finally, we will look at a selection of children's books written by modernist authors and investigate their relationship to children's literature of the period.

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

ENGL349 Historicizing Early Modern Sexualities
This course will examine recent historical and theoretical approaches to the history of sexuality in early modern English literature (ca. 1580-1620). Our focus will be the historical construction of sexuality in relation to categories of gender, race, religion, and social status in a variety of sources, both literary and nonliterary, verbal and visual, including poetry, plays, masques, medical treatises, travel narratives, and visual media. Topics covered include intersecting constructions of the sexed/gendered/racialized body; diverse sexual practices; sexual identities prior to the homo/hetero divide; and the histories of pornography and masturbation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FGSS350
Prereq: None

ENGL350 The Law, the Citizen, and the Literary and Cinematic Imaginations
In this course, we will study several major legal events that highlight the contradictions and injustices in the history of U.S. citizenship and the ways this history has been reimagined in literature and cinema. Among the topics discussed will be the slave codes, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Jim Crow order, the Bracero program, sodomy laws, and SB 1070. We will consider theories of citizen, state, race, and sexuality implicit in these legal structures, with an eye for who may be incorporated into the body politic and who is unassimilable by design, and on what terms. In addition, we will consider the way literary and cinematic texts engage the rhetoric and psychic effects of the law and the way they present different imaginary of human bodies, communities, and temporalities. Our focus will be on African American, African diasporic, Latina/o/x and Indigenous literatures and cinemas, as they 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

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: MDST351, RELI351, 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

ENGL353 Medieval Ethnicities and Ethnographies
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 Jews, Muslims, and other cultures. The readings will begin historically with the Crusades and the chronicles written by Christian, Muslim, and Jewish authors. Other genres will include religious polemics, autobiographical narratives of religious conversion, and travel accounts by missionaries and spies. We will also read some early "ethnographic" writings such as Gerald of Wales's HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY OF IRELAND and Mandeville's TRAVELS. The greater part of the course will deal with literary texts--romances, plays, and lyrics--but we will take a truly cultural-studies approach to this material.

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

ENGL354 Reading and Rereading Moby Dick
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 20th century.

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

ENGL355 Special Topics: The Use of Humor
In this prose writing workshop, we will explore a variety of ways that humor can be deployed, in works ranging from the obviously comic, such as César Aira's novel THE LITERARY CONFERENCE (wacky hilarity) to works that might not be thought of as comic, such as Lynne Tillman's NO LEASE ON LIFE (jokes as a formal element in an otherwise grim fictional landscape) and Wayne
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENG
Identical With: FILM459, WRCT263
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 ideas in the first classes, winnowing down to one idea for which they will write a story area, an outline, and a final script (which will go through three major revisions). Students are expected to come to class with a background in creative writing, focusing on character and dialogue as well as having completed one TV screenplay.

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

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 Hivronen, 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-ENG
Identical With: AMST313
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-ENG
Identical With: FGSS360
Prereq: None

ENGL360 Special Topics: Writing Lives
In this course, students will read profiles, biographies, and theories of biography. As we analyze these attempts to capture a life and to define the problems and expand the possibilities this form, you will work on your 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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENG
Identical With: FGSS360
Prereq: None

ENGL361 After Orientalism: Asian American Literature and Theory After 2000
From early articulations of cultural nationalist 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-ENG
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 discussed include: Andy Warhol's Factory, Hugo Ball, Emily Johnson, Black Salt Collective, My Barbarian, Harriett'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: THEA364, AFAM364
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 identifiably 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)?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM366, THEA366, AFAM362
Prereq: None

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, as Wittgenstein puts it "words are also deeds.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CHUM367
Prereq: None

ENGL366 The Sounds of Being: Radical Black and Latina/o Poetry, Music, Cinema, and Dance
This course is a study of the audiovisual shapes of insurgency and assimilation in black and Latina/o aesthetics, based on the comparison of literary, theoretical, and dance practices. It will consider modes of sonic subjectivation, and it will approach the reactivation of emotional bodies as a means of energizing social solidarity. We will closely read literary, cinematic, music, and dance texts and (lovingly) critique the worlds made in these arts through affect, ethnic, feminist and queer studies, and critical race theory. We will also perform experimental listening and movement exercises to enact a haptic, or touch-based, mode of "listening" to any art form. The hope of bringing these different methods and practices together is, in part, to feel their dissonance, the places where they (generatively) do not match up, and to rethink personhood, embodiment, survival, and value through black and brown art.
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: CSP368
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 poetics” to Donne’s intertwined desires for profane and divine love to Marvell’s imaginative preoccupation 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 other religious traditions. Finally, we will talk 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

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

ENGL372 Literature and Visual Culture in Shakespeare’s England
This interdisciplinary course explores the relationship between literature and visual culture as conceived and developed by poets, playwrights, and painters of the English Renaissance. We will examine the relationship between the word and the image in a broad range of texts including aesthetic treatises, poems, plays, and court masques and consider how they influenced and were influenced by contemporary visual culture. Equal attention will be paid to the production and reception of the verbal and visual field: How did poets, playwrights, and painters conceive and materially produce the relation of the verbal to the visual in their respective media? And how was this relation, in turn, received by readers, audiences, and spectators? Several trips to Olin Library’s Special Collections will allow us to see firsthand how early printed books materially shaped their meanings, both verbally and visually. Topics covered will include iconoclasm and iconophobia, the tradition of ut pictura poesis (as is painting, so is poetry), the paragone (competition or comparison) between the verbal and visual arts, visual poetics and rhetorical tropes (e.g., ekphrasis, enargia, hypotyposis), the gendered discourse of “face-painting” (portraiture, cosmetics), and the influence of visual culture on dramatic literature and stagecraft.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: CHUM372
Prereq: None

ENGL373 Beyond the Grail: Medieval Romances
Romance is the narrative form of medieval sexuality and courtly love, but it also gives literary shape to a whole social world. Romance was one of the most popular genres of literature in the Middle Ages. 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. 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 governance, Christian mysticism and the Holy Grail, and, of course, the concept of so-called courtly love and medieval sexualities.
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 specialist 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

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 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
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST302, SPAN302, THEA322, COL314
Prereq: None

ENGL378 Queer Times: Poetics and Politics of Temporality
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, including iconic modernist texts and contemporary queer literary, visual, activist, and theoretical production, including works responding to the AIDS epidemic.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: FGSS326
Prereq: None

ENGL380 In Place of Reading: Social Location and the Literary Text
To read, Michel de Certeau wrote, is to travel. True enough, but de Certeau is using a metaphor, and traveling has appeared in place of reading. Why is it so hard to keep reading in view? Why are so many readers so eager to put something else in its place? This course considers the question by suggesting that, if to read is to travel, it is also to remain precisely where we are, reading. Social location shapes the specific qualities of our attention to literary objects. We will examine key texts that have invited—or coerced—readers into an intensive style of reading in modern times, and we will ask questions about the social worlds represented within the texts and implied outside them. Why have so many of these texts depicted—or tried to enact—the social transformation of readers, that is, to move them somewhere else? What makes some readings portable and roots others profoundly to their places of origin? Who has time and resources to read, and to read closely? Is close reading itself a noxious byproduct of modernity’s decadence? Or are there ways of getting close to texts that promise more than social privilege? What are the locations of reading, and how are they part of readers’ actualizations of the texts they read? Our texts will range from early modern fiction to contemporary novels, from painting to film, and will be accompanied by major writings on the ethics and theory of reading.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None

ENGL381 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

ENGL383 Faulkner and Morrison
This course will delve deeply into the works of two Nobel Prize-winning authors—William Faulkner and Toni Morrison—whose fiction interrogates and challenges what it means to be an American, what it means to be an African American, and, much more broadly, what it means to be human. Through close study of their novels, the seminar will consider questions of narrative (form, function, and scope), history (national and personal, real and imagined), and identity (racial, gender, geographical).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM308
Prereq: None

ENGL384 New York City in the ’40s
This research seminar will consider the cultural and intellectual history of New York City in the 1940s. Special attention will be given to the way New York’s artists and intellectuals led the United States’s transition to the post-World War II era.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Prereq: None

ENGL385 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
ENGL399 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]

ENGL401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

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

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

ENGL467 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL469 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

ENGL470 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ENGL496 Research Apprentice, Undergraduate
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U