

Fall 2020 Course Topic Descriptions*

ENGL 243 – Currents in American Literature (MW 10:30 - 11:45)

This course is an introduction to selected authors and movements in American literature and will explore Southern writers and poets from 1899 on. Southern literature has had a lasting impact on the region and on the United States. Part of our quest will be to describe and identify Southern characteristics as presented by the authors we will study.

Instructor: Fitzpatrick

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 (MW 10:30 - 11:45)

This course provides a survey of British literature during what has come to be known as "the long eighteenth century." Beginning with the Restoration of Charles II to the throne of England in 1660 and ending with the ascension of Queen Victoria in 1837, this period witnessed the beginnings of Enlightenment consciousness, the rapid expansion of the British Empire, and the revolutions that gave birth to our modern political order. In the context of scientific progress, the ethical imperatives of empire, and revolutionary upheaval, writers of the period produced powerful works of literature across a range of genres and styles. We will examine selected poetry, drama, and prose from the age in order to understand historical and cultural developments from the Restoration to the Romantic period.

Instructor: Smith

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

* This document primarily lists courses with topic descriptions. Please check the online [Class Search](#) for the complete list of English courses offered in Fall 2020.

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.

Instructor: Tran

Fulfills: Diversity
Period D, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 308 – American Literature: The Civil War to 1945 (MW 2:30 - 3:45)

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 317 – Literature and the Sciences (MW 1:00 - 2:15)

Diagnosing Gender

This course will focus on the history of Western scientific and medical interactions with gender-nonconforming people. We will read first person accounts authored by trans and intersexed persons from the 19th through the 21st century, including Ralph Werther (*Autobiography of an Androgyne*), Aleshia Brevard (*The Woman I Was Not Born to Be*), Max Wolf Valerio (*The Testosterone Files*), Julia Serano (*Whipping Girl*) and Janet Mock (*Redefining Realness*). We will

also examine the work of pioneering 19th and 20th sexologists whose studies led to the contemporary understanding of sex, gender and sexual orientation. (Cross-listed with GWST 390)

Instructor: Rudacille

Fulfills: Diversity
Category D, CT Track

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 339 – Early Modern Literature (T/Th 2:30 - 3:45)

Redeeming Eve: Writings by and about Early Modern Women

Many readers are hard-pressed to identify female authors before Jane Austen, but in the early modern period, women wrote, published, and had careers writing for the stage. This course looks at texts by and about early modern women. We will consider several genres (life-writing, poetry, prose, drama, prophecy, religious works) and explore women's texts in the broadest sense, including needlework and other samples of material culture. We will examine the rhetoric with which women presented themselves, and pay particular attention to debates on the nature of women in the raging *querelle des femmes*.

Instructor: Osherow

Fulfills: Diversity
Period A, Lit Track

ENGL 375 – Topics in Creative Writing (MW 2:30 - 3:45)

Epistolary Fiction: Stories Told in Letters, Diaries, Texts, Tweets, and More

This course will explore the history and range of epistolary fiction, in which stories are told in the form of letters, diaries, texts, emails, social media posts, or other vehicles of communication, a genre with limitless possibilities for strong voice, intimate point of view, and invention. Students will write their own epistolary stories and encounter works from the past and present, from Aphra Behn's 17th-century *Love Letters Between a Nobleman and his Sister* to Nick Bantock's handmade postcards in *Griffin and Sabine*, to the emails that unfold in the video games of Christine Love. As technology and media change, there's no telling where epistolary fiction might go, but in this course we may begin to find out.

Instructor: Shivnan

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 413 – Advanced Topics in Medieval and Early Modern Literature (T/Th 11:30 - 12:45)

Imagining Other Worlds: Medieval Fantasy Writing

Medieval thinkers pondered realms beyond their own, unlimited by space and time. In this course we will examine narratives of apocalypse, celestial time-travel, dream vision, mystical/ecstatic encounters with divine and human others, travel to exotic lands, imaginary pilgrimages, and the Holy Grail. We will consider Margery Kempe's pilgrimages; Mechthild of Magdeburg's ecstatic visions; *Mandeville's Travels*; the racial and religious diversity of Wolfram von Eschenbach's Grail journeys; interplanetary and philosophical flight in Chaucer's *House of Fame*; *Pearl*; the *Cloud of Unknowing*; and the polemical love vision, the *Romance of the Rose*. What kinds of questions did medieval fantasy narratives explore? (Combined with ENGL 604)

Instructor: McKinley

Fulfills: 400 Level, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 448 – Seminar in Literature and Culture (T 4:30 - 7:00)

The Brontes

The years 2016 to 2020 mark the bicentennial birth anniversaries of the Bronte sisters, a remarkable community of literary women, who were sisters. We'll read the three novels that emerged out of this female community in the 1840s: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Bronte. We'll explore how their novels engage with female rebellion, narrational politics and the question of voice, interrogate the figure of the Byronic hero, and the ideology of the marriage plot, and address the Victorian woman as self-determining subject. (Combined with ENGL 648)

Instructor: Fernandez

Fulfills: Diversity
400 Level, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 464 – Studies in Women and Literature (M 4:30 - 7:00)

Virginia Woolf, Echoes, and Afterlives

In this course we'll read major work by Virginia Woolf and listen for its resonance and echoes in other art and writing in the years since her death. We'll look for Woolf's influence on later writers and wonder about the unexpected places Woolf pops up in contemporary culture. Reading will draw from Woolf's fiction and feminist essays as well as from texts, performances, and media artifacts inspired by Woolf. Some prior familiarity with Woolf's writing beneficial but not required. (Combined with ENGL 664)

Instructor: Berman

Fulfills: Diversity
400 Level, Lit Track and Secondary Ed. Cert.

ENGL 486 – Seminar in Teaching Composition (M 4:30 - 7:00)

This course examines our changing understanding of the teaching of composition during the past 30 years by tracing key theories and pedagogies across this period. These sometimes-conflicting approaches to the teaching of writing include the following orientations: cognitive, expressivist, social constructivist and political. The course is intended for current and prospective teachers of English at elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels. (Combined with ENGL 686)

Instructor: McCarthy

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

ENGL 493 – 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