

SPRING 2012 English Course Descriptions

AAS 1100-01 Introduction to African American Studies through Literature

Prof. Edward Washington

Online

This introductory course provides a broad-based overview of African American life and culture through a variety of cross-disciplinary perspectives, including history, literature, philosophy, politics, socio-economics, and the arts, students gain insights into the black experience as it relates to their individual lives, the country, and the larger world.

WS 1100-01 Introduction to Women's Studies

Prof. Andrea Harris

MWF 1:30-2:20

Retan 108

Although most American women believe in their right to equality, a basic definition of feminism, many of them do not define themselves as feminists. In this course, we'll consider the relevance of feminism for women today by examining connections and differences between women as well as feminist approaches to work, families, race, class, and sexuality. We will focus on the significant impact of the feminist movement on American life particularly in the past 40 years. We will spend much time applying the principles of feminism to the world around us; thus, the course will involve discussion of personal experiences relevant to the reading material.

ENG 1115 Introduction to Literature

Introduction to reading poetry, fiction, drama for understanding and enjoyment. This is a general education course which counts towards the English minor but does not count towards the English major. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program and in the Approaches to Knowledge: Humanities category in the new.

There are six sections offered in Spring 2012:

ENG 1115-01 Prof. Lynn Pifer

M W F 10:30-11:20

Retan 110

ENG 1115-02 Prof. Teri Doerksen

M W F 12:30-1:20

Belknap 102

ENG 1115-03 Prof. John Ulrich

Tu Th 10:00-11:15

Retan 105

ENG 1115-04 Prof. Ed Washington

Tu Th 10:00-11:15

Belknap 104

ENG 1115-05 Prof. Kristin Sanner
Tu Th 1:00-2:15
Belknap 104

ENG 1115-06 Prof. Gwen Blume
Tu Th 2:30-3:45
Retan 108

ENG 2220-01 Environmental Literature

Prof. Jimmy Guignard

Tu Th 10:00-11:15

Belknap 103

In ENG 2220 we will examine literature from the past 150 years of the American literary tradition in order to understand the various modes of environmental literature and to engage in questions of genre and definition. Moving from descriptive nature writing to environmental polemics to postmodern approaches, we will read books from Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Gretel Ehrlich, and Edward Abbey, and essays ranging from canonical writers like Henry David Thoreau and Susan Fenimore Cooper to contemporary writers Terry Tempest Williams, Dian Fossey, Sandra Steingraber, Barry Lopez, Gary Snyder, and David Gessner. Students will write and think critically about different rhetorical strategies and their effects, the place of environmental literature in the canon of American literature (especially the pastoral), and what definitions are useful, absurd, redundant, or what have you. In addition, students will write creatively about the environment. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program and in the Approaches to Knowledge: Humanities category in the new.

ENG 2220-02 Special Topics: Topics in Science Fiction

Prof. Bruce Barton

M 6:15-9:00 p.m.

Belknap 102

This course will examine a selection of science fiction novels, short stories, and films that consider relatively nontraditional Science Fiction themes, such as religion, environment, and gender. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program and in the Approaches to Knowledge: Humanities category in the new.

ENG 2226-01 History of the English Language

Prof. Linda Rashidi

Tu Th 2:30-3:45

Retan G-1

We will follow the development of English from its birth as a creole on a tiny island in the 5th century AD to its presentday status as a prestigious world language. We will trace the visual history of English by examining written texts and spelling conventions; we will explore the sound system of English, how it has changed and is changing; and we will look at the processes of variation and change in vocabulary, meaning, and grammar. Finally, we will join the debate on the role of English in today's world and in our own lives. *See Dr. Linda Rashidi for further information.* This course is required for English B.S.E. majors and counts as an English elective for English B.A. majors. This course can be used in the Language and

Literature category in the old General Education program and in the Approaches to Knowledge: Humanities category in the new.

ENG 2252-01(W) Introduction to Poetry Writing

ENG 3252-01(W) Advanced Poetry Writing

Prof. Judith Sornberger

Tu Th 1:00-2:15

Belknap 101

In ENG 2252 we will be considering the world that offers itself to our imaginations and engaging with that world via reading, writing, discussing and revising poems. You will discover many things about the possibilities of poems—about what can be done with rhythm and word choice, allusion and analogy, about the ways line breaks and alliteration affect how we read a poem and how we *feel* it. Using in-class exercises and assignments as guides, as well as the poems we read, you will write rough drafts of poems that will be commented on, first by me and later in small groups. Our aim will always be to help one another write the best poems of which we are capable. You will turn in a midterm portfolio and a final portfolio of revised poems. This course can be used by English B.A. students as an English Elective and it can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program and in the Arts and the Human Experiences category in the new. This course is dual listed with ENG 3252: Advanced Poetry Writing.

In ENG 3252 Students will deepen their quests as poets and further develop their poetic tools by reading deeply in the work of several contemporary poets, workshoping their poems, choosing a poet "mentor" to study and report on from among their favorite poets, and writing and revising a chapbook of poems. This course can be used as an English "elective" and can serve as a General Education course in the Arts and the Human Experiences category of the new program. This course is dual listed with ENG 2252: Intro to Poetry Writing. Prerequisite: ENG 2252 or permission of instructor.

ENG 2254-01(W) Introduction to Fiction Writing

ENG 3254-01(W) Advanced Fiction Writing

Prof. Louise Sullivan-Blum

Tu Th 10:00-11:15

Belknap 202

ENG 2254: Intro to Fiction Writing: The success of a piece of writing rests on its truth and on its voice. By voice, I mean the tone in which it is told and the language used to tell it. By truth, I mean its honesty and its passion. The point of this 3-credit class is for you to find your true voice and true concerns as a writer, while mastering the essentials of fiction writing -- character, setting, dialogue, style, voice, etc. In this class, we will work on our writing -- first with exercises and then with complete works -- but we will also work on becoming better readers, both of each other's work and of the stories in the anthology. Class time will be spent writing, discussing the assigned readings, and workshoping each other's writing. This course can be used by English B.A. students as an English Elective and can serve as a Language and Literature course in the old General Education program and as Arts and the Human Experiences course in the new. This course is dual listed with ENG 3254: Advanced Fiction Writing.

ENG 3254: Advanced Fiction Writing: This course continues the work done in ENG 2254. Through writing exercises, reading the work of published writers, and workshoping original manuscripts, students will work on creating a portfolio of short fiction or the first three chapters of a novel. This course can be

used as an English "elective" and can serve as a General Education course in the Arts and the Human Experiences category of the new program. This course is dual listed with ENG 2254: Intro to Fiction Writing. Prerequisite: ENG 2254 or permission of instructor.

ENG 3252-01(W) Survey of British Literature II

Prof. Teri Doerksen

M W F 1:30-2:20

Belknap 102

Survey of British Literature II covers major British literature from the Romantics through the present. We'll be looking at Romantic and Victorian poetry, reading a selection of non-fiction essays, and reading novels by Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Kazuo Ishiguro, and J.K. Rowling. This course fits the British Survey requirement for English majors. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program, and in the Approaches to Knowledge: Humanities category in the new General Education Program.

ENG 3280-190 Survey of American Literature II

Prof. Kristin Sanner

Online

Survey of American Literature II covers fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama written between the late nineteenth and early twenty-first centuries. In addition to spanning literary genres, the course provides an overview of the diverse voices producing literature during this period, with special attention given to the historical, social and literary contexts of the selections. Students will write a full-length academic essay. There will also be a mid-term and final exam. This is an online course. It fits the American Survey requirement for English majors and this course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program and in the Approaches to Knowledge: Humanities category in the new. It also counts for the African American Studies minor and the Women's Studies minor.

ENG 3307-01 Literature in English from Around the World

Prof. Linda Rashidi

M W 2:30-3:45

Retan 110

BACKGROUND: What is English Literature? Who writes in English and how do these texts vary? Traditionally—in the United States, anyway—we have thought of “English” as the literary tradition(s) of Britain and the United States. Perhaps we throw in Canada. That core has been expanded over the past few decades to include literature by Native Americans, African-Americans, and Latino-Americans. But if we truly explore the horizons, we recognize that English, and literature in the English language, covers most of the world. Who speaks English? How did they come to do so? Is English their native language? Second language? How does the status of the English of a writer affect the texts that author produces?

English began as a creole on a tiny island—and it stayed there for a millennium. When it finally left, it rapidly spread around the world and, as it did, was transformed in a myriad of ways, shapes, and forms. In each corner where it landed, the English language took on the characteristics of the people who acquired it, until today we have a rich body of literature in a variety of Englishes. We will explore the English and the literature created in it in four different locations, retracing the approximate historical path that English took. When English first left the British Isles in the 1600s, it traveled to America and India as a colonial language, and soon after to the Caribbean where, as part of the slave trade, it mixed with African influences. In the 1700s, penal colonies were established in Australia, and

Britain claimed the continent for itself. The 1800s was a time of European 'scramble' to carve up Africa, and Britain got its share. All of these places now have established literary traditions in English.

We will begin our journey by reading two novels by Indian authors; continue on to the Caribbean where we will explore the poetry of the most famous poet of the islands; hop south to New Zealand for a book written by a modern Maori author (and, perhaps, see the movie), and Australia where we will read original English texts by Aborigines; and finally land in Africa where we will examine that literary tradition with a book of short stories and a play. In the process, we will explore works by both men and women, including two Nobel Literature laureates and ordinary folk, in a variety of genres. But each work is unique, a reflection of that author's time and place and relationship to the English language. Texts include Anand's *Untouchable*, Roy's *The God of Small Things*, Derek Walcott's poems, *Whale Rider* (both novel and film), Australian Aborigine literature, Ama Ata Aidoo's stories, and Soyinka's play, *Swampdwellers* (video, no text). This course fulfills the World / Minority requirement for the English B.A./B.S.Ed. programs, and it can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program.

ENG 3320-01 Special Topics: Twilight

Prof. Gwen Blume

Tu Th 1:00-2:15

Retan 108

Why do some works of art survive while others don't? Does the continued popularity of some narratives indicate their own superiority, or does it tell us something about particular cultural moments – or about our humanity more broadly? This course will consider the popularity of the *Twilight* novels alongside the texts that author Stephenie Meyer lists as their inspirations: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Wuthering Heights*. We will consider the ways in which the themes of these works remain relevant to the lives of readers even after hundreds of years. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program.

ENG 3320-02 Special Topics: Beat Generation

Prof. John Ulrich

Th 6:15-9:00 p.m.

Retan 104

Although the heyday of the Beat Generation writers lasted only a short period of time—from the late 1950s to the early 1960s—their work has continued to influence later generations of writers and readers sympathetic to the Beat emphasis on individual freedom, uncensored expression, spiritual liberation, and subcultural kicks. In this course, we will survey the works of a variety of Beat and Beat-related writers, focusing mainly on the three usual suspects (Kerouac, Ginsberg, Burroughs) and the San Francisco poets (Ferlinghetti, Snyder, and others). While our emphasis is primarily literary, we will also seek to situate the Beats in their historical context, and to assess their impact on American literary and cultural history. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program.

ENG 3320-03 Special Topics: Civil Rights Novel

Prof. Lynn Pifer

M W F 9:30-10:20

Retan 104

This section of ENG 3320 Special Topics focuses on the American Civil Rights Novel. Students will hone their critical reading and writing skills in this important and growing area of American literature. We will closely examine recent American novels, such as Vicky Covington's *The Last Hotel for Women* and Anthony Grooms' *Bombingham*, that are based on events that occurred during the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. We will discuss the literary techniques the authors employ, how the authors choose to portray the events and the people involved, and what we can learn from reading such works. Students will develop critical reading skills and a greater knowledge of a significant era of recent American history as they read, discuss, and write about a selection of Civil Rights novels. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program.

ENG 3320-04 Special Topics: Dystopias in Young Adult Fiction

Prof. Louise Sullivan-Blum

Sat 9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Belknap 104

In this class we will examine the recent explosion of dystopias in young adult fiction, delving into some of the best contemporary novels. We'll immerse ourselves in monster-filled labyrinths, deadly gladiatorial contests, toxic wastelands, flesh-eating zombies, predatory warlords, constant surveillance, and more. We'll analyze the extent to which these dystopias spring from our own present-day practices, such as war, genetic engineering, resource exhaustion, technological advances, political authoritarianism, and economic inequality. We'll discuss why these dysfunctional and frequently post-apocalyptic visions of the future are so popular with today's young adult readers, and to what extent they mirror the reality of the adolescent social experience. And we'll explore our own visions of the future that awaits us, and the steps we can take to influence them. The emphasis of the course will be on active discussion and close introspection into the literature, our society, and ourselves. Course requirements include active participation, group work, papers, tests, and a final presentation. This course can be used in the Language and Literature category in the old General Education program.

ENG 3364-01 American Literature Since 1900

Prof. Andrea Harris

M W F 12:30-1:20

Retan 108

Twentieth-century literature reflects both the violent upheavals and thrilling changes of the last century. As such, it is literature that breaks the rules and "makes it new," as Ezra Pound stated. We will study the modernist reworking of genres and forms; the emphasis on language and textual play; the shifting relations between sexes, classes, and races in the period; and what is uniquely American about this writing. As we move on to contemporary or postmodern writing, from 1945 to the present, we will focus on the relation between the contemporary and the modern: in what ways is contemporary writing both a reaction against and a continuation of modern writing? Authors include Edith Wharton, William Faulkner, Zora Neale Hurston, and Allen Ginsberg, and Jhumpa Lahiri. This course can be used to fulfill the American Period requirement for the English B.A. and B.S.Ed. degrees.

ENG 3385-01 Major Author: Louisa May Alcott

Prof. Judith Sornberger

Tu Th 10:00-11:15

Belknap 101

Although best known for her beloved children's classics, including *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott also wrote precociously feminist novels for adults. We will read all of Alcott's major works, as well as a few of her "blood-and-thunder" stories, by which she supported her family. Growing up among Transcendentalists Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, and living briefly in a utopian commune, Alcott also wrote a send-up of communal life *Transcendental Wild Oats*. Her experience as a Civil War nurse is recorded in her *Hospital Sketches*, which we will also read. Finally, we will read from her journals and letters. Students will write frequent response essays as well as a research paper. This course fulfills the Major Genre, Contemporary Theory, or Major Author requirement for the English BA/B.S.Ed..

ENG 4401-01(W) Seminar in Literary Studies: Speculative Fiction: Art or . . . ?

Prof. Bruce Barton

Tu Th 2:30-3:45

Belknap 102

ENG 4401 is a sustained, in-depth study of literature which draws on the expertise developed in previous English courses. Students will complete a seminar-length researched paper/project culminating in the public presentation of that work. This year's course will examine the broad shoulders of what has become known as "Speculative Fiction." Is it art? Popular fiction? Or *caca*? Students will read and research texts from Woolf's *Orlando* to graphic novels to look for the answer. This course fulfills the English senior seminar requirement.

Prerequisite: ENG 1112 or ESL 1112 and 75 hours of earned credits.