

SPRING 2021 COURSE TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS*

ENGL 303 – The Art of the Essay (MW 4:00 - 5:15)

This course we will examine and practice the art and craft of writing and reading contemporary essays, including personal, research-based, and formally inventive essays. Be prepared to “live like a writer” and practice the consistent habits of a working artist on your own, in class discussions, and in workshop.

Instructor: Purpura

ENGL 305 – British Literature: Restoration to Romantic (T/Th 1:00 - 2:15)

This course explores selected British authors from the Restoration through the early 19th century. We will read and analyze different literary genres, including drama, satire, lyric and narrative poetry, novels, and essays. Despite renewed censorship, periodicals flourished, the dramatic stage shed Puritan restrictions, and book production increased. Literary works reflected contemporary issues: ongoing religious controversies, Whig and Tory political battles, colonial expansion, the Scientific Revolution, women’s education, and new industrial methods. Students will encounter the diversity of 18th-century literature in the works of such authors as John Dryden, Alexander Pope, Aphra Behn, Jonathan Swift, Mary Montagu, Samuel Johnson, William Congreve, and Mary Astell.

Instructor: Falco

Fulfills: Period B, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 307 – American Literature: From New World Contact to Civil War (T/Th 11:30 - 12:45)

Crimes and Tropes of Transgression

This course will examine crime and tropes of transgression in American literature from the colonial period to the emergence of the detective fiction genre in the early nineteenth-century. We will attend to the historical and cultural contexts that shape notions of criminality and how criminality intersects with race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. Topics we will explore include cannibalism, piracy, the Salem witch trials, so-called crimes of sexual conduct, among others. Through an engagement with a wide range of literary mediums including poetry, novels, memoirs, and epistolary narratives, we will also consider how American writers transgress formal and generic conventions.

* This document primarily lists courses with topic descriptions. Please check the online [Class Search](#) for the complete list of English courses offered in Spring 2021.

Instructor: Tran

Fulfills: Diversity

Period D, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 308 – American Literature: The Civil War to Present (MW 10:30 - 11:45)

Revolution in Form

This course studies how U.S. literature responds to four major changes of the era from the Civil War to the midcentury: changing notions of gender or “first wave” feminism; the rise of industrial capitalism; the impacts of the World Wars; the Great Migration and new racial imaginaries. Our special focus will be on how experimentation in form—including modernist fragmentation and avant-gardism, for example—responds to each of these categories, describing, unraveling, shaping, and critiquing them. To this end, we will explore readings by authors as diverse as Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Nella Larsen, Baroness Elsa von Freytag Loringhoven, Gertrude Stein, and Yoko Ono.

Instructor: Finberg

Fulfills: Period E, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 310 – Topics in Poetry (T/Th 10:00 - 11:15)

Poetry and Landscape

This course tracks the changing political, genealogical, and nostalgic links of poetry to landscape. Poets have exploited the natural landscape to express patriotism, chauvinism, sublime awe, and horror. By representing humans as extensions of their physical environment—e.g., pastures, rivers, mountains, country houses, bridges, skyscrapers, or No Man’s Land—poems have justified aristocratic power, dramatized class conflict, mourned deserted sites, celebrated immersion in nature, and puzzled at alienation from modernity. We’ll read such poets as Wyatt, Spenser, Lanyer, Drayton, Milton, Denham, Montagu, Gray, Georgiana Cavendish, Shelley, Wordsworth, Arnold, Owen, Mew, Hughes, Crane, Auden, McKay, O’Hara, Belle Turnbull, Wright, and Bishop.

Instructor: Falco

ENGL 332 – Contemporary American Literature (T/Th 1:00 - 2:15)

American Dreams and Nightmares

More than any other nation, the United States has envisioned itself as a land of freedom, limitless opportunity, and hope. This course explores how writers portray America and the American Dream from the second half of the twentieth century up to the contemporary moment. While the American Dream has been narrated as achievable by anyone, we will consider the histories and systems of power that oppress and immobilize certain groups, circumscribing their capacity to dream at all. By

engaging with works across multiple literary genres, we will also explore what it means when the American Dream begins to assume nightmarish forms.

Instructor: Tran

Fulfills: Diversity

Period E, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 349 – The Bible and Literature (MW 2:30 - 3:45)

The Bible—both Hebrew and New Testament—is a magnificent and fascinating work, written by many people, in different languages, over a vast period of time. Our purpose in this course is to engage with the Bible specifically as a *literary* text —one that has had more influence on Western literature than any other. We will explore the Bible's literary qualities and consider connections between the Bible and other works of literature with an eye for the ways biblical narratives, characters and themes are interpreted and revisioned in those pages. Our goal is to recognize and confront head-on the rich complexity of the Bible and to extend this complexity to readings of any text featuring or referencing biblical narrative. Our discussions will be informed by both literary and biblical scholarship, along with issues of translation. Non-biblical texts will include a variety of genres from poetry to science fiction, medieval to contemporary works. Because we are balancing ancient and non-ancient literature, our biblical focus will attend to the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament), though students will have the opportunity to engage with New Testament narratives in their course work.

Instructor: Osherow

Fulfills: World Literature, Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 351 – Studies in Shakespeare (MW 5:30 - 6:45)

Shakespeare's Afterlives

Shakespeare is everywhere. More than four hundred years after his works first appeared on stage, his plays are continually produced around the globe; even during a pandemic, new productions appear regularly on zoom (see Robert Myles's "The Show Must Go Online"). Thousands of films have been made from Shakespeare's works, from as far back as 1899 when Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree performed the death scene from *King John* before the camera (look for this on Youtube!). Even without the spoken word, Shakespeare draws audiences. His plays have inspired works by visual and kinesthetic artists, musicians, poets, novelists; each adaptation renews and transforms its subject. This course will explore a selection of Shakespeare's plays and adaptations of these on film, stage, canvas, and in print. We'll consider Shakespeare's texts for their rich literary complexity and think through the practices and choices surrounding their adaptation in (mostly) recent decades. The phenomenon of Shakespearean adaptation raises questions about authorship, the status of "classic" texts and their variant forms, and the role of Shakespeare in popular culture. Whether respectful or irreverent, set today or centuries ago, adaptations of Shakespeare evidence

our investment in his work, and the ways in which we continue to rely on Shakespeare to navigate the world.

Instructor: Osherow

Fulfills: Period A, Lit Track

Period A or Shakespeare Requirement, Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 371 – Creative Writing - Fiction (MW 1:00 - 2:15)

This intermediate course deepens the practice of the craft of fiction writing, focusing on generating new work and bringing focused revision to that work based on instructor and student feedback, and based also on studying the craft decisions in the writing of a variety of contemporary authors. Students develop their own goals, and style, for their short stories, and explore publication possibilities for their work.

Instructor: Shivnan

ENGL 373 – Creative Writing: Poetry (MW 5:30 - 6:45)

Writing Poetry

This course is designed for students with prior experience in writing poetry (273: Introduction to Creative Writing -- Poetry). We will be reading, writing, and responding critically to poems; reading essays on craft, and learning to perceive, draft, and revise in a creative and disciplined way. Be prepared to “live like a writer” and practice the consistent habits of a working artist on your own and in workshop.

Instructor: Purpura

ENGL 379 – Principles and Practices in Technical Communication (T/Th 11:30 - 12:45)

This course introduces students to writing that communication information, often of a technical nature, to nonexperts who must use or act upon that information. Students will analyze and practice a variety of genres, including memos, reports, instructions and proposals; learn techniques of audience accommodation; and explore rhetoric principles involved in researching, designing, drafting and testing effective documents.

Instructor: Shipka

Fulfills: Category A, CT Track

ENGL 382 – Feature Writing (MW 2:30 - 3:45)

This course provides an introduction to writing feature and magazine-length articles for publication. Students will learn to develop story ideas, carry out research, interview sources and compose

features about people, places, things and activities in and around Baltimore. In addition to learning research and interviewing techniques, students will also learn how to pitch stories and edit manuscripts.

Instructor: Rudacille

Fulfills: Category D, CT Track

ENGL 383 – Science Writing (MW 1:00 - 2:15)

Science writers translate research results into lively compelling prose. In this course students will read journal articles, interview scientists, draft and revise science news articles and features, and use social media to cover science stories. We will also explore the ethical, social and political issues raised by media coverage of science and medicine.

Instructor: Rudacille

Fulfills: Category D, CT Track

ENGL 385 – New Media and Digital Literacies (T/Th 2:30 - 3:45)

This course explores the intersections of race, ethnicity, discourse, media, and communication systems. In addition to introducing students to social theories, cybercultures, and other aspects of digital communication, students will explore issues of representation, identity, education, justice, inequality, and power. Students will also grapple with the impact of digital media on social movements.

Instructor: Brooks

Fulfills: Diversity
Category C, CT Track

ENGL 407 – Language in Society (W 7:10 - 9:40)

In this course, students will study written texts and documents to learn how language actually functions in various social settings. It proves students with essential skills and methods of sociolinguistic analysis in the context of actual discourse communities. Students also will learn the politics of language use in various academic and professional contexts and the crucial role language plays in shaping our physical, cultural, and economic realities. (Combined with ENGL 607)

Instructor: McCarthy

Fulfills: 400 Level, CT Track
Secondary Ed. Cert. Requirement

ENGL 448 – Seminar in Literature and Culture (MW 4:00 - 5:15)

Poetry and Capitalism

How have poets responded to changes in political economy in the United States since 1960? Poetry is often a mode of resistance, critique, and illumination of shifts in capitalism that drive both labor and everyday life. We will study poets' responses to the decline of the welfare state, corporatization, and racial liberalism. We will also consider neoliberalism, an economic and cultural project that sediments gender, racial, and class-based disparities through privatization. Our focus will be on poetry that creates experimental alternatives. Units include: Fluxus (the 1960s), the New York School (1960-1970s), the Black Arts Movement (1970s), Language Poetry (1970-1980s), and Documentary and Conceptual Poetry (1990-present). (Combined with ENGL 648)

Instructor: Finberg

Fulfills: Diversity

400 Level, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 451 – Seminar in Major Writers (T/Th 10:00 - 11:15)

Jane Austen and the Romantic Novel

No one is indifferent to Jane Austen. A crucial figure in the history of the novel and a powerful figure in English literary history generally, Austen is venerated or despised with peculiar intensity—for being a brilliant stylist or a provincial bore, an instrument of commonplace repression or of ironic subversion. We will test these and other views by studying Austen's fiction (*Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*) within the sociohistorical context of the Romantic era, and reading her work alongside other novels written by women writers in this period including Frances Burney, Ann Radcliffe, and Maria Edgeworth. (Combined with ENGL 605)

Instructor: Smith

Fulfills: Diversity

400 Level, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 469 – Studies in Race and Ethnicity (T 4:30 - 7:00)

Minor Universes

In this course, we will explore how writers of color have turned to science and speculative fiction to critique existing conditions of social injustice and to imagine alternative “minor universes”—that is, worlds that turn on and around the minor. The texts we will examine foreground subjects, histories, and spaces that have been marginalized, neglected, or otherwise rendered invisible. Together, we will inquire how authors such as Octavia Butler, Ted Chiang, Alex Hernandez, and G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona revise popular speculative and science fictional tropes to critique technologies

of racialization, explore alternative embodiments, and illuminate the possibility of other modes of resistance and solidarity. (Combined with ENGL 669)

Instructor: Tran

Fulfills: Diversity

400 Level, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 493.01 – Seminar in Communication and Technology (M 4:30 - 7:00)

Writing Disability Identities

“Nothing About Us Without Us”: this slogan epitomizes the disability rights movement’s demand for disabled people to control social representations of their lives and bodies. In this course, we will connect Writing Studies and Disability Studies to explore the efforts of disabled activists to gain inclusion and challenge harmful stereotypes about disability and neurodiversity. Topics and communities we will study include: physical disabilities and mobility; d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing; blindness/visual disabilities; mental disability and neurodiversity; chronic illness and chronic pain; invisible disabilities; and others. Our primary readings will span many genres, from essays and memoir to documentary film, podcasts, and social media activism. (Combined with ENGL 671)

Instructor: Holladay

Fulfills: Diversity

400 Level, CT Track

ENGL 493.02 – Seminar in Communication and Technology (Th 4:30 - 7:00)

African American Rhetoric

In addition to introducing students to canonical texts within the study of African American rhetoric, this course will cover a range of current issues related to black popular culture, politics, film, and music. This course will interrogate oratorical traditions and vernacular expressions in conjunction with larger themes such as racial uplift, the black jeremiad, black nationalism, black aesthetics, black feminism and masculinity, and Afrofuturism. Although the range of texts covered in the course will expose students to foundational historical concepts, this course will be oriented towards rhetorical theory and new media literacies. (Combined with ENGL 631)

Instructor: Brooks

Fulfills: Diversity

400 Level, CT Track