

English Department

Graduate Course Descriptions

Fall 2015

ENGL 500-01 (10666)

Aims and Methods

Engel, L.

MW 4:30-5:45

This course will introduce students to important aspects of graduate study in English. Topics to be covered will include: research strategies and methodologies, current theoretical trends in literary studies, advanced writing for diverse audiences, digital humanities and visual media, and an exploration of issues related to the state of the field of English studies and the value of studying the humanities to the world at large. In addition to completing a variety of written assignments and projects throughout the term, students will work towards creating a final project and presentation that reflects their own individual academic interests. The course is designed to be useful to entering graduate students in the literature track and the writing and digital media track.

ENGL 503-61 (13305)/ 603-61 (13306)

Chaucer

Wright, S.

W 6:00-8:40pm

For centuries Chaucer has been celebrated as the father of the English language. His contemporary Thomas Hoccleve called him the “first finder” of English, and John Lydgate later described him as the “lodestar... of our language.” In this course, we will read a selection of Chaucer’s oeuvre in Middle English, including *Troilus and Criseyda*, *The Legend of Good Women*, and *The Canterbury Tales*. We will also consider Chaucer’s place in an authorial tradition by examining his literary sources and successors (including Virgil’s *Aeneid*, Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, and Shakespeare’s *The Two Noble Kinsmen*). In so doing, we will answer the following questions: Whom does Chaucer memorialize in his texts and who memorializes him? How does he enter into dialogue with the poets and philosophers of his past, and how does he excite the imaginations of those of his future? How does he invent new texts out of old ones? And how does this process of invention represent a uniquely medieval notion of authorship?

ENGL 529-01 (13299)/629-01 (13300)

Rise of the Novel

Howard, S.

TH 6:00-8:40

Where did the novel form come from? How did it evolve? What needs did it satisfy in its 18 c.th readers? This course takes a chronological approach to the study of the English novel through the long 18 c., noting the various elements incorporated into the form from earlier literature (the romance, the spiritual autobiography, the travel narrative, the rogue biography, the spy narrative, the picaresque) as well as those elements which were unique to the new genre as it developed during this period. We will situate these novels in their social, political, religious, and economic contexts, and focus on the depictions within the novels of those cultural institutions that worked to shape the genre, as well as on the novel as vehicle for social change. We will read Defoe’s *Moll Flanders*, Richardson’s *Pamela*, Fielding’s *Shamela and Joseph Andrews*, Lennox’s *The Female Quixote*, Sterne’s *Sentimental Journey*, Burney’s *Evelina*, Radcliffe’s *Romance of the Forest*, Godwin’s *Caleb Williams*, Scott’s *Waverley*, Hogg’s *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, Opie’s *Adeline Mowbray*. Course Requirements: A seminar paper, a shorter paper, an oral presentation, active participation in class discussion each week, and a final exam.

ENGL 537-01 (13292)
Feature Writing
Fried, J.

T/TH 4:30-5:45pm

In this course we will study the art and craft of writing for magazines. To do so, students will: read different articles from various genres and types of magazines; study several of the various standard forms associated with types of publications (the feature, the profile, the review, the how-to piece, and so on); and try their own hand at writing, editing, and revising several of these forms. In doing so, students will practice the art of both writing *and* reporting, both crucial skills if one wants to successfully write for any kind of magazine, blog, or corporate website. While I often will evaluate work individually, we will spend a lot of time workshopping each other's writing in class as a group because the ability to make and absorb suggestions/criticisms is a reality of the editorial process. Time allowing, students will be asked to collaborate in groups to produce a modest, online publication as a final project. Outside editors will be brought in on several occasions to offer advice based on their expertise and to evaluate student work.

ENGL 552-01 (13297)/ 652-01 (13298)
British Modernism
Suh, J.

T 6:00-8:40pm

In this class, we will seek ways to connect highly original British modernist writing with some of the social upheavals of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Some of the overarching themes we will work with include: the "avant-garde" as a concept and practice; changing definitions of sexuality and gender; and the relationship between literary experimentation, popular culture, and new media. We will also spend time studying later, contemporary literary critics on the significant influence of modernism. The course will develop your critical facility with modernist texts as a reader and writer, and with this capacity, you will be able to assess modernism's cultural legacy in our context. Requirements include regular class participation, presentations, position papers, and essays.

ENGL 568-01 (13301)/ 668-01 (13302)
Feminist Theory
Kinnahan, L.

T/TH 4:30-5:45pm

This course will introduce students to significant developments in contemporary feminist theory within the context of an intellectual tradition of feminist thought and of various feminist methodologies. The course will begin with a brief historical survey of primarily Anglo-American feminist thought since the Enlightenment and trace various strains or traditions such as cultural, Marxist, Existential, Freudian, and radical feminisms. The early feminist texts will establish the historical and intellectual context within which second wave feminist theory has been produced during the past forty years. Although the course will focus on Anglo-American feminist theory (because of time and availability of texts), attention will also be given to French feminist theory since it has had a great impact on all feminist theory and attention to the recent surge of Postcolonial feminist theory will emphasize the complexity and plurality of feminist theorizing when placed in a more global perspective. Readings in *Third-wave Feminism* will end the course. Essays published during the last forty years will be organized around major issues in contemporary feminism. The class' exploration of feminist theory is intended to enhance the students' experience and skills of critical reading and writing about literature and other cultural products. Class meetings will be spent discussing critical/theoretical essays, seminar style, and will require active intellectual engagement and exchange among all participants.

ENGL 591-01 (10671)
Teaching College Writing
Stinnett, J.

TBA

New Teaching Fellows without experience as the primary instructor in a college-level writing course must take this 1.5-credit course, which will meet once a week. In ENG 591, Teaching Fellows who are currently being mentored in a UCOR 101 classroom will familiarize themselves with the basic theories about teaching college writing while also working on the basics of teaching: lesson planning, assignment design, learning outcomes assessment, and course design. Students enrolled in ENG 591 will write two short reflections and produce a syllabus and paper prompts for a UCOR 102 class.

ENGL 695-01 (13303)
Seminar: Ethnic American Literature by Women Writers
Michael, M.

M 6:00-8:40

This course will examine post-1960 American ethnic literature by women writers in terms of both its engagement of difficult issues such as gender, race, ethnicity, class, subjectivity, identity, American identity, immigration, colonialism, violence, religion—issues that are usually intertwined, that have dominated globally at the turn of the twenty-first century, and that have become increasingly visible to Americans—and the difficulties literature faces in engaging such issues in the wake of the questioning of representation and language that has characterized literature throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. Texts will be considered individually as well as in relation to their larger cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts. Final decisions on texts are pending, but readings will include fiction by writers such as Diana Abu-Jaber, Sandra Cisneros, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jhumpa Lahiri, Toni Morrison, and Leslie Marmon Silko as well as poetry by writers such as Lorna Dee Cervantes, Wendy Rose, Mohja Kahf, and Natasha Trethewey.

ENGL 700-01 (11675)
Thesis-English
Engel, L.

TBA

ENGL 701-01 (10794)
Dissertation- FT
Engel, L.

TBA

ENGL 703-01 (11972)
Expanded Research Paper
Engel, L.

TBA

ENGL 710-01 (10795)
Readings
Engel, L.

TBA