

English Department

Graduate Course Descriptions

Spring 2018

ENGL 508-61

R 6:00-8:40

SPST: Traveling to Heaven and Hell: Pilgrimage Narratives

Wright, S.

Why did people travel in the Middle Ages? Where did they go, and how did their journeys impact their knowledge of self and other, secular and divine? This class will examine medieval travel narratives, with a particular emphasis on pilgrimage. We will read about travelers' encounters with the 'vampires' of Melk and the Virgin Mary's tears, and consider what happened on the road to famous pilgrimage sites including Jerusalem, Canterbury, and the Santiago de Compostela. We will also descend into hell (via Dante's *Inferno*) and consider if/how movement, encounter, and spectacle differ on such a descent. These conversations will be informed by the work of medieval theologians Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, and contemporary mobility theory. Finally, we will dedicate a unit to immobility, considering anchorites (the 'living dead') and immobilized bodies in the context of theories on disability, incorporation, and materiality. Texts will include *The Travels of John Mandeville*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, and Julian of Norwich's *Shewings*.

ENGL 549-61 (25209)

M 6:00-8:40

Women in the Literary Marketplace

Barrett, F.

This course will consider the changing shape of the US literary marketplace across the nineteenth century, as more and more women begin to seek print publication. Writing to his publisher in January of 1855, Nathaniel Hawthorne complains about the "damned mob of scribbling women," whose work he felt would negatively impact reception of his own novels and stories. Reading works by both male and female writers, this course will consider what factors led more and more women to begin publishing in this era and how male writers responded to this development. Over the course of the semester, we will consider the following questions: To what extent does the increase in women's participation in the print marketplace revise traditional gender roles? When do women writers endorse traditional roles, and when do they call for change? How do women writers position themselves in relation to the newly-created category of professional "author"? And how do male writers respond to these developments? We will also consider how these writers contribute to two of the most important reform movements of the nineteenth century, namely abolition and women's rights.

The first section of the course will focus on the position of women in Transcendentalism. Readings for this section will include selected essays by Emerson and Thoreau, Hawthorne's *Blithedale Romance*, Louisa May Alcott's *Moods*, and selections from the writings of Margaret Fuller. The second section of the course will attend to the representation of women's rights and women's embodied experience in the work of nineteenth century poets. We will consider Whitman's 1855 *Leaves of Grass*, Lucy Larcom's *An Idyll of Work*, Phoebe Cary's *Poems and Parodies*, and selected poems by Frances Harper and Emily Dickinson. In the third and final section of the course, we will consider the turn towards realism in the

late nineteenth century fiction, reading Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig*, Rebecca Harding Davis' *Life in the Iron Mills*, and selected short stories by Constance Fenimore Woolson and Henry James.

ENGL 550 (26006)

W 6:00-8:40

SPST: War in 20th Century

Suh, J.

In this course, we will explore 20th and 21st century British Literature and Film through the prism of war. The subject of war and homefront have been central subject matters of some of modern Britain's globally significant and most innovative literature and film. We'll be encountering poetry, fiction, and film that revolutionized modes of imaginative representation, as well as conceptualizations of colonialism, race, gender, and sexuality. Theories of war and postcoloniality will also be included. Likely directors and authors include: T. E. Lawrence, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, W. B. Yeats, W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Molly Panter-Downes, Ken Loach, Frantz Fanon, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, Andrea Levy, and Sarah Waters.

ENGL 557-61 (26007)

T 6:00-8:40

SPST: American Modernism

Barnhisel, G.

On or about December 1910, human nature changed," or so Virginia Woolf believed. In American Modernism we will look at how that change in "human nature" was expressed in art, literature, and even philosophy produced by Americans inside and outside of the U.S. Through a close study of major authors including Ezra Pound, William Faulkner, Gertrude Stein, Marianne Moore, H.D., Ernest Hemingway, William Carlos Williams, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, Henry Roth, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and a secondary focus on artists and filmmakers from Charlie Chaplin to Charles Sheeler to Georgia O'Keeffe, in this course we will try to come to an understanding of exactly what "modernism" or "the modern movement" was, and whether there was a particularly American variety of modernism.

ENGL 566-01 (20642)

TR 4:30-5:45

Literary Theory

St. Hilaire, D.

In this class, we'll consider some of the key theoretical movements of the twentieth century, including post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, Marxism, critical race theory, feminist theory, and aesthetics. 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 572-01 (26003)
Writing for Digital Media
Purdy, J.

MW 4:30-5:45

Digital writing and reading are now arguably the cornerstone of our communicative lives. How can we best prepare for and participate in these activities?

This course will address opportunities for and challenges of writing for digital spaces. Through studying—and participating in—the creation, circulation, and reception of digital texts, we will examine theoretical, ethical, and practical issues related to digital writing. Course topics will include digital literacies, remix practices; social media; deep, shallow, and machine reading; and online identity. Students will both analyze existing and produce their own digital texts. (No prior experience is required.)

This course satisfies an English writing course requirement for graduate students earning the concentration in Writing, Media Arts, and Technology.

ENGL 700-01 (21758)
Thesis-English
St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

ENGL 701-01 (21385)
Dissertation- FT
St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

ENGL 703-01 (22064)
Expanded Research Paper
St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

ENGL 710-01(20643)
Readings
St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

English Department

Graduate Course Descriptions

Summer 2018

ENGL 559W-61 (33879)
SPST: Postcolonial Literature
Mirmotahari, E.

TR 5:00-8:30
May 14 – June 22

Postcolonial literature is the body of literature produced around much of the globe that responds to the experience of being colonized, which means, among other things, “having your story told by someone else.” Postcolonial literatures are often written in a handful of dominant languages like English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, and Russian. In this course we will consider the following questions and more: what does the “post” in postcolonial mean? How, if at all, do writers retrieve and re-member precolonial culture? What role has colonialism and its responses played in shaping modernity? Do “minority/minoritized” (i.e. black American) literatures count as “postcolonial”? What does the category “postcolonial” do to the way we organize literary study and literary canons? We will also examine the body of writings that have emerged in relation to (but that is autonomous from) postcolonial literature called “postcolonial theory.”

ENGL 5XX (Course number and CRN TBD)
Nineteenth-Century British Literature in England
Gibson, A.

Study Abroad, May 21-31

Walk in the footsteps of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens as we explore nineteenth-century literature and culture in London and Hampshire with this three-credit summer study abroad program. Offered at the 200, 400, and 500 levels, this course will introduce you to British literature from Jane Austen to Charles Dickens and from William Wordsworth to Arthur Conan Doyle. Instead of just reading these texts, we will visit the places that inspired their authors, including Sherlock Holmes’s London backstreets and the homes of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen. We’ll read some Victorian poetry by Alfred Tennyson, Christina Rossetti, and Robert Browning and view the pre-Raphaelite paintings that inspired, and were inspired by, their work. We’ll visit poet’s corner in Westminster Abbey where some of the most famous figures in British literature are buried; explore a nineteenth-century operating theatre above an old church to see how the Victorians performed surgery; and read some Arthurian legends in the land of King Arthur to see how the Victorians adapted and drew inspiration from medieval literature.

Graduate students in the 500-level class will work with Dr. Gibson before departure to plan a research project and craft a reading list that includes select works read by the whole class and other relevant texts. As part of this advance preparation graduate students will also identify an archival resource in London, with a focus on a nineteenth-century collection. While we are in London you will divide your time between your archival research and our planned excursions and activities. Your archival research will lead to a seminar paper, written upon your return. The trip to England will take place from 21-31 May and will include seven nights in London and two

nights in Winchester. Space is limited to 15 students. To secure a place you must complete a registration form (available from Dr. Gibson) and submit a \$500 deposit. More information is available at literatureinengland.annagibson.com.

ENGL 700-01 (31738)

Thesis-English

St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

May 15 – August 4

ENGL 701-01 (31739)

Dissertation- FT

ENGL 703-01 (32438)

Expanded Research Paper

St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

May 15 – August 4

TBA

May 15 – August 4

ENGL 710-01 (30593)

Readings

St. Hilaire, D.

TBA

May 15 – August 4