Spring 2013

English Department

Undergraduate Courses

For more information about English Department Undergraduate courses being offered, next semester or any time upcoming, contact Debra Lowry, Associate Director, Curriculum and Assessment (lowry.40@osu.edu)

See something you like? Visit Buckeye Link to schedule it now!

Last updated 9/24/2012
Welcome to the Spring 2013 English Department Undergraduate Coursebook!

To browse the Coursebook, you can leaf through the pages, and enlarge them to enable you to read course descriptions.

The descriptions are organized in Course Number Order. Spring 2013 courses are also listed on the website courses page. There, you can search for a specific course by keyword, name or instructor, using the website “Search” function (found at the foot of each website page).

For more information about any course offered next semester, or to schedule a class, once the registration window for Summer Session opens, you can consult Buckeye Link -- Ohio State’s Online Academic Center.
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English 1110H
Special Topic:
Media Spectacles:
The Power of Images to Persuade

Professor Wendy Hesford
hesford.1@osu.edu

This version of Honors English 1110 will explore the rhetorical power of images to set political agendas and to force contentious issues onto the national and international stage. Reading and writing topics include visual representations of humanitarian crises, such as global poverty and famine; anti-immigration and immigration activists’ use of social media; and the spectacle of gender, race, sexuality, and religious differences in the 2012 US presidential campaign. Course requirements include: weekly Carmen reading responses, peer review, one short analytical paper, and an extended research project comprised of an annotated bibliography and final paper (8-10 pages).
This course will be a provocative (and whirlwind) tour of some of the most powerful and engaging literature ever written. We can't hope to cover everything, but you should come away from the course not only with a strong sense of the broad sweep of literary history, but also a firm grasp on how literary form works over and through time. Ultimately, though, my hope is that you'll emerge with a renewed sense of the many pleasures--intellectual, aesthetic, moral--of grappling with ways of thinking and writing that do not, at least initially, seem to much resemble our own.

Likely readings will include narrative poetry (Beowulf, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, The Canterbury Tales, Paradise Lost, The Rape of the Lock), drama (by Shakespeare, Sheridan, Wilde, and Stoppard), lyric poetry (by Donne, Marvell, Gray, Blake, Byron, Yeats, Eliot, Auden, and Larkin), and some short fiction (by Haywood, Walpole, Emily Brontë, Conrad, Woolf, Joyce, Coetzee, Kureishi, and Zadie Smith).

Assignments will include a range of in-class exercises, quizzes, and take-home exams, all of which will give you an opportunity to write.
English 2201
Survey of British Literature

Professor Karen Winstead
winstead.2@osu.edu

We will study outstanding works of British literature as well as the vibrant minds and culture that produced them. While deepening your acquaintance with authors from Chaucer to Dickens and beyond, you will encounter the antecedents to today’s popular genres, including romance, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, and detective fiction.

Weekly recitation will provide opportunities for group close reading and discussion. Requirements include 2 midterm exams, a cumulative final, and online quizzes.

General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
English 2201H -
Selected Works of British
Literature: Origins to the
Present (Honors)

Dr. Natalie Tyler
tyler.1@osu.edu

We will study major works of British literature from the old English to the postmodern. We will focus on the defining characteristics of the various literary periods as we dash through the centuries. Among the authors to be considered will be Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Pope, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Browning, Yeats, Joyce, Eliot, and Larkin.

Requirements: active class participation, a few quizzes (I will drop the lowest grades), two papers (2-4 pages each), a brief presentation and an open-book final exam.


Please email me if you have any questions: tyler.1@osu.edu This class meets requirements for the English Major and also fulfills the GEC Literature requirement
“Poetry,” observed Samuel Johnson, an 18th-century man of letters, “is the art of uniting pleasure with truth.” In the next century, Edgar Allan Poe defined it as “the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.” More recently, African-American poet (and poet laureate 1993-95) Rita Dove remarked, “Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful,” while light-verse writer J. Patrick Lewis rather provocatively offered, "Poetry is prose, bent out of shape.”

In this class, we shall consider a wide range of poems—from before Johnson’s day to our own time—for their truths, their rhythms, their powerful, concentrated language, and their “bent” shapes. We shall also certainly be alert to the beauty and the pleasure on offer, and to the wisdom of A. E. Housman’s warning: “Even when poetry has a meaning, as it usually has, it may be inadvisable to draw it out.... Perfect understanding will sometimes almost extinguish pleasure”!

Our textbook will be Perrine's *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry* and course work will include exercises as well as papers.

General Education Course/ Undergraduate Major Course
English 2263
Introduction to Film

Professor Sean O’Sullivan
osullivan.15@osu.edu

Introduction to methods of reading film texts by analyzing cinema as technique, as system, and as cultural product.
This class is an introductory workshop in poetry writing for those who wish to improve their craft as poets while broadening their knowledge of poetry. Most of the quarter will be devoted to weekly exercises. Poems by students will be discussed in a "workshop" format with attention to the process of revision. Class time will also be spent on assigned readings and issues of craft. Students will be asked to regularly memorize and recite poems. A final portfolio of six revised poems will be required for completion of the course.

Text:  *Poems, Poets, Poetry* -- by Helen Vendler (3rd Edition)

General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
English 2270: 
Introduction to Folklore

Professor Ray Cashman
cashman.10@osu.edu

This class explores forms of traditional, vernacular culture—including verbal art, custom, and material culture—shared by men and women from a number of regional, ethnic, religious, and occupational groups. We will consider various interpretive, theoretical approaches to examples of folklore and folklife discussed, and we will investigate the history of folklore studies and the cultural context in which this field has flourished. Recurring central issues will include the dynamics of tradition, the nature of creativity and artistic expression, and the construction of personal and group identities.

Required texts include Elliott Oring’s *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction*, Jan Brunvand’s *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*, Henry Glassie’s *All Silver and No Brass*, and several shorter readings accessible via Carmen.

Assignments include quizzes, folklore collection and analysis project, and midterm and final exams.

This course serves as a GEC Arts and Humanities Cultures and Ideas Course, and it is required for the undergraduate folklore minor and major (for more information, go to [http://cfs.osu.edu/programs/undergraduate/default.cfm](http://cfs.osu.edu/programs/undergraduate/default.cfm)). Crosslisted as Comparative Studies 2350.
Learn the fundamental skills of doing research on the customs, traditions, and everyday life practices of your own and other communities. Topics include ritual, festival, urban legend, fairytale, ballad, local music, campus life, social and political groups, cultural expressions, workplaces, the transmission of knowledge across time and space, verbal arts including joking and storytelling, dance and culture, food customs, tattoos and other bodily performances, and costumes.

The course provides step by step instruction in collecting and observing cultural performances and requires a term paper based on those collections/observations.

The text is *Living Folklore*. 
In this class, we’ll explore literary comedy in a wide range of works, beginning with Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* and ending with Tina Fey’s *Bossypants*. In the meantime, we will also consider Jane Austen’s ironic humor, and Oscar Wilde’s comedies of manners. We will read American writers like Mark Twain, Eudora Welty, and David Sedaris, and British writers like Charles Dickens and Stella Gibbons. We will laugh while reading dramas, short stories, essays, and novels, and we will turn a critical eye towards our own laughter, ultimately assessing our individual political or cultural investments in comedy. We will also watch film clips (when available) to assess how comedy and laughter travel across mediums.

Graded work will include reading quizzes, a short analytical paper, midterm and final exams, and class participation.
This will be an introduction to the major themes, authors, and styles of African American literature from 1773 to circa 1950, or from Phillis Wheatley to Gwendolyn Brooks. We shall begin with a study of unwritten African American reflections in oratures like “folk” fiction, spirituals, and sermons. A chronological survey of written poetry, autobiography, fiction, and political and cultural commentaries will then follow. As we note and analyze changes in the thematic engagements of the texts—in the many ways they are shaped by shifting literary, cultural, and political environments—we will also pay attention to the enduring expressive characteristics that unite the texts into a coherent body. At the end of the course, you should have started to develop a sense of how black writers self-consciously mediate the relation of African American history to the American national experience and, thereby, create an identifiable literary and cultural tradition.

Our main textbook is *Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. 
English 2290
Colonial and U.S. Literature

Professor Jared Gardner
gardner.236@osu.edu

This course provides a broad survey of American literature over nearly four hundred years, from the colonial period to the present. Examining a wide range of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama, the course studies literary engagements with such historical and cultural phenomena as colonialism and wars with native peoples; allegations of cultural inferiority against the new nation; slavery and the Civil War; Reconstruction; the expanding social, economic, and financial networks of the late-nineteenth century; the two World Wars and other armed conflicts of the twentieth-century; and the increasingly rapid pace of social and technological changes over the last half-century.

Our investigation of literary responses and influences will include attention to such literary genres, trends, and movements as the seduction novel, the short story, the slave narrative, the changing history of poetics, Transcendentalism, realism and its variants, modernism, and postmodernism. Requirements include: regular attendance, quizzes, final exam and two papers.

General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
This course provides a broad survey of American literature over nearly four hundred years, from the colonial period to the present. Examining a wide range of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama, the course studies literary engagements with such historical and cultural phenomena as colonialism and wars with native peoples; allegations of cultural inferiority against the new nation; slavery and the Civil War; Reconstruction; the expanding social, economic, and financial networks of the late-nineteenth century; the two World Wars and other armed conflicts of the twentieth-century; and the increasingly rapid pace of social and technological changes over the last half-century.

Our investigation of literary responses and influences will include attention to such literary genres, trends, and movements as the seduction novel, the short story, the slave narrative, the changing history of poetics, Transcendentalism, realism and its variants, modernism, and postmodernism.

Textbooks include an anthology and a novel, and an optional handbook.

Course requirements include a midterm exam, a final exam, a 4-6 page paper, daily attendance at lecture and section, and active participation in section.

General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
English 2367.01H - Language, Identity, and Culture in the U.S. Experience (Honors):

The “Argument Culture” and Academic “Conversation” in a Hypermediated Age

Professor Kay Halasek
halasek.1@osu.edu

English 2367.01H engages students in analyzing rhetoric (the art of persuasion) in a diverse contemporary US culture—from political debate to television infomercials, from the NRA to the ASPCA. We’ll examine how language creates reality and how that reality is then “spun” for our own consumption.

As a second level writing course, English 2367.01H seeks to assist students in “developing skills in writing, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression.” The course also meets GEC diversity requirements, seeking to foster in students an “understanding of the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States.”


Requirements: Several short assignments (quizzes, exercises); two short analyses; a final project; and presentation. Regular attendance and participation are expected.

English 2367.01H is a social diversity in the U.S. course and satisfies the University's GEC requirement for a second level writing course.
English 2367.01H  
Memory in African American  
Literary and Public Discourse:  
African American Voices

Professor Beverly Moss  
moss.1@osu.edu

The primary goals of this course are to sharpen your expository writing, critical thinking and analytical skills through critique and analysis of African American literary discourse. To meet the goals of this course, you will read various genres of African American literature and criticism, engage in critical discussions of texts, and write several analytical essays, including a final research-based essay. During the first two weeks of the course, the readings and discussions will focus on theoretical and critical work which will help to establish a framework for our discussions of the assigned primary texts. The framework will emerge from our readings about and discussions of “how memory works” in African American literary discourse.

In this course, we will examine how the art and practice of memory functions in African American texts from a variety of genres including poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, speeches, and film. Specifically, we will look at a range of texts across time periods to discover how memory works as a theme and a tool. Students will be asked to think about how race as well as a community’s history, beliefs and cultural practices shape the functions and uses of memory in a text. Questions that we will consider: how is collective and/or cultural memory used as a persuasive device? What is the relationship between memory and political action? Who has the right to invoke memory?

General Education Course: Honors English 2367.03, African-American Voices, satisfies the University’s GEC requirement for a second level writing course.
For much of its history, the great theme of American literature was the mystery of evil. Long before 9/11, though, the word evil had fallen into disrepute. This course traces the rise and fall and resurrection of evil in the American novel since 1940. The standard account of the American novel—the progress from realism to modernism to postmodernism—is incomplete and defective, because it leaves out what the philosopher Susan Neiman calls a “compelling motive” to write fiction in the first place. And among the motives that have compelled Americans to write novels over the past seven decades has been the urge to explore the riddle of evil. The standard account of the novel displays a technical bias, even when discussing psyches and ideologies. In this course we shall adopt an ethical approach instead. We shall not get bogged down in “narrative strategies” for confronting evil. We want to get at the reason for devising strategies—the evil to which these novels are a rational response.

Requirements: Three short papers.

Reading list: Richard Wright, Native Son (1940); Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man (1951); Flannery O’Connor, The Violent Bear It Away (1960); Truman Capote, In Cold Blood (1965); Saul Bellow, Mr Sammler’s Planet (1970); Philip Roth, American Pastoral (1997) Roland Merullo, The Talk-Funny Girl (2011)
The academic study of rhetoric examines the theory and practice of persuasion. Rhetoric typically looks at oral speeches or written documents, but rhetorical principles apply equally well to other forms, particularly documentary filmmaking.

When approaching documentary films, rhetoricians ask such questions as these: What persuasive techniques are evident in the film? In what ways are the filmmaker’s attitudes and opinions toward the subject matter reflected in the film itself? What kinds of decisions has the filmmaker made with respect to evidence presented? How much room does the film leave viewers to reach their own conclusions? What is the filmmaker’s stance—aloof, engaged, didactic, heavy-handed, bombastic? What kinds of emotional appeals does the filmmaker employ? What criteria should we use for judging the quality and effectiveness of documentary films?

After a brief review of rhetorical theory, the course looks at films by Michael Moore, Morgan Spurlock, Robert Kenner, and several others. Students write analytical and evaluative papers on the films and issues explored therein.

General Education Course
The goal of all sections of English 2367 is to practice skills obtained in English 110 and to further improve your critical thinking and expository writing. Among sections of 2367, those labeled “367.05 The U.S. Folk Experience” generally focus on the experiences, traditions, and expressive and material culture of common Americans from a wide range of groups and subcultures.

In this particular “.05” section we will come to better appreciate of memory, place, and community here in the University District of Columbus, Ohio. In order to do so, we will adopt methods and perspectives shared by folklorists, anthropologists, and oral historians. You will conduct fieldwork research, record interviews with University District residents, and transcribe these interviews. In addition to documenting your fieldwork, ethnographic writing assignments will include reflections on the fieldwork process, how the past is represented in the present and to what ends, how mere space is transformed into meaningful place through narrative, and how and to what extent the University District may be considered a community. Interview transcripts, fieldwork documentation, and analyses will be housed in the OSU Center for Folklore Studies Archives. Readings include Tim Creswell, *Place: A Short Introduction* (2004), Kent Ryden, *Mapping the Invisible Landscape: Folklore, Writing, and the Sense of Place* (1993), and several articles and chapters available via Carmen.

Assignments include readings responses, an oral history portfolio, and a sense of place portfolio.
English 3305
Technical Writing

Professor Jonathan Buehl
buehl.7@osu.edu

English 305 (Technical Writing) is designed to improve the communication skills and career prospects of three groups: (1) science and engineering majors preparing for technology-focused careers, (2) humanities majors interested in exploring career options in technical communication, and (3) students of any major who want to enhance their marketability by learning about workplace writing.

You do not need extensive background in science, technology, or writing to do well in this course. Working individually, in small groups, and as a class, you will produce documents that demonstrate your credentials (such as résumés, and cover letters) and documents that demonstrate your technical and rhetorical proficiencies (such as reports, usability test plans, and instructions). Most of these documents will be produced for our class client: iFixit.com.

Undergraduate Major Course
This course examines the intersection between the domains of narrative and medicine through the study of diverse representations of medical issues. How does narrative give us greater insight into illness, aging, medical treatment, doctor-patient relationships and so on? How do illness and other experiences within the realm of medicine influence ways of telling stories? How does narrative highlight ethical issues in medical treatment and especially in doctor-patient relationships?

The course will explore these and other questions through the reading of both fictional and nonfictional narratives by authors such as Richard Selzer, Ian McEwan, Joan Didion, Pauline Chen, Margaret Edson, and Abraham Verghese. Assignments include agenda settings, close readings, position papers and creative rewritings.

General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
English 3364
Special Topics in Popular Culture: True Crime and Literary Violence

Professor Elizabeth Hewitt
hewitt.33@osu.edu

This course will study the long and varied tradition of true crime narratives. Beginning with the stories of witches, murderers, and sexual vandals that so captivated their 17th century audiences, to Victorian serial murderers like Jack the Ripper, to modern celebrity crimes and criminals (the Black Dahlia, the Manson murders), we will ask why readers so often turn to blood, violence, and malfeasance as the stuff of entertainment.

We will read in a wide variety of genres (confession narratives, novels, exposes, nonfictional novel, genre fiction) and in a wide variety of media (books, comics, television, film, internet) as we traverse the huge history of this literary and cultural form. Authors we will study are likely to include: Edgar Allen Poe, Truman Capote, Janet Malcom, James Ellroy, and Vincent Bugliosi.

Requirements will include frequent quizzes, short papers, and a final examination.

Undergraduate Major Course
We think about science fictions as speculations about the future—what everyday life, political life, and our relationship to technology will look like 100, 1,000, or 10,000 years from now. But science fiction is also always thinking about the present and the decisions we are making now as individuals and a society. In this class we will be focusing on a broad subgenre of scifi sometimes called "social science fiction"—speculative fictions about how future society will be organized that always have one eye on the patterns and consequences of social behavior in the present.

Authors we will read will include Octavia Butler, Paolo Bacigalupi, David Marusek, and others.

Responsibilities will include two papers, regular participation, reading quizzes and a final exam.
Storytellers have long used monsters not only to frighten us but also to jolt us into thinking more deeply about ourselves, others, and the world we live in. No film can be totally faithful to a written source; filmmakers perforce use different methods than do writers to tell their stories, to thrill and provoke. However, this course focuses on films that aggressively transform their literary sources—reinterpreting characters and retooling plots to create monsters that offer different visions of what we have to fear and of how we can (or cannot) overcome the monsters without and within. Our readings and viewings will encompass American, British, and Continental European works, both old and new.

We will read the Old English *Beowulf* against Robert Zemeckis’s 3-D animated extravaganza, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* against James Whale’s, Stephen King’s *Shining* against Stanley Kubrick’s. Of course, we will also situate these pairings more broadly: for example, to complement *The Shining*[s] we will consider another thriller of place and psyche, Henry James’s *Turn of the Screw*, and its reimagining in Jack Clayton’s *The Innocents*. Similarly, we will compare Bram Stoker’s Victorian vampire novel *Dracula* to Werner Herzog’s *Nosferatu* (1979), and both to F. W. Murnau’s silent classic, which Herzog’s film at once salutes and drastically re-envisions. Continuing with vampires, we’ll look at contemporary Swedish novelist John Ajvide Lindqvist’s *Let the Right One In* as interpreted by Thomas Alfredson and reinterpreted by Matt Reeves, and, along the way, consider how both films offer intriguing variations on *Twilight* themes.

Requirements will include two or three short papers, a final exam, and a series of online quizzes. General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
English 3398
Writing for English Majors

Professor Ryan Friedman
friedman.193@osu.edu

This course will focus on developing writing skills essential to academic English studies. We will explore what it means to read critically or to interpret literary texts from different genres (poetry, narrative fiction, and drama). Through class discussions, workshop activities, and short written assignments, we will practice raising significant questions of interpretation about texts and developing arguments in response to these questions. We will also explore different approaches to interpreting the texts on our syllabus.

To emphasize the process of writing, our course will be structured around a series of essay assignments, which allow you to practice the range of techniques necessary to produce high-quality essays about literary texts: outlining, doing close analysis, using textual evidence, thesis writing, using argumentative rhetoric effectively, organizing paragraphs, responding to other critics, and revising.

Undergraduate Major Course
This section of 3398H will introduce students to the fundamental skills of close reading and critical writing that they will need to be successful English majors. We will begin the course with a collection of lyrical poetry to sharpen the critical eye, and move from there into longer fiction, which will allow us to talk about the wide variety of critical and theoretical schools of thought found in a large department such as that at Ohio State. Throughout we will also spend quite a bit of time focusing on student writing, working on skills of research, analysis and argumentation.

Course requirements will include one presentation, two short papers, and one longer research paper.

Undergraduate Major Course
English 3398
Writing for English Majors

Professor Andrea Williams
williams.2941@osu.edu

The course promotes skills of close reading, argumentation, critical thinking, and research to prepare you for the demands of upper-level English courses. As a writing workshop, the class will allow you to gain peer and instructor feedback throughout your process of reading, thinking, and writing about literature.

We will study drama, poetry, fiction and short nonfiction.

Requirements: four short papers (3-5 pp), quizzes, final essay (6-8 pp.), regular attendance and participation.

Undergraduate Major Course
English 3398H
Critical Writing:
Literature, Culture, Politics

Professor Thomas Davis
davis.3186@osu.edu

English 3398 will give you the skills to succeed as an English major. One of our major concerns will be to sharpen close reading skills and think carefully about how we transition from interpreting a text to formulating critical arguments that speak to existing conversations within English studies and contemporary culture. Over the course of the semester we will learn to triangulate sharp textual analysis with historical thinking and theoretical inquiry as a way to contribute to those lively conversations. Many of our discussions will take up the following questions: How do we isolate important passages in literary texts? How does one move from interpretation to argument? What counts as evidence in a critical argument? What is the proper way to engage with secondary literature? How does one conduct “research” in English studies? What are the possibilities and risks of crossing disciplinary boundaries?

This version of 3398 addresses the relationship between globalization and cultural production. We will work with multiple genres.

Requirements include three essays; participating in a workshop; research and close reading exercises; active engagement in class.

Undergraduate Major Course
This is an intensive writing course designed to familiarize English majors and minors with the scholarly discipline of English; to assist you in mastering critical writing; to improve your skills as a close reader of literary texts; and to develop your abilities to use both primary and secondary sources.

Our theme will be rewriting or revision. Everybody rewrites. Creative writers revise their own work, sometimes in collaboration with others (editors, fellow-writers, friends and spouses). Readers, critics and scholars revisit and revise creative writers’ work by editing it, annotating it, writing commentaries on it, and so forth. They also rewrite their own writing (as you will in this course). Finally, creative writers often revisit and revise the writings of their predecessors by reworking them, piggy-backing on them, parodying them, “improving” them, and (yes) even plagiarizing and vandalizing them!


Assignments: Several short papers; one longer (10-12 page) research paper, which will be revised and resubmitted.
Undergraduate Major Course
English 3405
Special Topics in Professional Communication:
Writing about Science

Professor Jonathan Buehl
buehl.7@osu.edu

This course will prepare students to approach professional writing tasks that engage scientific discourses, such as accommodating science for non-specialists and editing technical scientific prose. Knowledge of or proficiency in science is not required. Objectives: To develop familiarity with the discourses of science communication; to learn strategies for editing technical prose; to learn strategies for accommodating science for non-expert audiences; to practice a range of verbal and visual styles used to communicate science in different contexts.

Student Responsibilities: Students will complete assignments in which they will (1) edit technical prose, (2) accommodate science for different audiences, (3) develop metaphors and analogies, (4) create explanatory visuals, and (5) analyze technical and popular science publications. These projects might include editorial responses to technical documents, science policy memos, magazine-style pieces, and museum materials.

Undergraduate Major Course
A survey of popular American fiction today reveals that the lofty heights of realism are under siege by a rebel army of wizards, robots, trolls, and vampires. Traditional boundaries between literature and genre are collapsing: in June of 2012, *The New Yorker* dedicated an entire issue to science fiction; meanwhile, Stephen King—once dismissed as nothing more than a genre horror writer—was recently tapped to edit the highbrow *Best American Short Story* collection. As demand for fiction that is both literary and fantastic continues to grow, the time has never been better for writers of speculative (also called slipstream or fabulist) fiction.

But before we let our imaginations run wild, it would be wise to consider the way readers respond to strange, unusual, and genre elements in fiction. While students will spend the majority of class time workshopping their fiction with special attention to aspects of craft, the class will also read and discuss stories that fall broadly under the speculative category. Students will consider questions such as: What narrative features help to distinguish a speculative story from what could be called pulp or genre fiction? How can just a dash of weirdness allow writers to achieve the effect they want? How can writers position or “package” genre elements to gain acceptance from a realist audience? Students are encouraged to workshop at least one piece of speculative fiction out of the two that are required for the course.

For questions, please email Andrew McIntosh at mcintosh.104@osu.edu. ENG 3465 is repeatable to a maximum of 10 credit hours.
English 4400

Literary Locations

Professor Christopher Highley
highley.1@osu.edu

For more information, visit our website: https://english.osu.edu/undergrad-studies/study-abroad/literary-locations
English 4514
Medieval English Literature

Professor Lisa J. Kiser
kiser.1@osu.edu

This course will give students a chance to become broadly familiar with late medieval English literature by introducing them to a variety of texts written between 1250-1500. In addition to reading selections from the works of the best-known writers (Chaucer, Langland, Margery Kempe, and the Gawain-poet, we will also sample some plays, romances, lyrics, and mystical writings that aren't as well known but that speak to the period's most urgent concerns.

Texts: Norton Anthology of English Lit, vol. 1A; King Arthur and His Knights, by Sir Thomas Malory; and Four Middle English Romances.

Course requirements include attendance; class participation; quizzes; two exams (midterm and final); and a final paper.

Undergraduate Major Course
English 4520.01
Shakespeare

Professor Hannibal Hamlin
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For four centuries now, William Shakespeare has been widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. We come not to praise Shakespeare, however, but to study him, reading a sampling of his plays, in a variety of genres and over the course of his career. Though literary reviewing of the Siskel and Ebert variety is not our business (thumbs up? thumbs down?), we will want to ask and discuss why Shakespeare has been so highly praised by so many, for so long—what is it that gives his literary work its power and appeal? We will also ask how his plays work as theater; how he adapts and transforms the source material on which so many of his plays depend; how Shakespeare can be such an “original” when he borrows so much from other writers; how he can create such deep and realistic characters; and how it is that Shakespeare can accomplish all of the above (and more) through language.

In order to explore these and other questions, we will need to consider a variety of approaches to Shakespeare’s plays. Of course, first and foremost, we will be reading some wonderful literature. Any standard, modern edition of Shakespeare will do. Plays will include Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, King Lear, Antony and Cleopatra, and The Tempest. We’ll also read some contextual material and critical essays which will be available via Carmen.

Assignments will include two critical papers, a midterm test, and a final exam.

Undergraduate Major Course
In late sixteenth-century London, on the south bank of the Thames, amongst bear-baiting rings and brothels stood a round wooden theater that brought together people from all walks of life—aristocrats and merchants, cobbler and tailors, seamstresses and fishwives. It was for this space and for these people that William Shakespeare first wrote his influential plays, and in this course, we’ll be imagining what it was like to stand with them and watch Shakespeare’s theater in action.

Our in-depth exploration of Shakespeare’s language, works, and world will include comedies and tragedies as well as a few of his poems.

Undergraduate Major Course
Shakespeare gets all the glory, but he lived and worked alongside several other excellent playwrights in sixteenth and seventeenth century England. In this course, we will analyze a selection of those other writers’ comedies and tragedies, including such plays as The Spanish Tragedy, Arden of Faversham, and The Roaring Girl. Be prepared for a wild ride; the Renaissance stage was home to hilarity, violence, love stories, and more.

As we learn about the culture and theater in which these plays were produced, we will pay special attention to their performances of gender and social class. Our textbook will be English Renaissance Drama: A Norton Anthology.

Class requirements include active participation, writing assignments, and midterm and final exams.

Satisfies the pre-1800 literature requirement for the English major.
Undergraduate Major Course
This course will look at literary movements and significant historical events or ideas as these helped to shape novels of the Romantic and Victorian periods. We may begin, for example (text selections are still tentative), with the social underpinnings of the marriage plot in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and with explorations of humanity, science, and the Gothic in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Moving on to the Victorian period, we will probably look at gender and class in Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, industrialization and capitalism in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Mary Barton*, the genre of the sensation novel as exemplified by Wilkie Collins’s *The Moonstone*, new theories about art in Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, evolution and fate in Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, and implicit debates about imperialism in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.

The above description gestures toward only a few of the many cultural touchstones that will guide us through each of the novels we study, and throughout we will also be concerned with examining multiple issues of characterization, genre, and narrative form.

Course requirements (also tentative) are regular and enthusiastic class participation, several brief analytical responses (1-2 pp. each), one longer critical essay (5-7 pp.), and a final exam.

Undergraduate Major Course
This class will survey British fiction in the first half of the twentieth-century by examining the ways in which the rise of new media like film, radio, and photography—alongside new forms and genres of writing—shaped and inspired literary texts. While many critics see the British modernist writers as elitist, writing difficult works that express contempt for popular culture and popular forms of media, we’ll explore how the works of James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and E.M. Forster were in fact shaped both formally and thematically by these new media. We’ll also look at how new genres of writing like censuses and travel guides influenced the experiments that these writers made with the novel.

In the process we’ll become familiar with the major figures in British modernism—a literary and artistic movement we’ll define and question—and we’ll try to break down the boundaries between so-called “high culture” and more popular forms, revealing these writers as more accessible than their reputations might lead you to believe. Reading critical and theoretical work exploring the rise of new media will allow us to engage with questions about how these technologies transformed, and may continue to transform, us as viewers and readers.

Texts in this class include novels by Conrad, Woolf, Joyce, Forster, Isherwood, and Beckett, as well as art criticism by Roger Fry, films by F.W. Murnau and Robert Weine, and a variety of photographs, newspapers, and articles from the period.

Course requirements include a five-page paper, an eight-page paper involving outside research, and an informal "wiki" entry on a short modernist text.
In the twentieth century, everything changed, as far as poetry is concerned. All the familiar assumptions about what poetry looked and sounded like, what topics it could address, what audience it was for and what its purposes were, came under extreme pressure. The combined pressure of modernity – the new, transformative experiences that people underwent in the twentieth century – and modernism – the new forms and styles devised by twentieth-century writers and artists – bent poetry out of shape, and it has never fully returned to its old shapes, down to the present. For regular readers of poetry or those of you who aspire to write it, whether you prefer modernist poetry or the kinds of poems that modernism threatened to sweep away, this course is indispensable; for those who struggle to make sense of poetry or to get any pleasure from it at all, this could be your gateway to fuller appreciation.

Topics will include the conventions of poetry at the beginning of the twentieth century; the breakthrough to free-verse and the theory and practice of Imagism; the modernist preference for difficult poetry, including both rationally difficult poetry and the irrationally difficult kind (including Dada and Surrealism); and the openness of poetry to the world, including dossier poems such as Eliot’s *The Waste Land* and other kinds of “wide-open” poems from Apollinaire and Cendrars at the beginning of the twentieth century to Ginsberg, O’Hara and Ashbery near the end.

Readings: The main text will be the *Oxford Anthology of Modern American Poetry*, edited by Cary Nelson, supplemented by selected British poems and foreign-language poems in translation, available on Carmen.

Assignments: Three short (3-5 page) papers, each worth 20% of the final grade; a final paper (7-10 pages), worth 40% of the final grade. Undergraduate Major Course
English 4551
Special Topics in 19th-Century U.S. Literature: Labor and Class Representation

Professor Andrea Williams
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Examining works from the 1850s to 1900s, this seminar explores how U. S. literary culture struggled with what one historian calls “the conundrum of class,” the dilemma of figuring what the concept of class entailed. Indeed, the U.S. often has been considered a “classless” society, in which individuals earn rather than inherit their status, but this characterization remained under contestation during the nineteenth century. How did American writers reconcile the myths of American classlessness with concerns over slave labor, women’s work, child labor, and industrialization? What is literature’s role in reproducing class and class relations? If, for example, the novel is a bourgeois literary form, as some critics have argued, how could the working-class be represented in and through it?

This course considers how matters of labor and class preoccupied authors writing in multiple genres, from “working girl” narratives to tales of upward mobility epitomized in Horatio Alger’s fiction. The course readings may include Horatio Alger, *Ragged Dick*; Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig*; Rebecca Harding Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills*, Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener”; Paul Laurence Dunbar, “One Man’s Fortune,” “At Shaft 11” and “Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker”; Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*, and others.

Requirements may include: quizzes, three short response papers (3-5 pp. each), midterm, final paper (7-10 pp.), regular class participation and attendance.

Undergraduate Major Course
This survey hopes to acquaint you with major examples and strains of modern American prose. As a practical matter, the fertile eras for fiction in the US were interwar (the twenties and thirties), although our interest extends to the late forties. One theme we plan to explore is the implicit relation of our writers’ stories to some great American narratives: that of progress, say, or manifest destiny, or male heroism. In this respect, we’ll take up books such as Ernest Hemingway’s *In Our Time*, Nella Larsen’s *Passing*, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender Is the Night*, Willa Cather’s *Professor’s House*, Nathanael West’s *Miss Lonelyhearts* and William Faulkner’s *Light in August* as so many “replies” to one or another quasi-official American story.

Another goal is to explore the formal shifts these authors make to then-customary storytelling and how these innovations work along with, and/or undermine, the thematic interests. We hope to make a nod to the forties and fifties as well, with Patricia Highsmith’s *Talented Mr. Ripley* and some short stories of John Cheever. But to be sure, our chief emphasis is to be on the interwar years, that period of great experimentation and ambition in American fiction.

Duties: a short (4-5 pp.) paper, a midterm, and a final. Possible pop quizzes.
English 4553
20th-Century American Fiction

Professor Debra Moddelmog
moddelmog.1@osu.edu

In this course we will examine some important American fiction written since 1914. We will focus on (1) the association of this fiction with significant literary movements of the 20th and 21st centuries such as modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, postmodernism, and the American Indian Renaissance; and (2) the engagement of this fiction with major social and political issues of their time, including several wars, various civil rights movements, changing technologies, a couple of sexual “revolutions,” and shifting understandings of American citizenship.


Assignments include two critical essays, a final exam or project, a group presentation, and active participation and attendance.

Undergraduate Major Course
English 4561 Studies in Fictional and Nonfictional Narrative: Tales of the Suburbs

Professor David Brewer
brewer.126@osu.edu

This course will explore the astonishing (and astonishingly underexamined) array of stories set in the U.S. suburbs over the last half-century in order to get a better grasp on what it means to "set" a story somewhere. In particular, we will be thinking about what to make of the often wild disparities between suburban life as it appears on the page or the screen, and as it has been experienced by most inhabitants of the suburbs.

Likely readings and viewings include fiction by John Cheever, John Updike, Jeffrey Eugenides, Tom Perrotta, Richard Yates, Jonathan Franzen (and it may be telling that these are all men), The Stepford Wives, The Ice Storm, American Beauty, Mad Men, Weeds, Chasing Amy, Adventureland, and Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist.

Likely assignments will include a short essay on how a particular kind of suburban place works, a longer essay, and an autobiographical or ethnographic exploration of contemporary suburban life.
English 4561
Special Topics in Fictional and Non-Fictional Narrative:
Philip Roth

Professor David Myers
myers.1271@osu.edu

Philip Roth is the only living writer in the Library of America; he is one of the five or six greatest novelists that America has ever produced; along with John Updike, he opened the floodgates to sex in the contemporary American novel; along with Saul Bellow and Bernard Malamud, he ignited the Jewish boom in American writing; he contributed more novels to Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon” than any other living novelist.

Blah, blah, blah. Jacket blurbs. Syllabus wheeze. One thing and one thing only stands out about Philip Roth. No other American writer has accepted with such utter self-abnegating devotion the moral obligation to write well. The double obligation to truth and to beauty (for lack of better words) is what distinguishes the great writer, and no other American writer has been as successful as Roth—as steadfast, for so long, through so many books—at living by it. The refusal to approximate, the insistence upon getting it right, is his fury.

In this course we will read seven of Roth’s novels, starting with *Goodbye, Columbus*, which is partly about Ohio State, and ending with his alternate history of the United States, *The Plot against America*.

One longish paper, plenty of discussion.
English 4563
Contemporary Literature: Collapse and the Contemporary

Dr. Antony Shuttleworth  
shuttleworth.12@osu.edu

Although it is hardly a new phenomenon, some commentators have argued that the experience of rapid and bewildering change associated with collapse—from 9/11, to financial meltdowns, to potential ecological catastrophe—is a characteristic feature of contemporary life. This course will examine a number of texts from recent years that place special emphasis on different forms of collapse, and of experience before, during and after collapse. In examining closely the work of both well-established and emergent writers we will consider the possible cultural and literary reasons for a preoccupation with sudden and wide-reaching change, and what the benefits and drawbacks of this preoccupation might be, whether in the representation of family crises, psychological disturbance, social malaise, or "weird" speculation on the future that follows ecological failure.

At the end of the class students will have an understanding of how this concern can be seen as a powerful way of mapping the anxieties and possibilities of the contemporary moment in literature.

Texts will be selected from the following: Adrienne Rich, The School Among the Ruins; Ian McEwan, Atonement; P. D. James, The Children of Men; John DeLillo, Falling Man: A Novel; Jennifer Egan, A Visit from the Goon Squad; Dave Eggers, A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius; Carolyn Forché, Blue Hour: Poems; Tom McCarthy, Remainder; China Miéville, Perdido Street Station; Daisy Fried, My Brother is Getting Arrested Again

Requirements: Three Essays, Midterm, Attendance and Participation.  
Undergraduate Major Course
Having lived from 1825 to 1911, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was a black woman witness to some of the nation’s most tumultuous decades. She was born free in the slaveholding state of Maryland, spent significant time in Philadelphia, and lived at pivotal moments near Columbus, Ohio—as the first female teacher at Union Seminary in 1850 and as a farmer’s wife beginning in 1860. When many rejected the notion that blacks should be anything but slaves and opposed the idea of women speaking in public, Harper was an antislavery lecturer very much respected and admired by significant crowds and by colleagues, such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison.

In the midst of speaking tours and activism, Harper was also a prolific writer of not only letters and essays, but also poems and novels. For example, in the first six weeks of Fall 1854, she traveled to 20 cities and gave at least 31 lectures, and she published *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects* that same year. This collection sold more than 10,000 copies, was enlarged and reissued within 3 years, and enjoyed at least 20 re-printings in Harper’s lifetime.

This class will use this extraordinary woman’s life and literature as a way of understanding the time period in which she lived and wrote. We will work as an intellectual community, with everyone engaging new and different information and resources and sharing their findings with the group. We will read from Harper’s poetry collections *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects* (1854); *Poems* (1871); and *Sketches of Southern Life* (1872); from her newspaper column *Fancy Etchings*; speeches and letters from throughout her career; and her novels *Minnie’s Sacrifice* (1869), *Sowing and Reaping* (1876), *Trial and Triumph* (1888), and *Iola Leroy* (1892). We will also address interactions with leading figures of her day, including Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and examine how her creative works engage with literature by other authors, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Jacobs, and Elizabeth Keckley. In all that we do, we will keep Harper—an exceptional black woman—at the center. That is, we will operate with the understanding that her importance does not emerge simply in relationship to others.

REQUIREMENTS: careful, consistent reading; thoughtful class participation; a scholarly annotation assignment; a short paper; a major research project.
This is an advanced workshop that will focus on the production and analysis of the students’ fiction. We’ll examine the artistic choices writers make with characterization, structure, point of view, detail, and language that create specific effects in short stories. Our attention will be on the creation and revision of literary, character-based fiction, as opposed to more plot-driven genre fiction. The workshop will not consider sci-fi, fantasy, adventure, romance, etc.

This is also a permission-only course, so anyone interested in being considered for enrollment should send a sample of his or her fiction to the instructor (martin.1199@osu.edu). We’ll read published fiction of my choosing. Our primary focus, though, will be the reading and discussion of student-written work. Each student will present two pieces of fiction for workshop discussion. At the end of the quarter, each student will turn in a significantly revised version of one of these pieces. Students will also prepare analytical letters of response to their classmates’ work.
This is an advanced undergraduate workshop in poetry writing for those who wish to improve their craft as poets while broadening their knowledge of poetry. Admission is by prior consent of the instructor.

Please submit to Cole.466@osu.edu three poems and a cover letter containing your name, email address, a list of other English courses taken, favorite poets, and reasons for wanting to enroll in the workshop.


Most of the term will be devoted to weekly exercises as preparation for later "free-assignments." Poems by students will be discussed in a "workshop" format with attention to the process of revision. Class time will also be spent on assigned readings and issues of craft. Students will be asked to regularly memorize and recite poems. A final portfolio of six thoroughly revised poems will be required for completion of the course.

Undergraduate Major Course
In this undergraduate seminar, you will extend your critical and rhetorical skills beyond the classroom into the world of community action as you think about writing as an instrument of social change. By volunteering at a local nonprofit agency for multiple hours each week (2 hours onsite, additional hours to do writing), you will learn about the nonprofit world and research a specific community issue or problem.

Your experiences onsite and in the classroom will provide a framework for the writing you do both for your community partner and for classroom assignments. Course blog at mwright7.wordpress.com will be updated in Autumn 2012.


General Education Course, Undergraduate Major Course
English 4569
Digital Media and
English Studies
Special Topic: Web
Documentary and
Cultural Heritage
Collections

Professor H. Lewis Ulman
ulman.1@osu.edu

Rare Books and Manuscripts—Nineteenth-century Cartoons—Records of Polar Exploration—
Historic Costumes—University Archives—Theater History—and more!

English 4569 offers students an opportunity to explore in depth some application of digital media to
cultural, media, and textual studies. In the Spring Semester 2013 section of the course, students will
work with curators from OSU Libraries' Special Collections to design and create Web
documentaries—sites that variously employ text, graphic elements, still images, video, sound, and
interactive elements to engage visitors with the backstory of a distinctive object or collection.

OSU Libraries host ten special collections with a wide variety of focuses (see illustration).

Students will learn to:
- understand and apply rhetorical and design principles for the creation and analysis of Web
documentaries;
- use and critically examine numerous digital composing technologies (e.g., digital still
cameras, digital audio recorders, digital video cameras; Dreamweaver, Garage Band or
Audacity, Photoshop or GIMP; iMovie);
- situate the development of Web documentaries historically, exploring how they draw upon
and affect older forms of media (e.g., print, film, photography, radio);
- work with curators to develop and present unique stories about cultural heritage collections.

Working toward those ends, students will read about Web documentaries and curating cultural
heritage collections, analyze examples of Web documentaries, visit OSU special collections, and
work in teams with special collections curators (who will serve as each team’s “client”) to create
Web documentaries.

Please note: the course does not require or assume any previous experience with particular
computer technologies.

To learn more about this course, please visit
http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/ulman1/courses/courseDescriptions/4569_SP13.html
In English 4572 Traditional Grammar, students will learn to describe and analyze the structure of English sentences, developing a vocabulary of appropriate terminology and practicing ways of representing sentence structure through diagrams. Rather than memorizing and applying rules for “correct” English (standard usage), students will become familiar with the concepts and patterns of grammar, enabling them to read handbooks, discuss stylistic choices, and broaden their own repertoire of usage to fit the various genres of discourse in which they hope to engage. By the end of the course, students should be able to explain some of the usages that are commonly perceived as “errors” in written English, and they should be able to talk about the reasons for variety, ambiguity, and disagreement in matters of style and usage.

Although still subject to change, the most likely texts for this course will be Paul J. Hopper, *A Short Course in Grammar*, and Virginia Tufte, *Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style*. Students should also have access to a college dictionary. There will be two exams (a midterm and a final), a short paper analyzing a usage problem, occasional quizzes, and daily in-class exercises to practice each concept as it is learned.
English 4573.01
Rhetoric in History, Theory and Practice

Professor Roger Cherry
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This section of English 4573.01 will review ancient and modern rhetorical theory to explore how speaker (or writer), audience, purpose, and occasion interact as key discourse variables. A general theme of the course is the relationship between philosophy and rhetoric and the role of discourse in shaping what counts as knowledge in our world.

The course also explores the relationship between rhetorical skill and ethical responsibility. We will learn how to analyze spoken or written texts from a rhetorical point of view, and we will apply our knowledge of rhetoric in practical speaking and writing situations.

Undergraduate Major Course
Most famously represented by Thoreau's *Walden*, the rich tradition of American nature/environmental writing has long included a strand of nonfiction that weaves personal history and experience together with natural history in order to explore our ethical, imaginative, and cultural relationships to the non-human world. As philosopher Jim Cheney has argued, "The moral point of view wants a storied residence in Montana, Utah, Newfoundland, a life on the tall grass prairie, or on the Cape Cod coastline. . . . Character always takes narrative form."

We will read works by authors such as Henry David Thoreau, Josephine Johnson, Aldo Leopold, Alice Walker, John Elder, and Terry Tempest Williams, works that explore such issues as toxicity and pollution, spirituality, sense of place/home, and environment as refuge and/or scene of political engagement.

Students will write several short responses to our readings, a short exploration of the genre, and a term project. To learn more about this course, please visit

http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/ulman1/courses/courseDescriptions/4575_SP13.html

Undergraduate Major Course
The class will read very closely and analyze *Of Grammatology*, *Limited Inc.*, and *Margins of Philosophy*, three of Jacques Derrida’s many books on knowledge and representation. Because these are responses to older books in the western tradition, we shall also read philosophical selections ranging from the ancient Greeks to Enlightenment thinkers. Ishmel Reed’s *Mumbo Jumbo* will serve as our non-philosophical foil text.
This seminar explores shifts in visual practices, politics, and theories, with the transition from “old” to “new” media. The internet, computer, and networked digital technologies developed and popularized in the second half of the 20th century have radically altered image production, distribution, and consumption and also the politics of visual representation. This digital transformation is linked to cultural, economic, military, and political forms of globalization that define the same moment and which operate fundamentally through hierarchies of gender, race, and sexuality. We will focus in particular on the impact of digital media on film—the 20th century’s most celebrated and derided medium, art, and apparatus—and on the racial, gender, and sexual politics of cultural representation through moving images.

Course materials may include work by Ella Shohat, Wendy Chun, Kara Keeling, Lisa Nakamura, Toby Miller, Ting Wang & Nitin Govil, Chris Straayer, Celine Parreñas Shimizu, Mara Mills, Fatimah Rony, Linda Williams, Ed Guerrero, Bliss Cua Lim, Anne Friedberg, Laura Marks, Fernando Solanas & Octavio Gettino, Lev Manovich, Marshall McLuhan, Harry M. Benshoff & Sean Griffin, David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson, and/or André Bazin.

Screenings may include media by Tsai Ming Liang, Pratibha Parmar, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Isaac Julien, Gillo Pontecorvo, Robert Flaherty, Coco Fusco & Paul Heredia, Nguyen Tan Hoang, Park Chan-wook, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, and/or Julie Dash.

Course requirements may include an in-class presentation, regular participation in a course blog, exploratory midterm project, and final paper project. The course will fulfill requirements towards English, Film, Sexuality Studies, Asian American Studies, and Women’s Gender & Sexuality Studies majors and minors. (Check with your program/department for more details.)
Course examines the spate of artistically ambitious films that came out of Hollywood, of all places, in the late sixties through eighties. Our way of framing these films will be in part by taking up the role played by the then-crucial movie critic Pauline Kael both in publicizing specific films and also in making the case for the general trend toward adventuresome, serious moviemaking that (in her view) such films seemed to betoken.

Goal is to understand the interaction between criticism and creative material; how that interaction became so important during this period; and why it ceased to matter afterward. Films to include *Chinatown, Bonnie and Clyde, Annie Hall, The Godfather, Part Two, Taxi Driver, The Long Goodbye*, and others.

Texts: Brian Kellow’s biography *Pauline Kael: A Life in the Dark* and the Library of America’s edition of Kael’s criticism.

Duties: a 4-5 pp. paper, midterm and final, along with possible quizzes.

Undergraduate Major Course
English 4578H
Honors Seminar in Film: Imagining the Nation in American Popular Cinema

Professor Ryan Friedman
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This course examines how American cinema has been constructed and theorized as a technology of national representation. Moving chronologically from the first decades of the movies through the present, we will examine a series of crucial historical moments in which cinema takes up the task of showing the nation formative images of itself.

More than just surveying national symbols and images of “the people” on film, we will take a critical look at recurring structures and themes in popular American movies and question the assumptions about cinema’s social role that inform how these movies have been made and consumed by audiences.

In particular, we will focus on arguments that film theorists have made about cinema as a tool for dramatizing national history and educating citizens, as a universal language, and as a sacred site of inter-group bonding.

Undergraduate Major Course
English 4579
Special Topics in Nonfiction: Life Narratives

Professor David Herman
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What attributes define the story of a life? What "turning points" would you emphasize if you had to tell your own or a friend's or loved one's life story? How has the rise of digital culture changed the way life narratives are produced and interpreted? Addressing questions of this sort, this course will explore varieties of life narratives--including biography, autobiography, memoir, and oral history--across a variety of storytelling media, such as print texts, graphic narratives, audio- and video-recorded oral histories stored in digital databases, and other digital environments such as blogs.

To examine the structure, impact, and enduring interest of such life narratives, we will draw on a range of analytic tools, including ideas from narrative theory, social psychology, ethnography, and sociolinguistics. Possible focal texts include Frederick Douglass's *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*; Virginia Woolf's hybridized novel/biography *Flush*, together with Julia Briggs' biography of Virginia Woolf herself; Vladimir Nabokov's *Speak, Memory*; Todd Haynes's *I'm Not There*, several graphic life narratives (for example, the graphic reportage of Joe Sacco, as in *Safe Area Goražde*; Lauren Redniss's biography of Marie and Pierre Curie, *Radioactive*, and a graphic memoir such as Lynda Barry's *One Hundred Demons* or Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* or *Are You My Mother?*); a range of relevant blogs; and oral histories obtained via StoryCorps or other databases, or else collected by students in the class.

Requirements: two essays; digital reading journals; agenda-setting questions to be posted on Carmen; midterm and final exams. Undergraduate Major Course
English 4583
Special Topics in World Literature: Literatures of Oceania

Professor Chadwick Allen
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This course will introduce students to contemporary Indigenous literatures of Oceania, in a variety of genres and media: plays, poems, stories, novels, essays, documentary and feature films, video, music, and so forth. It will also introduce students to relevant ways of conceptualizing and understanding the Pacific Ocean and its Indigenous peoples.

We will spend most of the quarter comparing and contrasting contemporary texts produced by Kanaka Maoli (indigenous Hawaiians) with contemporary texts produced by Maori from Aotearoa New Zealand and contemporary texts produced by Pacific Islanders from places such as Tonga, Samoa, Rotuma, Niue, the Cook Islands, and Fiji. In addition, we will explore at least a few texts produced by Indigenous peoples living on either side of the Pacific, such as Aboriginal peoples in Taiwan and American Indians and First Nations peoples on the west coast of North America.
The story of literacy was once a simple, positive narrative. In recent years our understanding of literacy and its relationships to ongoing societies, cultures, and social change has been challenged and revised. Among other important currents, historical studies and critical theories stand out. Historical research on literacy has been unusually important in encouraging a reconstruction of the fields that contribute to literacy studies, the design of research, and the challenge of understanding literacy and literacies (plural). Drawing on a number of disciplines across the humanities and social sciences, it has insisted on new understandings of “literacy in context.” This course considers these and related changes.

Taking a historical approach, we will seek a general understanding of the history of literacy mainly but not only in the West since classical antiquity, with an emphasis on the early modern and modern eras. At the same time, we examine critically literacy’s contributions to the shaping of the modern world and the impacts on literacy from fundamental historical social changes. Among many topics, we will explore communications, language, expression, family and demographic behavior, economic development, urbanization, institutions, literacy campaigns, political and personal changes, and the uses of reading and writing. A new understanding of the place of literacy and literacies in social development is our overarching goal.

Readings may include, among others: Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms; Harvey J. Graff, The Literacy Myth; Deborah Brandt, Literacy in American Lives; Sapphire, PUSH

Requirements include attendance, participation, two essays, and a multimedia project. Undergraduate Major Course. See also History 4585 / Comp Sts 4585
To what extent was the Renaissance in England a “re-birth” of classical culture, and to what extent did it usher in the modern era? This class will introduce students to the literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries through an exploration of the tension between the past and future, between revolution as the image of a wheel that circles back to a beginning and revolution as an uprising that produces a radical break with the past.

By reading influential political works from the period (the writing of Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Elizabeth, King James I, Thomas Hobbes, and Robert Filmer, for example) alongside literary texts (including Sidney, Shakespeare, Milton, Donne, and Wroth), we will explore one of the most turbulent periods in English literary history, an era that culminated in an actual revolution with the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I.
English 4590.06H
The Modern Period:
Modernist Minds

Professor David Herman
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Working to place key modernist texts into dialogue with research in the sciences of mind, this course focuses on strategies used by writers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries--writers such as Henry James, Dorothy Richardson, Franz Kafka, Marcel Proust, Gertrude Stein, D. H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield, Mina Loy, William Faulkner, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Rebecca West--to portray the perceptions, attitudes, memories, and emotions of fictional characters. In doing so, the class will revisit a critical commonplace about modernist narratives: namely, that they participate in an inward turn, innovating on previous narratives by developing new means to probe psychological depths.

In rethinking this commonplace, we will engage with questions such as the following: When it comes to figuring fictional minds, how much of a shift in accent, a departure from the practices of 19th-century realism, did modernist methods actually entail? Further, to the extent that the modernists did innovate on previous narrative practices, how might the general tenor of their innovations best be described—as an exploration of the mind viewed as an interior space, or in some other way? Are modernist methods of mind presentation in fact tantamount to an "inward turn"?

As we explore these sorts of issues, we will also test out a guiding hypothesis of the class: namely that modernist portrayals of fictional minds can illuminate, and not just be illuminated by, ideas being developed in the constellation of disciplines associated with the cognitive sciences. Requirements: several short response papers and a longer final essay; digital reading journals; agenda-setting questions to be posted on Carmen; final exam. Undergraduate Major Course
English 4590.08H
Archival Research
Methods and
American Culture, 1865-1900

Professor Elizabeth Renker
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This class serves three essential purposes for honors students. First, it’s a methods class that introduces you to conducting archival research and learning how to integrate original research findings into your analytical papers. Second, it trains you to do the kind of work necessary to write an honors thesis: you’ll finish this class ahead on research methods, sources, and arguments toward your thesis. Third, it trains you in methods and materials from both literary studies and cultural history.

We focus on American culture from 1865-1900, establishing a familiarity with some of the main scholarly issues in the cultural history of this period, and we then develop original research by using primary materials housed in OSU’s Rare Books and Manuscripts Division (RBMS). Some of the collections we will explore include the Sarah Piatt Collection, about the recently “discovered” poet Sarah Piatt; the Tarver collection of materials in nineteenth-century oratory, rhetoric, and elocution; and an array of collections containing cookbooks, almanacs, science textbooks, photographs, poetry books, and other indices to US culture.

Final papers are typically excellent candidates for graduate school writing samples and research and award competitions. This class is about processes more than conclusions, so you should be prepared to roll up your sleeves and dive into the messy world of archival detective work.

Required texts: an edition of Sarah Piatt and readings on Carmen. Requirements: 3 annotated bibliographies, a 10-page draft toward the final paper, a 15-20 page final paper, and active daily participation in class. Undergraduate Major Course
In this course, we will focus on representations of immigrant and migrant women’s and girls’ laboring bodies as they are depicted across realist genres (autobiography, documentary film, legal narratives, and immigration law). We will consider changing definitions of work, family, motherhood, the private and public, and the global exchange of care, sex, and love. We will also consider topical debates such as those over US immigration law and birthright citizenship, contradictions between representations of laboring immigrant women and dominant narratives of citizenship, and the economic and political factors that contribute to the need for migrant labor.

We will begin with Anzia Yezierska’s autobiography *Bread Lovers* about the garment economy in the late 19th to early 20th century and the film “Sweatshop Cinderella” about her life, and move to Jade Snow Wong’s autobiography *Fifth Chinese Daughter* about family and factory life in 1950s, and then to contemporary immigrant women’s testimonials about anti-sweatshop campaigns. We will consider Miriam Ching Yoon Louie’s *Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory* and Tia Lessin’s documentary *Behind the Labels: Garment Works in US Saipan*, and other films and short literary works about the gendering of global migration and labor. Literary readings will be supplemented with excerpts from scholarly works such as *Global Women: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy* and *High Tech and High Heels in the Global Economy*, among others.
Literature and Law: The Process of Law

Professor Clare Simmons
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Literature and Law is a course that can be applied towards the English major; many students from other departments also take it to fulfill upper-level course requirements, so the course provides an excellent opportunity to meet students from a wide variety of fields who are interested in law and perhaps thinking about Law School. It is not a course in law, but we will read both some legal materials and some literature that represents law in action while bearing in mind the cultural and ethical implications of the role of law in society and how it is applied.

The special topic of this course is “The Processes of Law,” so we will read some actual cases and also a variety of fictional representations of law in action, especially in the court-room. In some instances we will also watch video or movie adaptations of the works. Readings will include Cicero, *In Defense of Roscius*; Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*; Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*; the Amistad trials; Reginald Rose, *Twelve Angry Men*; Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader*. In addition we will be using the book *A Short Guide to Writing About Law*, by Kate Rose Guest Pryal.

Course requirements: Regular attendance and participation; careful reading in advance; reading questions; paper on a recent court case; group mock-trial project; final paper.  Undergraduate Major Course
English 4597.02
American Regional Cultures and Global Transition:

Appalachia, Louisiana, and the Texas Border Country

Professor Dorothy Noyes
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This course will introduce you to the folklore of three American regions. Each is famous for its traditional culture, but each is often thought of as deviating in a distinctive way from the national culture: Louisiana is “creole,” Texas is “border,” and Appalachia is “folk.” While exploring these differences, we’ll also explore the commonalities: positive and negative stereotyping from outside, complex racial and class composition, heavy in- and out-migration, environmental stress, tense and often violent relationships with both government and dominant local industries. We’ll look at historical change through the prism of celebrated folklore forms such as Louisiana Mardi Gras, Appalachian fairy tales, and the Tex-Mex corrido. We’ll also explore the impact of Hurricane Katrina and the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast, mountaintop-removal mining and the energy economy in Appalachia, and the cross-border trafficking of people, drugs, and capital. A general question arises: what counts as America?

Requirements: active engagement, three essay exams, and two post-class responses. This course counts as a GE Cross-Disciplinary Seminar and as an elective in the Folklore minor.
English 4598H
Reading and Writing about *Moby-Dick*

Professor Elizabeth Renker
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Often called the “great American novel,” *Moby-Dick* is a book whose influence towers over literature and popular culture of the twentieth century. Although published in 1851, it fared badly with readers until it was rediscovered in the 1920s. Since then its stature has been unchallenged. Nevertheless, an interesting paradox obtains: although references to *Moby-Dick* saturate everything from TV shows to comic strips, relatively few people have actually read the book.

This class provides a unique opportunity for us to luxuriate in this formidable but rewarding text with enough time to understand its complexities, and for us to write original essays based on our readings of the book with the hope of getting them published. Beginning early in the term, students will begin short essays that they will revise, expand, and deepen all term long, under the professor's direction. At the end of term, I will compile these essays into a collection, write an introduction for it, and submit it to a publisher, hoping to get it in print. So, the purpose of our class will be deep reading and careful, excellent writing with the goal of publication. The class is open to students who took the 561 on *Moby-Dick* in 2012 and to new students.

Image: “Grasping the Ungraspable.” Used with the kind permission of former 561 student Michelle Boerio.
Much of the greatest English Renaissance poetry was written about religion, and many of these works are among the greatest religious poems ever written. We will read much of the religious poetry of the Protestants John Donne, George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, John Milton, and Andrew Marvell. We will also read the Catholic poets Robert Southwell, William Alabaster, and Richard Crashaw. And we will explore some fascinating but lesser known poetry by Mary Sidney, the Countess of Pembroke, Francis Quarles, William Habington, and others.

Some have called this body of poetry “metaphysical,” and we will explore the validity of this term and others like “devotional” and “meditative.” Can a poem be an effective prayer? Does formal artifice compromise devotional intentions? Is the Christian God, as Donne put it, a metaphorical God, and what does that mean for religious poetry? We will consider arguments for the biblical justification of poetry and discuss the nature of biblical paraphrase and allusion. And we will root all of this study in the religious thought, culture, and conflict of the period. Assignments will include short writing and a major paper.