

English Department

Graduate Course Descriptions

Spring 2017

ENGL 519-61 (25218)

SPST: Spenser

St. Hilaire, D.

M 6:00-8:40

In a survey of American professors of English literature, participants were asked what work of literature they were most ashamed of never having read. The work that won this ignominious distinction was Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. To be sure, it is a daunting work: six books of densely-packed allegory written in a pseudo-archaic idiom. But it is also one of the strangest, wildest pieces of poetry our tradition has to offer. One part religious allegory, one part national epic, and three parts fantasy, *The Faerie Queene* is a thought experiment gone mad, joining a tale of knights and (sometimes cross-dressing) damsels with a world full of monsters, group sex, and one man made of iron wielding a giant flail. In this course, we'll be doing our part to move Spenser's epic—along with some of his shorter work—out of the “to read” pile and into a living discourse about nationhood, religion, gender, justice, and literary form.

ENGL 529-61/629-61 (25201/25202)

SPST: Queens

Engel, L.

R 6:00-8:40

This course looks in depth at the literary, artistic, and theatrical materials produced around the reigns of four British Queens of the long eighteenth century: Queen Anne, Queen Charlotte, Queen Caroline, and the early reign of Queen Victoria. Each of these female monarchs had enormous influence on the politics, culture, and aesthetic trends of her specific era. We will look closely at the ways in which Queens patronized the arts and professional female artists as well as how their public accessibility made them celebrities exposed to praise and ridicule. The course will highlight texts from a variety of genres across the period, focusing in particular on women writers and their representations of women in the public sphere. Texts will include plays by Susanna Centlivre, Mary Pix, and Delariviere Manley, the diaries and letters of Frances Burney and Hester Thrale Piozzi, poetry by Anna Seward, Hannah More, and Joanna Baillie, as well as novels by Jane Austen and Mary Robinson. In addition to these materials we will also be looking at periodicals, prints, caricatures, portraits, accessories, architecture, costume and other material artifacts related to these Queens, at times in relation to the visual and material culture of the courts of Marie Antoinette and Catherine the Great. Our investigations will be informed by current scholarship in literature, history, theater, and art history on eighteenth-century Queens as well as by feminist historical practices, feminist literary theory, material culture theory, performance theory, celebrity studies, and Queer theory.

ENGL 549-61 (25209)

SPST: 19C African American Fiction

T 6:00-8:40

Glass, K.

This course will examine nineteenth-century black fiction and consider the role it plays in constructing a national identity for African Americans. Other areas of interest will include the "key" elements of the African-American literary tradition and the sociohistorical contexts in which it emerged; intersections of race, class, and gender; and the dialogue between black literature and other forms of cultural production such as art and music. In this course, students will acquire a nuanced understanding of African-American creative expression and black critical/theoretical traditions.

ENGL 558-61/658-61 (25203/25204)

War in 20th Century British Literature

W 6:00-8:40

Suh, J.

The twentieth century in Britain was marked by two major world wars. In this course, we will study a range of literary works to explore how these wars played a pronounced role in creating, challenging, and dismantling its imperial culture. Some of the questions we'll be asking as we read and discuss include the following: How has war defined modern British nationalism? How has it affected the conception of Britain as a multiracial nation? What was the effect of war on the definition of class boundaries? Likely authors include T. E. Lawrence, George Orwell, Mulk Raj Anand, Mollie Panter-Downes, Virginia Woolf, W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Muriel Spark, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Andrea Levy.

ENGL 566-01 (20642)

Literary Theory

TR 4:30-5:45

Barrett, F.

In this class, we'll consider some of the key theoretical movements of the twentieth century: structuralism, psychoanalysis, post-structuralism, Marxism, critical race theory, postcolonial theory, feminist theory, queer theory, and animal studies. Any one of these theoretical schools could comprise an entire course; this particular class, however, will offer you an overview of these critical developments. As we work our way through these theoretical movements, we'll want to consider points of overlap and disjunction between and among these theorists, tracing lines of influence, response, and rebellion. A crucial component of any critical theory method is the process of calling into question fundamental frameworks. Our own task as readers then will be to consider the ways that these thinkers unsettle narratives of foundational unity and continuity.

ENGL 568-01 (25561)

SPST: Ecocriticism & Literature

MW 4:30-5:45

Kinnahan, T.

In this course we will explore what critic Lawrence Buell has termed “the environmental imagination” in American literature. Will focus on modes of geographic perception, the symbolic resonances of particular environments over time, the spiritual dimensions of interactions with the natural world, and the ideological implications of aesthetic responses to nature in American literature.

Our reading list will include representative literary works from the era of early European exploration to the present. We will also survey canonical critical texts by Henry Nash Smith, Leo Marx, Annette Kolodny, Roderick Nash, Lawrence Buell and others, while also familiarizing ourselves with more recent movements in the emerging fields of ecocriticism and environmental humanities.

Our objective is to engage questions that not only lead us to deeper insights about American literature and our environment, but also help us discern, define, and critique broader sets of values concerning our human community and the interrelationship of nature and culture.

ENGL 700-01 (21758)

Thesis-English

TBA

St. Hilaire, D.

ENGL 701-01 (21385)

Dissertation- FT

TBA

St. Hilaire, D.

ENGL 703-01 (22064)

Expanded Research Paper

TBA

St. Hilaire, D.

ENGL 710-01(20643)

Readings

TBA

St. Hilaire, D.