

Fall 2021 Literature Course Descriptions

ENGL 2130: Diversity in YA Fantasy (CRN: 31029)

Dr. Rosalyn Eves

MWF 1:00-1:50

Fantasy, including YA fantasy, has often been the province of white male authors exploring white (often male) characters in pseudo-European settings. In recent years, YA fantasy has seen an explosion of fantasy exploring imaginative worlds that foreground diverse cultures, genders, religions, and sexuality. This course would explore some of those recent works, looking at the way real-world diversity issues are reimagined for fantastic worlds, as well as exploring multiple sub-genres of fantasy, including magical realism, folklore, historical fantasy, retellings, science fantasy, high fantasy, and urban fantasy.

ENGL 2200: Literature & Culture: Love and War (CRN: 31030)

Dr. Julia Combs

TR 10:00-11:15

All's fair in love and war. Or is it? It is surprising how the themes intertwine and diverge. This course will use John Lyle's euphemism "The rules of fair play do not apply in love and war" as a beginning context for class readings and discussions. In the context of cultural and historical events, students will read and respond to literature about war and love. During the semester, students will write weekly responses to the readings and class discussions on a class PADLET. By the end of the semester, students will write their own euphemism or Six Word Essay, as well as a critical essay on an approved topic addressing the complexities surrounding war or love.

ENGL 2400: Introduction to Literary Studies (CRN: 31032)

Dr. Jessica Tvordi

MWF 10:00-10:50

An introduction to the study of literature for the English major, which emphasizes the analysis of literature in all genres (poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction), understanding literary terminology as it applies to the textual studies, the development of analytical and interpretive skills through close reading and writing, and an introduction to the principles of documentation and research.

ENGL 2700: Introduction to Critical Theory (CRN: 31034)

Dr. Nicole Dib

MWF 3:00-3:50

An introductory course in the reading and application of literary theory, which provides a survey of major critical methodological approaches.

ENGL 3210: American Literature I (CRN: 31043)

Dr. Julie McCown

MWF 12:00-12:50

A study of American literature from its beginnings up to the American Civil War. Readings will include both canonical and non-canonical works.

ENGL 3220: American Literature III (CRN: 31044)

Dr. Nicole Dib

MWF 1:00-1:50

A study of American literature from World War II up to the present. Readings will include both canonical and non-canonical works.

ENGL 3235: British Literature II (CRN: 31047)

Dr. Jessica Tvordi

TR 11:30-12:45

A study of British literature from the Jacobean through the Romantic era. Readings will include both canonical and non-canonical works.

ENGL 3270: World Literature: Heroes & Anti-Heroes (CRN: 31050)

Dr. Nozomi Irei

TR 8:30-9:45

A variable topics study of non-Western literatures, which may include African, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Middle Eastern, Aztec and other texts in translation, with significant emphases on one of these literatures.

This course will highlight texts from a variety of time periods and national traditions to explore how the concept of the “hero” may differ greatly, depending on the literary world in which that hero “lives.” Before we can begin thinking about any development of the hero in literature or even the concept of the modern-day hero, we will investigate how the context(s) for determining a hero is crucial. This will ensure that our own personal values are not inadvertently imposed onto literary texts and interpretations of them. Our comparison of different texts will be grounded in specific contexts that will keep our investigation consistent in how we determine a hero, such as the space in which the hero moves or the relationship with others and his/her environment. Some questions: Does a hero have to be a warrior? How might a literary figure “save the day” in a world where it is impossible to act as a warrior or even go on a “hero’s journey” (does a personal journey count?)? What might be implied in the prevalence of “anti-heroes” in modern/post-modern literature? In addition, we will also study how women, even in patriarchal worlds, might emerge as heroes—not in how closely they

replicate the standards of male heroes but in how they act (rather than react) within their literary world. We will also take up one of the fore-runners of *anime* to investigate how modern techno-science may modulate the concept of the hero (e.g., who is the “hero” in a scientist or boy-robot pair?).

Some texts we will read/view may include the following: *Gilgamesh*, Sophocles’ *Antigone*, Kalidasa’s *Shakuntala*, *Sunjata*, Brecht’s *Mother Courage*, Zeami’s *Atsumori*, Kurosawa’s *Ran* (adaptation of Shakespeare’s *King Lear*), Pasternak’s *Doctor Zhivago*, Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North*, Mishima’s *Patriotism*, Endo’s *Deep River*, Tomino’s *Mobile Suit Gundam* (and/or Fujiko’s *Doraemon* or Tezuka’s *Astro Boy*, a.k.a., *Atom*).

ENGL 4110: Lit. Genres: Nature Writing (CRN: 31057)

Dr. Julie McCown

MWF 1:00-1:50

What is nature? How do humans understand nature and their place within it? Nature writing attempts to answer these questions; it is a broad genre that encompasses both fiction and non-fiction, prose and poetry, literary and scientific writing. Although the traditional canon of nature writers skews white, male, and American, the genre of nature writing encompasses myriad voices and experiences across genders, races, ethnicities, and nationalities. In this course, we will read both canonical nature writing texts (think Henry David Thoreau and John Muir) as well as nature writing that expands the scope, focus, and perspectives of the genre. Assignments will include discussion questions, informal response papers, literary analysis and research essays, and an extended essay or project.

Required Text: *The Norton Book of Nature Writing*, College Edition

Other possible texts may include:

Ursula Le Guin, *The Word for World is Forest*; Susanne Antonetta, *Body Toxic: An Environmental Memoir*; J. Drew Lanham, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*; Louise Erdrich, *Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country: Traveling Through the Land of My Ancestors*

ENGL 4310: Major Authors: Dostoevsky & the Brontës (CRN: 31062)

Dr. Nozomi Irei

TR 2:30-3:45

This course will offer an opportunity to study the works of Dostoevsky, Emily Brontë, Charlotte Brontë, and Anne Brontë. Seemingly different in many ways, the writings of Dostoevsky and the Brontës share a passionate affirmation of life that resists simple thematizing into convenient categories based on nationality, gender, historical time periods, religious backgrounds, politics, and social class. Indeed, Georges Bataille, saying, “Literature is communication,” includes Emily Brontë in his analysis of writers who demonstrate an “intense desire” to communicate. We will explore how

this passion overflows through all conventional categories to coalesce into singular literary creations that each writer's rigorous control of the narrative makes possible—which we sense almost intuitively, whether it is in the “forbidden love” between Catherine and Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights* or in Dimitry's desperate cry against his father, “Why should such a man live?” in *Brothers Karamazov*. In addition to the novels, we will also read the poetry of the Brontës. This will offer a way to investigate how poetry allowed the Brontës to communicate, in a different way, what may also be sensed in their novels. Supplementary readings will include letters and diaries of Dostoevsky and the Brontës, which will offer valuable insight into their writing processes. Some literary works we will consider include the following: Dostoevsky's *Brother Karamazov*, *The Possessed*; Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*; Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*; and Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell's *Poems* (the sisters' book of poetry published under pseudonyms).

ENGL 4320: Shakespeare (CRN: 31063)

Dr. Jessica Tvordi

TR 8:30-9:45

An analysis of Shakespeare's contribution to Elizabethan and Jacobean drama.

ENGL 4510: Topics in Lit.: Literary Monsters (CRN: 31064)

Dr. Kyle Bishop

MWF 10:00-10:50

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* represent the two most foundational monsters myths of the modern era. In this special topics seminar, students will perform academically rigorous “deep dives” into these two world-changing novels, performing critical close readings, historical contextualization and analysis, explorations of the existing academic discourse, and just some of the vast body of existing adaptations and paratexts. One semester; two novels; one unforgettable experience.