

Spring 2021 Literature Course Descriptions

ENGL 2210: Hip-Hop Queens (Folk & Oral Traditions)

Dr. Julie McCown

TR 1:00-2:15 (Face-to-face)

Female rap and hip-hop music represents a unique lyrical tradition, one that is inherently empowering and transgressive. It pushes back against misogynistic trends in hip-hop music and carves out a distinct presence in an American literary tradition that frequently glosses over or appropriates the experiences, voices, and bodies of black women. Over the course of the semester we will listen to and analyze music by artists including: Lauryn Hill, Queen Latifah, Missy Elliott, Beyoncé, Janelle Monáe, Lizzo, Sa-Roc, Nicki Minaj, and Cardi B. We will also consider how their music is situated within broader traditions in African American literature including black women's poetry. Required Texts: Kathy Iandoli, *God Save the Queens: The Essential History of Women in Hip-Hop*; Joan Morgan, *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost: A Hip-Hop Feminist Breaks It Down*.

ENGL 2230: Mythology

Dr. Lisa Arter

MWF 10:00-10:50 (Face-to-face)

Enter the worlds of deities and mortals, heroes and monsters, life and the afterlife, as we explore stories from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas to determine the beginning and end of it all, and what we should do in the middle. (Re)discover the intricacies of Greek mythology before exploring the ways in which dozens of cultures explained key aspects of life and death, and, ultimately, what it means to be human.

ENGL 2400: Introduction to Literary Studies

Dr. Ryan Siemers

MWF 9:00-9:50 (Synchronous remote)

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

Dr. Julie McCown

TR 11:30-12:45 (Face-to-face)

This course is designed to introduce English majors and potential majors to critical theory and how it can be applied to the study of literature. In this course we will study several influential schools of critical theory, learning how they developed in response to each other. We will also study recently published work in critical theory and theory-oriented literary criticism to give you a

sense of how scholars and theorists are using critical theory today. You will practice applying the various critical theories to primary texts, both in class discussion and by writing papers. You will also learn to identify and employ the discursive conventions of literary scholarship as you practice reading challenging critical texts and doing research for your final paper, which requires entering into an ongoing conversation in the field. After completing this course, students will find their reading experience enriched by having learned the strategies for reading, thinking, and writing that make English Studies not a book club, but a profession.

ENGL 3215: American Literature II

Dr. Kyle Bishop

MWF 11:00-11:50 (Face-to-face)

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

ENGL 3230: British Literature I

Dr. Nozomi Irei

MWF 1:00-1:50 (Synchronous remote)

A study of British literature from its beginnings through the Elizabethan Era. Readings will include both canonical and non-canonical works. This course will offer an introductory survey of British Literature from ca. 600 to the 1600s, highlighting a selection of major works from various genres and traditions. We will consider the literary texts' specific contexts and the differences within even seemingly similar traditions, e.g. literary, cultural, religious, political, and historical. Works we may consider: "The Dream of the Rood," *Beowulf*, *Piers Plowman*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, York mystery play, *The Faerie Queene*, *Volpone*, *King Lear*, Middle English lyrics, and poems by Skelton, Southwell, Wyatt, Sidney, Donne, Crashaw, Herrick, Marvell, among others.

ENGL 3240: British Literature III

Dr. Ryan Siemers

MWF 10:00-10:50 (Synchronous remote)

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

ENGL 3260: Continental European Literature: Narrative Techniques & Innovations

Dr. Nozomi Irei

MWF 2:00-2:50 (Synchronous remote)

A variable-topics study of canonical works of continental European literature in translation. May be repeated once with a different topic. This semester, we will study a variety of narrative traditions, developments, and innovations to explore the rich foundation that comprises modern literary studies. We will study different narrative forms (e.g., epic, romance, tales, novels, etc.,)

to consider how each *tells* a story. Students will have the opportunity to investigate how the "representation of reality" in literature develops and also becomes challenged. Works we may consider: Homer's *Odyssey*, Boccaccio's *Decameron*, *Nibelungenlied*, Gottfried von Strassburg's *Tristan*, *Lazarillo de Tormes*, Rabelais' *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, Dostoevsky's "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man," Kafka's "Investigations of a Dog," Gogol's "The Overcoat," Duras' *The Malady of Death*, Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, among others.

ENGL 4210: The Victorian Era

Dr. Bryce Christensen

MWF 9:00-9:50 (Face-to-face)

An in-depth look at the approximately 70 years during which the novel grew to maturity (Dickens, Eliot, Thackeray, Trollope, et al.), poetry flourished (Tennyson, both the Brownings, Swinburne, both the Rossettis, et al.), and non-fiction prose developed a potent new range (Carlyle, Newman, Huxley, Mill, Pater, et al.). The class will examine the impact on literature of major changes in political life (e.g., the Reform Act of 1832 the rise of British imperialism), in scientific thought (above all, Darwin), in education (mass education of the working class) and in global economics (the Industrial Revolution and the repeal of the Corn Laws).

ENGL 4310: Du Fu & Li Bai

Dr. Bryce Christensen

MWF 8:00-8:50 (Face-to-face)

This course will focus on the works of the two greatest poets of the Chinese canon: Du Fu and Li Bai. We will be studying these two poets against the backdrop of the three cultural traditions that shaped them (Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism) and against the historical record of the period in which both lived (the high T'ang Dynasty). We will read a wide range of poems by both writers, frequently comparing competing translations. We will give particularly close attention to Du Fu's "Autumn Reflections," a poem frequently identified as the greatest of all Chinese poems.

ENGL 4510: Off the Road: Contemporary American Travel Narratives and Literary Mobilities

Dr. Nicole Dib

MWF 12:00-12:50 (Synchronous remote)

The histories of aggrieved communities in the United States can be traced through a series of immobilizations that are often inversely linked to mobility. The 1619 arrival of a ship that carried Africans to the British Colony of Virginia is one such example: a mode of travel that created one of the most long-lasting histories of immobilization in the form of slavery and its afterlife. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 inscribed in the law what had already been the genocidal practice of forcing Native Americans out of their land. In this course, we will examine the legacy of these and other historical and political immobilizations of marginalized groups. We will study fiction largely by American writers subversively appropriate journey narratives and travel literature motifs. Trips by car, motorcycle, canoe, and magical door are among the literary mobilities that

contemporary writers of different ethnic backgrounds employ in their critique of racialized injustices. Writers may include John Okada, Jesmyn Ward, Louise Erdrich, Linda Hogan, Helena María Viramontes, Mohsin Hamid, and Erika Lopez.

ENGL 4800: Literature Senior Capstone

Dr. Kyle Bishop

TR 10:00-11:15 (Face-to-face)

Only for seniors in the English Literature major. This course emphasizes mastering analytical skills and developing research proposals, abstract writing, research methodologies, and the writing of an annotated bibliography culminating in a capstone essay of original scholarly research. Students will also take the ETS major Field Test in English Literature to demonstrate their overall competency.