

ENGLISH

Department Website:

<https://www.haverford.edu/english>

The English Department offers courses in the literary traditions of the English-speaking world. Students will expand their ability to respond to texts thoughtfully and critically, and to articulate those responses in clear and fluent English. The department aims to develop cultural and media literacy by introducing students to the range of literary traditions, broadly conceived, in the English language, and to familiarize them with major or defining instances of filmic, performative and visual texts.

This discipline prepares interested students for postgraduate work in English and other subjects as well as careers in publishing, law, international business, arts and culture, government and policy, education, healthcare, and more. Our students have been recipients of many prestigious awards, including Fulbright Fellowships and a Rhodes Scholarship, and graduates have gone on to highly selective graduate schools and law schools. Many of our graduates have served in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps and pursue careers in service and social justice.

English majors who plan to do postgraduate work should know that doctoral programs require a reading knowledge of one or two foreign languages.

Learning Goals

Our courses provide opportunities to:

- cultivate particular and deep understanding of specific periods, genres, authors, movements, and aesthetic or analytically significant issues.
- grow into discerning and careful readers responsive to formal, stylistic, and thematic elements of texts, and capable of understanding them as responses to the cultural contexts in which they emerge.
- develop an interdisciplinary approach to reading literature that crosses borders and makes interesting connections with material and methods in other disciplines and cultures.

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals>.

Curriculum

In our curriculum we seek to maintain a working balance between:

- canons of British, American and global literatures, including African American literature, Asian

American literature, Postcolonial literature, South African literature, and Irish literature, and others, and

- courses inflected by particular theoretical foci, such as performance theory, queer theory, postcolonial theory, trauma theory, media and visual studies, and environmental studies.

Students may receive major credit for one semester of coursework in creative writing. Students who submit a portfolio of work, no later than the end of first term of their junior year, may be admitted to the Creative Writing Concentration.

Up-to-date information about the English Department's activities and courses, including extended course descriptions and syllabi, is available on the departmental website.

Major Requirements

Admission to the major requires completion of at least two courses, WRPR H150 or a 100-level English course and one course at the 200-level, by the end of the sophomore year..

In total the major requires eleven credits, including a .5 credit tutorial (ENGL H298J) as part of Junior Seminar. Note: ENGL H399F and ENGL H399B comprises a 1.5 credit course taken over the full senior year.

- Seven courses at the 100, 200 and 300 levels of which:
 - at least two must be in literature written before 1800;
 - at least two in literature written after 1800;
 - at least one but no more than two courses at the 100 level, which can include WRPR H150; two to three courses at the 200-level; and at least two courses at the 300-level.
- ENGL H298 and ENGL H299, the two-semester Junior Seminar in English
- ENGL H298J, the .5 credit yearlong Junior Seminar tutorial
- ENGL H399F (fall) and ENGL H399B (spring) for a total 1.5 credit Senior Conference

Note: The department will give major credit for one semester course in a foreign literature in the original language or for Comparative Literature 200. No more than four major credits will be awarded for work done beyond the Tri-College Consortium, whether abroad or in the U.S. Courses taken in the Bryn Mawr English Department, the Swarthmore English Department, and the U. Penn English Department may also be counted towards the major at Haverford.

Senior Project

Overview

The culminating research experience for our majors is Senior Seminar, ENGL H399. The course carries 1.5 credits and involves two parts: a critical essay based on independent research and reading guided by a faculty mentor; and a comprehensive oral examination that covers the thesis and the coursework the student has done towards the major. Creative Writing concentrators produce, instead of the critical essay, a portfolio of poems or short stories, a novella, or a screenplay accompanied by a foreword or afterword that reflects on their artistic choices and offers an analytic framework within which the work may be understood.

Preparatory Work

English majors take Junior Seminar, a year-long course that considers both major works in the field and critical and theoretical materials in the discipline. This methodological focus, along with an oral exam at the end of the first semester and comprehensive assessment at the end of the second, prepares students for the extended research and oral expectations of Senior Conference. More information on Junior Seminar is available on the department’s website. Students also participate in a workshop conducted by the Writing Program during the spring preceding the senior year: this meeting encourages junior majors to draw upon the coursework they have already undertaken both to identify areas, topics, authors, and critical questions and to begin reading widely in preparation for their thesis.

Senior Conference

Fall Semester Senior Year:

Students in the Senior Conference propose research topics to faculty consultants and are assigned to a faculty advisor by the middle of the fall semester. Students mark out an area of interest focused on an author, text, genre, theme, or formal feature, familiarize themselves with the major critical voices and debates pertaining to this field, and identify a set of issues that they investigate and analyze in their essays. Students meet each week in groups before moving to individualized meetings with their thesis advisor.

| Date | Event |
|-----------|--|
| September | submission of essay topic and preferences for faculty consultant |
| October | description of project, approved by assigned faculty consultant |
| October | meeting with Reference Librarian |

| | |
|----------|--|
| November | two-page thesis statement due with short bibliography of relevant primary and critical sources |
| December | detailed annotated bibliography |

Spring Semester Senior Year:

Students have individual tutorials as they work towards submission of a draft and final thesis. At the end of the spring semester, eight students give presentations of their work over the course of two evenings. One-hour oral examinations are administered during the following week by the thesis advisor, a second reader, and a third examiner over a three- to four-day period.

| Date | Event |
|----------|---|
| January | full outline and 4-5 draft pages of essay due |
| February | completed rough draft due |
| April | final draft of essay due |
| April | abstracts and reflective statements due |
| April | oral exam lists due |
| April | senior presentations to full department |
| May | oral comprehensive examinations with department panel |

Additional information about Senior Conference and the Senior Thesis can be found on the department’s website.

Senior Project Learning Goals

The Senior Conference will encourage students to:

- mark out productive and independent lines of intellectual inquiry.
- understand theoretical and critical works in the discipline.
- engage with primary and secondary literature.
- develop a critical writing voice for article-length work.
- prepare a bibliography of works for oral examination.
- hone oral skills of synthesis and dialogue in presentation and exams.
- reflect in writing and speech about the thesis process.
- experience scholarship as collaboration: work closely with a faculty advisor and peers on developing the project.
- define scholarship as process: work through the stages of a research project.

Senior Project Assessment

The department seeks well-written, persuasive essays that advance independent and original arguments about texts. Theses will be based on insightful close readings and deep engagement with relevant critical and background material. The creative thesis option is assayed for the imagination with which particular projects are conceived, control over the medium, inventive play with generic conventions, insight, clarity and beauty of expression, and the capacity for self-reflection as demonstrated in the critical foreword/afterword.

Students are assessed at various stages of the process, described below, both by individual advisors and department faculty as a whole. Final letter grades are decided upon by the full department in careful discussion and consideration of student performance at each stage. Students receive extensive written comments from first reader (faculty mentor) and second reader at the end of the process.

The faculty mentor provides feedback on the following elements prior to the student examination:

- Preliminary proposal
- 4-5 pages of preliminary draft
- Full draft
- Annotated bibliography

The faculty mentor and department assess the following dimensions of the project as a full group:

- Quality of Senior Essay
- Quality of Oral Examination
- Student Reflective Statement

Requirements for Honors

The department awards honors in English on the basis of performance in coursework within the Tri-College departments, the senior essay and the oral examination conducted at the end of the senior year. The department reserves honors and high honors for distinguished achievement in all three of these areas.

Creative Writing Concentration

Creative Writing courses at Haverford are open to all students. Only a handful of English majors per year, however, are accepted into the Creative Writing Concentration.

The Creative Writing Concentration entails:

- two courses in creative writing (only one of which is counted toward the major).

- writing a senior thesis composed of an original creative text (usually poetry, fiction or drama) and a rigorous critical introduction.

Admission to the Concentration:

- Students interested in completing a Creative Writing Concentration must: 1) have taken or be in the process of taking **two** college creative writing courses by the spring of their junior year. 2) apply for acceptance to the Concentration by submitting a portfolio of creative work to the Director of Creative Writing in March of junior year.
- Each portfolio is read closely by the departmental concentration committee.
- Admission depends on the number of applicants and the committee's assessment of whether the work demonstrates a readiness to generate a substantial literary project.

Concentrations and Interdisciplinary Minors

The English major shares a number of courses with concentrations and minors including Gender and Sexuality Studies, Visual Studies, African and Africana Studies, Peace, Justice and Human Rights, as well as interdisciplinary majors including comparative literature. Students are encouraged to consider exploring these and other cognate areas in relation to the major.

Study Abroad

Students who major in English often study abroad during their junior year. The department urges students choosing between the fall and spring semester abroad to opt for the spring. A small number of majors also study abroad for the full junior year.

Prizes

The department awards up to four prizes annually:

The Terry M. Krieger '69 Memorial Prize:

Established by members of his family for the graduating senior demonstrating the greatest achievement in writing during the junior and senior years, to be chosen by the English department.

Newton Prize in English Literature:

A prize established by A. Edward Newton may be awarded annually on the basis of departmental honors in English, provided that the work of the leading candidate, in the judgment of the English department, merits this award.

William Ellis Scull Prize:

A prize established in 1929 by William Ellis Scull, Class of 1883, is awarded annually to the junior or

senior who has shown the greatest achievement in voice and in the articulation of the English language.

Ian Walker Prize:

A prize established in 2002, by friends, family and classmates as a memorial to honor Ian Walker, class of 1950. This prize is awarded to either a junior or senior English major.

Affiliated Faculty

Danielle Allor

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Kimberly Benston

The Francis B. Gummere Professor of English

Thomas Devaney

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Stephen Finley

Professor of English

Elizabeth Kim

Assistant Professor of English

Joshua Kopin

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Laura McGrane

Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives; Associate Professor of English

Maud McInerney

The Laurie Ann Levin Professor of Comparative Literature; Professor of English; Chair of Comparative Literature

Alexander Millen

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Rajeswari Mohan

Associate Professor of English

Matthew O'Hare

Visiting Assistant Professor of Visual Studies and Digital Media Fellow

Lindsay Reckson

Associate Professor and Chair of English

Debora Sherman

Assistant Professor of English; Director of Writing Program

Asali Solomon

Bertrand K. Wilbur Endowed Chair in the Humanities; Professor of English; Director of Creative Writing

Gustavus Stadler

The William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor; Professor of English; Director of HCAH

Courses

ENGL H101 THEORIES OF THE NOVEL (1.0 Credit)

Laura McGrane

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course introduces students to the genre of the novel in English with a focus on desire, loss, and literary form. In order to ask the questions, 'Why and how do we read novels? What does this experience enable?' we will interrogate theories of the novel, its early formation and contemporary forms. We will also consider changing cultural representations of subjectivity, nation, race, gender, and ways of reading. How is the reader variously constructed as witness to (and participant in) desire and its demise? How do developments in narrative voice influence the idea of fiction as a didactic, pleasurable, speculative and/or imaginative space? What is the novel's role in effecting social change across centuries and geographies? Open to majors and non-majors—no prerequisites. Limit: 20 students.

ENGL H111 INTRODUCTION TO POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Rajeswari Mohan

Division: Humanities

An introductory survey of English literature from regions that used to be part of the British Empire, focusing on topics such as the representation of first contact, the influence of western education and the English language, the effects of colonial violence, displacement, migration, and exile. Also considered will be the specific aesthetic strategies that have come to be associated with this body of literature.

ENGL H112 THEORIES OF THE REMIX (1.0 Credit)

Lindsay Reckson

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course introduces students to the study of literature through the art of borrowing, sampling, recycling, and remixing. Approaching the remix as a creative/critical practice rather than a fixed genre, we'll read texts that foreground modes of cultural theft, refuse originality and authenticity as such, and mobilize the remix as an important source of knowledge production.
(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H113 PLAYING IN THE DARK: FREEDOM, SLAVERY & THE HAUNTING OF US LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Gustavus Stadler

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

According to Toni Morrison, the relentless valorization of freedom in a nation built upon the enslavement of people of African descent created a literature full of ghosts and other spectral presences. This course looks at how horror, the Gothic, and the supernatural structure U. S. narrative (mostly) fiction's engagement with race and history, focusing on how literature disorients our understanding of the "real" when that supposed real conceals histories of violence, terror, revenge, and subversion.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H118 THE WESTERN DRAMATIC TRADITION (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An investigation of Western drama through close study of major representative plays. Evolving notions of the dramatic event, from classical to modern and "post-modern" theaters, will be examined in relation to developing ideas of heroism, destiny, social structure, linguistic power, and theatricality itself. Emphasis will be placed on both thematic and structural problems of "play" and on the relation of the text to consequences of performance (e.g., acting, stagecraft, and audience response).

ENGL H122 PLACE AND DISPLACEMENT (1.0 Credit)

Stephen Finley

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

New 100-level course that will look carefully at what it is to be located in a particular place, environment, or cultural condition (both grounding and constraining), from which one is exiled, either from choice, necessity, or (violent) coercion. What is the end result of leaving or losing home upon the human person and the narrative of the displaced life that follows? Diverse readings from Gosse, Joyce,

James, Levi, Baldwin, Eire, Harjo, Wilkerson, Gornick, and Lahiri. Pre-requisite(s): none

ENGL H201 CHAUCER: CANTERBURY TALES (1.0 Credit)

Danielle Allor

Division: Humanities

Course devoted to close reading of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*; secondary readings include critical approaches and brief excerpts from other medieval sources.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H205 LEGENDS OF ARTHUR (1.0 Credit)

Maud McInerney

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An exploration of the Arthurian legend, from its earliest versions to most recent retellings. The tradition of Arthurian tales is complex and various, combining Celtic and Christian mythologies. Sometimes called the "matter of Britain" the Arthurian narrative has been critical in establishing national and ethnic identities ever since the Middle Ages. Medieval notions of chivalry and courtly love also raise fascinating questions about the conflict between personal and private morality, and about the construction of both identity and gender.

ENGL H212 THE BIBLE AND LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Stephen Finley

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A study of the Bible and its diverse genres, including legendary history, law, chronicle, psalm, love-song and dirge, prophecy, gospel, epistle, and eschatology. This study is accompanied by an extremely various collection of literary material, drawn from traditional and contemporary sources, and from several languages (including Hebrew), in order to illustrate the continued life of Biblical narrative and poetry.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H225 SHAKESPEARE: THE TRAGIC AND BEYOND (1.0 Credit)

Kimberly Benston

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An "introductory emphasis" study of the major tragedies and related histories, comedies, and romances, with special reference to the evolution of dramatic form, poetic style, characterization, and ideology as they are shaped by Shakespeare's persistent experimentation with dramas of extravagant will, desire, tyranny, skepticism, and death. Particular attention will be paid to key scenes

in an effort to assess both Shakespeare's response to contemporary literary and cultural concerns and the internal reformation of his own craft. Prerequisite(s): First Year Writing

ENGL H226 DISABILITY AND LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Danielle Allor

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

How are bodies and minds depicted as "normal" or "abnormal"? This course will address how bodily differences and impairments are given social meaning as disability, and how these disabilities are portrayed in literary genres including scripture, hagiography, poetry, drama, novels, short stories, and memoir. We study these depictions from the perspective of disability studies, a discipline that seeks to understand the cultural meanings and material realities of disability with respect to systems of oppression. Pre-requisite(s): Completion of the Writing Requirement

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H230 POETICS OF ABOLITION (1.0 Credit)

Lindsay Reckson

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course explores the role of poetry and other forms of creative expression in the history of prison abolition and related social justice movements. Focusing on incarcerated writers and artists who theorize life worlds in and beyond racial capitalism and the carceral state, the course approaches art-making as a practice of imagining abolitionist futures. Pre-requisite(s): First year writing seminar

Lottery Preference: English majors and PJHR concentrators.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H232 THE GRAPHIC NOVEL: NARRATIVES IN LONG-FORM COMICS (1.0 Credit)

Elizabeth Kim

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course will explore narrative representation in the comics medium, particularly the way graphic narratives accommodate multiple literary genres such as fiction, fantasy, memoir, biography, and history. By examining the interplay between image and text in graphic novels, it will consider the aesthetics and politics of visual literacy and multi-modality in relation to representations of history, memory, cultural difference, mental illness, gender, sexuality, political struggle, and trauma.

ENGL H238 CREATIVE WRITING: NONFICTION (1.0 Credit)

Thomas Devaney

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Creative Expression

In this workshop-centered class, students will learn to generate and revise works of prose nonfiction such as memoir, long-form reporting, intellectual essays and reviews.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H243 THE PLANETARY PREMODERN (1.0 Credit)

Danielle Allor

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course will explore how poets, philosophers, and early scientists imagined the planet from antiquity to the early modern period. We will investigate medieval and early modern representations of the planet Earth, from descriptions of the natural world to representations of the planet in space. We will examine these works from the perspectives of the fields of literary studies, environmental humanities, animal and plant studies, and history of science. Pre-requisite(s): Completion of the Writing Requirement

Lottery Preference: English and Environmental Studies majors

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H245 PERFORMANCE, LITERATURE AND THE ARCHIVE (1.0 Credit)

Lindsay Reckson

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

The 'archive,' as both an institutional and performance practice and a theoretical concept, has been one of the most studied sites in performance and literary studies. The hegemonic, patriarchal institution of the archive that constructs and perpetuates the canon and the master narratives of history while, marginalizing, silencing, and erasing the subaltern and the subcultural has been contested by the poststructuralist philosophers and critical theorists of the late 20th and early 21st century. A new concept of the archive transpired in the interdisciplinary fields of postcolonial, gender, cultural, and performance studies, one that is more utopian and more inclusive and is not limited by dominant repressive power structures and ideologies. This archive does not merely revisit the past to excavate the eradicated traces and silenced voices, but also, perhaps more importantly, opens the potential for a formerly unimaginable, and yet-to-be-imagined future.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H249 INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)*Elizabeth Kim***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course will explore the diversity of Asian American experience by studying a selection of foundational and emerging works by Asian American writers. Assigned readings of various literary genres will address themes such as immigration, generational conflict, racism, assimilation, difference, and political struggle. Key lines of inquiry include: What does Asian American identity, culture, and aesthetic look like? How do writers represent them? What does the racial and literary category "Asian American" constitute? Crosslisted: ENGL. Pre-requisite(s): None
(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H252 ROMANTIC POETRY & CRITICISM (1.0 Credit)*Stephen Finley***Division:** Humanities

A reading of Blake, Wordsworth, Shelley, and Keats, with attention to early/late works and to the interfiliation of theory and poetry.

ENGL H253 ENGLISH POETRY FROM TENNYSON TO ELIOT (1.0 Credit)*Stephen Finley***Division:** Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
A study of Tennyson, Christina Rossetti, Browning, Hopkins, Hardy, Owen, and Eliot, from "In Memoriam" (1850) to "Little Gidding" (1942). Poetry will be approached via the visual arts.
(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H254 ROMANTICISM AND THE NOVEL (1.0 Credit)*Stephen Finley***Division:** Humanities

The course begins with a sampling of Romantic poetry (Coleridge, Byron, Keats) and then proceeds to study Gothic fiction (Zastrozzi, Frankenstein), Hogg's Confessions of a Justified Sinner, and the novels of Austen (Sense and Sensibility), the Brontes (Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre), and Dickens (Oliver Twist).

ENGL H258 DESIRE AND DOMESTIC FICTION: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NOVEL IN THE 19TH C. (1.0 Credit)*Debora Sherman***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course is designed as an introduction to the novel and to narrative theory in a trajectory loosely inscribed from the late 18th to the mid-19th century, beginning with Richardson's Pamela and culminating in George Eliot's extraordinary and exemplary Middlemarch. These several novels propose both an epistemology—what we know—as well as an affective sensibility, or a structure of feeling, and we might question their purpose: to amuse, to entertain, certainly, but to educate, to compel, to convince us of a certain understanding of the world. As well, the course will look at the purchase of contemporary critical investments upon the act of reading itself or how reading is inflected through different models of critical and theoretical discourse: how narrative economies shape and determine the nature of our experience or what we can know of our experience; how narrative determines a subject "self" and how these selves are then transected by race, gender, class, and other social and political determinants; how narratives manage the less obvious and sublimated worlds of desire and the body's disruptions; how narratives negotiate the grotesque, the spectacular, and the sensational; and finally, how these variously constituted needs and desires become constructions of "textual knowledge".

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H260 TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE: COMICS AND OTHER GRAPHIC NARRATIVE (1.0 Credit)*Joshua Kopin***Division:** Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Enrollment Limit: 30
(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H265 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE: SATIRE IN THE BLACK TRADITION (1.0 Credit)*Asali Solomon***Division:** Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World
This course is an exploration of African American satire, focusing on fiction. While continually developing and refining our definition of satire, we will situate satire by black artists in a broader American tradition.
(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H267 GLOBAL SF SINCE 1945 (1.0 Credit)*Maud McNerney***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

SF—science fiction, speculative fiction—is the primary allegorical mode of the contemporary world and permits reflections upon and critiques of the world we inhabit today. This course explores the explosion of the genre in the decades since the WWII and the advent of atomic weapons. We will read classics of post-apocalyptic fiction from the '50s and '60s before turning to stories that engage queer identities, Afrofuturism and African Futurism, and the global threat of climate change. Crosslisted: ENGL. Pre-requisite(s): None Lottery Preference: Reserve 10 spaces for First Year Students

ENGL H272 TOPICS IN IRISH LITERATURE: JOYCE/BECKETT (1.0 Credit)

Debora Sherman

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Looks at the work of these two major figures as epitomizing an Irish rhetoric in post-colonial reading which “enacts a movement that begins in aphasia and ends in eloquence” [Seamus Deane], in this case in a comprehensive reading of Joyce in the most prolix of texts, *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*, and Beckett, where texts seemingly court in silence their own undoing.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H273 MODERN BRITISH LITERATURE: MIXING MEMORY AND DESIRE (1.0 Credit)

Alexander Millen

Division: Humanities

An exploration of literary modernism in Britain through analysis of fiction, criticism, and aesthetic manifestos in their historical contexts.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H274 MODERN IRISH LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Debora Sherman

Division: Humanities

Irish literature from Swift to Seamus Heaney, with attention to language as a “fissured terrain” (Eagleton) that reflects the complex geographic violence, political history, and cultural conditions of an often-contested national literature, colonial and post-colonial.

ENGL H275 BRITISH IMMIGRANT WRITING (1.0 Credit)

Alexander Millen

Division: Humanities

The starting premise of this course is that the English language and its literary traditions hybridize into rich and strange forms when thrown into contact with regional cultures, myths, and aesthetic practices in the many parts of the world that were once British colonies. This course will trace the English literary

tradition in South Asia beginning with responses to the colonial encounter, moving on to the role played by literature during decolonization, and ending with the ways poetry, novels, and plays engage the challenges of nationalism and, more recently, globalization. Writers we read will include Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Rokeya Hossain, Michael Ondaatje, Lalithambika Antherjanam, Nessim Ezekiel, Kamila Shamsie, and Amitav Ghosh.
(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H277 POSTCOLONIAL WOMEN WRITERS (1.0 Credit)

Rajeswari Mohan

Division: Humanities

This course will focus on contemporary writings by women from a range of postcolonial societies, and examine the ways they intervene in, energize, and complicate the aesthetic and political discourses that shape the norms and hierarchies pertaining to gender and sexuality. In particular, we will explore the ways writers use diverse narrative traditions such as folklore, fable, historiography, and memoir--as well as, more recently, digital writing styles--to give voice to their particular historical, cultural, and political perspectives. We will also trace the play of irony, parody, and mimicry as writers figure their ambivalent positions as women, especially around issues of modernity, immigration, sexuality, religion, nationalism, globalization, development, and neoliberalism.

ENGL H278 CONTEMPORARY WOMEN WRITERS (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Readings in novels, short fiction, poetry, and some non-fictional prose by contemporary women writers. A study of the interrelations between literature written by female authors and the questions, concerns, and debates that characterize contemporary feminist theory. Readings in Moore, Jordan, Gaitskill, Barry, Rankine, Parks, Ng, Morrison, etc.

ENGL H291 CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY I (1.0 Credit)

Elizabeth Kim

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Creative Expression

This is a creative writing workshop on poetry. Student work is the focus along with the analysis of a wide variety of poems and poets. Weekly writing prompts will encourage students to widen their scope and develop their craft. Each week students will write poems that respond to other poems and some of the principal genres of poetry. Students will

be asked to respond to the works of classmates. A final portfolio of revised poems (10 to 12 pages) is required.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H292 CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY II (1.0 Credit)

Thomas Devaney

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Creative Expression

English 292 is an advanced creative writing workshop. The workshop involves both reading and writing poetry. Students will have the opportunity to expand their repertoire by modeling their pieces on the work of various poets including: Susan Howe, Morgan Parker, M.S. Merwin, and Ocean Vuong. We will analyze and investigate issues of form related to entire books and poetry collections. A final portfolio of revised work is required. Prerequisite(s): Writing sample required for consideration. Submit writing sample to Dept. of English in Woodside Cottage.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H293 CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION I (1.0 Credit)

Asali Solomon

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Creative Expression

This course is an introduction to the techniques and strategies of fiction writing, with particular emphasis on the short story. Weekly reading assignments will include both anthologized stories and student-generated ones.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H294 CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION II (1.0 Credit)

Asali Solomon

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Creative Expression

Students in the Advanced Fiction Workshop will not only continue to hone the basic elements of their fiction, including character development, dialogue, plot and prose style, but will focus much of their efforts on revision and the process of "finishing" a story. Prerequisite(s): One fiction writing course or instructor consent, and submission of writing sample to course professor

ENGL H296 CREATIVE WRITING: PLAYWRITING I (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Creative Expression

This course will introduce the craft of playwriting by with an interdisciplinary exploration of performance, design, and theatre in the generating of new work for the theatre. Coursework includes weekly writing assignments towards completing new play

drafts, reading playscripts and watching recorded performances that highlight elements of writing for the stage. Class sessions center the workshopping of written text both for short-term and committed play idea assignments, as well as the dissection of noteworthy contemporary plays. Pre-requisite(s): None Lottery Preference: Course roster will be set by professor using submission of writing samples.

ENGL H298 JUNIOR SEMINAR I (1.0 Credit)

Kimberly Benston, Lindsay Reckson

Division: Humanities

Junior seminar comprises of a two part sequence that, through class readings, discussion, and writing tutorials, engage students in a study of (1) a series of texts representing the range and diversity of the historical tradition in British and American literature, and (2) critical theory and practice as it has been influenced by hermeneutics, feminism, psychology, semiology, sociology, and the study of cultural representation, and as it reflects the methods of literary criticism. Prerequisite(s): Only open to English majors

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H298J JUNIOR SEMINAR I (0.5 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Junior seminar comprises of a two part sequence that, through class readings, discussion, and writing tutorials, engage students in a study of (1) a series of texts representing the range and diversity of the historical tradition in British and American literature, and (2) critical theory and practice as it has been influenced by hermeneutics, feminism, psychology, semiology, sociology, and the study of cultural representation, and as it reflects the methods of literary criticism.

(Offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

ENGL H299 JUNIOR SEMINAR II (1.0 Credit)

Kimberly Benston, Maud McInerney

Division: Humanities

Part II of the sequence focuses on narrative and its theorization and criticism. Readings include George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, stories by Henry James and Edgar Allan Poe, and James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Prerequisite(s): ENGL 298 or instructor consent

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H304 DREAMING THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE (1.0 Credit)

Danielle Allor

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course enters the imagined landscapes of the medieval period through one of its most popular genres: the dream vision. We'll explore visions of

strange forests, mystical gardens, glass temples, and jeweled cities; visions that offer potential for divine insight into the natural order of the universe but also possess surprising specificity in their plant, animal, and inanimate inhabitants. In addition to literary texts, we'll read selections from medieval natural philosophy and contemporary ecocritical theory. Lottery Preference: English majors by seniority

ENGL H305 THE PREMODERN LIFE OF TREES: INTERDISCIPLINARITY AND LITERARY STUDY OF THE PAST (1.0 Credit)

Danielle Allor

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course seeks to examine premodern literary representations of the natural world alongside historical, scientific, and experiential ways of understanding the environment. Our case study will be the figure of the tree. In collaboration with the Haverford College Arboretum, we will study literature from the premodern world that depicts trees, forests, and gardens while cultivating botanical, artistic, and historical knowledge about the trees of Haverford. Pre-requisite(s): One English course or ENV5 101, 202, or 203 Lottery Preference: English majors (**Offered:** Fall 2023)

ENGL H309 AGAINST DEATH: OPPOSING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE (1.0 Credit)

Lindsay Reckson

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

Advanced inquiry into creative and critical responses to the death penalty in the United States from the 1830s to the 1970s. Our aim is to explore the relationship between art and social protest, and to examine how capital punishment has manifested U.S. histories of race, class, gender, religion, and sexuality. Readings in primary historical materials, literary and cultural analysis, and critical theory. Pre-requisite(s): Freshman writing, plus one 200-level ENG course; or freshman writing plus PEAC101 or PEAC201. Crosslisted: ENGL and PEAC

ENGL H346 NEW(S) MEDIA, PRINT CULTURE: TECHNOLOGIES OF PRINT (1.0 Credit)

Laura McGrane

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course explores a century of critical response and creative media innovation (1670-1770) in relation to questions about form, materiality, circulation, authority, and embodiment across genres. What structures control systems of knowledge and creative production in eighteenth-

century Britain and how do these help us think about current incarnations of readership and form today? Our most ambitious texts will be Laurence Sterne's novel *Tristram Shandy*—a meditation on experimental fiction, mortality, history, and digression; and Anne Carson's experimental poem *Nox*. The course is part of the Philadelphia Area Creative Collaboratives initiative and will work closely with poet Anne Carson and Philadelphia theater group Lightning Rod Special. Some performance workshops and travel off campus will be required. Interdisciplinary students welcome. Crosslisted: English, Visual Studies Prerequisite(s): At least one 200-level ENGL course or instructor consent

ENGL H353 VICTORIAN POVERTY, ECOLOGY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH (1.0 Credit)

Stephen Finley

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course will be centered upon the homeless and working poor of the 1840s and 1850s as they are described in the literature and social documents of the period. We focus on the relationship between human destitution and environmental degradation. The course, often simply, is about sewers (or lack thereof) and sewage—about water, contamination, and epidemic disease.

ENGL H354 LITERATURE AND FILM OF THE GREAT WAR (1.0 Credit)

Stephen Finley

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course studies the responses of literature, music, and the visual arts (posters, photography and film) to the personal, historical, and spiritual catastrophe of the Great War, 1914-1918. Our theoretical center will be the study of the processes of traumatic memory and mourning.

ENGL H356 STUDIES IN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE (1.0 Credit)

Stephen Finley

Division: Humanities

Texts mostly 19th and 20th-c. American, but beginning earlier, with colonial New England; then Thoreau, Maclean, Snyder, Dillard, Least Heat Moon, Ammons, Mary Oliver, E. O. Wilson. Topics: cultural production of landscape (rural and urban), environmental history, place studies, landscape painting, ecology. Prerequisite(s): Two 200-level HU courses or instructor consent

ENGL H358 HISTORY AND/IN FICTION (1.0 Credit)

Alexander Millen

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H361 TOPICS IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIT (1.0 Credit)

Asali Solomon

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

For the past three centuries African American writers have mined the experience of chattel slavery in the cause of literal and artistic emancipation. Slave narratives, as well as poetry, essays and novels depicting slavery, constitute a literary universe so robust that the term subgenre does it injustice. In this work spanning the 18th-21st centuries, the reader will find pulse-quickenings plots, gruesome horror, tender sentiment, heroism, degradation, sexual violation and redemption, as well as resonant meditations on language and literacy, racial identity, power, psychology, democracy, freedom and the human character. This course is focused primarily on prose representations of slavery in the Americas. Our discussions will incorporate history, but will foreground literary and cultural analysis.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H362 TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE: WRITING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE (1.0 Credit)

Gustavus Stadler

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A seminar on the literary portrait, examining mostly non-fiction by Anglo-American and African American writers from the late 19th century to the present. Topics include the erotics of portraiture, portraiture and the archive, portraiture and personal/historical trauma, collective portraiture, satire/critique, data portraits, modernist/post-modernist portraiture.

We'll frequently refer to visual forms of portraiture, including painting, photography, video art, and cinema. Regular writing assignments will include our own experiments in writing about others.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H363 TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course investigates representations of racial struggles for liberation in 19- and 20-century U.S. American and African American crime literature. It will introduce students to a range of crime fiction texts, including gothic literature, slave narratives, naturalist and modernist novels, hard-boiled detective literature, film noir, black pulp literature, prison literature, street fiction, and postmodern fiction. A central concern of this course is the relationship between popular cultural forms and

radical political thought. Prerequisite(s): two 200-level English courses or instructor consent

ENGL H366 TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE: ASIAN AMERICAN HYBRIDITY (1.0 Credit)

Elizabeth Kim

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ENGL H371 SOUND STUDIES: MODERNITY AND SYNTHESIS (1.0 Credit)

Matthew O'Hare

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

The 20th century marks a time of rapid transformation in Anglo-American ideas about sound, music, listening, and communication. Technologies that electronically store, transmit, and generate sonic information have caused a fundamental shift in how and why we listen. In this course we will immerse ourselves in the technologies and ideas that continue to shape our ongoing relationship with the auditory and each other. Students will compose new works for electronic hardware systems while investigating related topics in sound and critical listening. We will learn the basics of modular synthesis and gain inspiration from some of the foremost thinkers on the subject of the auditory. No prior experience with music-making is necessary, but students should be prepared to perform and show work on a regular basis. Prerequisite(s): Two 200-level English courses or instructor consent

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ENGL H373 TOPICS IN BRITISH LITERATURE: MODERNIST NARRATIVES (1.0 Credit)

Rajeswari Mohan

Division: Humanities

A study of the historical, aesthetic, and epistemological implications of literary modernism in Britain. The course explores narrative strategies writers such as Conrad, Ford, Joyce, Woolf, Bowen, West, Rhys, and Durrell devised to bring coherence and resolution to the experience of crisis and fragmentation associated with modernity.

ENGL H376 LITERATURE AND POLITICS OF SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID (1.0 Credit)

Laura McGrane

Division: Humanities

This course explores the history and historiography of South African apartheid from its inception in 1948 to its democratic overthrow in 1994. We will consider the interplay between complex definitions of race, gender, nation and difference in novels, plays, and poetry written during the apartheid years. We will also discuss the tension between an ethics and aesthetics of literary production in a time of political

oppression. What would it mean for one to write an apolitical text in a cultural space rife with racial and social tensions? Authors will include Nadine Gordimer, Alan Paton, J.M.Coetzee, Bessie Head, and Alex La Guma. Crosslisted with Africana Studies. (**Offered:** Fall 2023)

ENGL H377 PROBLEMS IN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE: VIOLENCE, TERROR, AND IDENTITY (1.0 Credit)

Rajeswari Mohan

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

An examination of the rhetorical and narrative strategies adopted by postcolonial texts as they negotiate the aesthetic challenges and political complexities of representing violence and terror. Working with fiction, nonfiction, and film, the course will measure the different effects of realism, magical realism, surrealism, and the grotesque as modes of representing the dialectic of violation and violence. Crosslisted: English, Comparative Literature
Prerequisite(s): Two 200-level English courses or instructor consent

ENGL H389 INTERPRETING LYRIC POETRY: LOVE, LOSS, TRANSCENDENCE (1.0 Credit)

Kimberly Benston

Division: Humanities

An examination of theoretical issues and presentational strategies in verse structures from Ovid to Bishop. Through close readings of strategically grouped texts, we explore the interplay of convention and innovation, attending to themes of desire, loss, and transcendence, and to recurrent lyric figures (e.g., in Narcissus, Orphic, and Ulysses poems; in the dramatic monologue; in the sonnet and elegy; in the sublime; in vernacular traditions and their literary revisions). Issues for study include: allusion and intertextuality; convention and cliché; invention and revision; origination and self-presentation. Practical criticism will lead to theoretical analyses of interpretive modes and the interpreter's stance. Crosslisted: English, Comparative Literature
Prerequisite(s): Two 200-level English courses or instructor consent

ENGL H399B SENIOR CONFERENCE (1.0 Credit)

Asali Solomon, Elizabeth Kim, Gustavus Stadler, Kimberly Benston, Laura McGrane, Lindsay Reckson

Division: Humanities

Students work closely with a faculty consultant over the course of their senior year in the research and writing of a 25-30 page essay or a piece of creative writing accompanied by a critical preface (for the creative writing concentration). The course

culminates in an hour-long oral examination that covers the thesis and coursework done for the major.
Prerequisite(s): Limited to senior English majors only
(**Offered:** Spring 2024)

ENGL H399F SENIOR CONFERENCE (0.5 Credit)

Asali Solomon, Elizabeth Kim, Gustavus Stadler, Kimberly Benston, Laura McGrane, Lindsay Reckson, Staff

Division: Humanities

Senior Thesis work with advisor. Prerequisite(s):

Limited to senior English majors

(**Offered:** Fall 2023)