

SUMMER 2015

UNDERGRADUTE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGL 203-01 (32434)

Intro to Drama

Lane, J.

MTWRF 1:00-3:55

From Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale* to Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* to Sam Shepard's *True West*, playwrights across centuries have grappled with staging the complexities of family relationships and the paradoxes inherent in the connections between gender roles and domestic life. This course is an introduction to dramatic literature with a specific focus on plays that explore the conflicts, betrayals, jealousies, passions, and joys within families. We will also pay close attention to the various ways in which gender is defined, invented and manipulated through family dynamics and structures. The goal of the class is to introduce students to both the literary and performative aspects of dramatic texts and the cultural contexts in which they were produced. We will watch films, stage scenes, do presentations, and have lively lectures, discussions, and debates. **This course is a requirement for Theater Arts Majors and Minors.**

ENGL 308-91 (32995)

Pittsburgh Filmmakers

Glass, K.

See Pittsburgh Filmmakers course descriptions at

<http://www.pghfilmmakers.org/education/classsschedules.html>. Brochures will be available on the shelf outside the English Department (637 College Hall). All classes are offered off-campus. **At least 3 credits required for Film Minors.**

ENGL 317W-01 (12591)

MWF 10:00-10:50am

Survey of British Literature I

St. Hilaire, D.

This survey course is designed to give you a working knowledge of the first half of the English literary tradition. Spanning the Medieval period, the Renaissance, the Restoration, and the 18th century, we will be focusing on some of the major works and literary genres of those periods in order to gain an understanding not only of the individual works themselves, but of their relation to the greater literary history of which they are a part. What this history is, how we might constitute it, how (or if) it makes sense as a whole, and what role individual works play in this thing we call a "tradition," will be persistent questions over the course of the semester. **Fulfills the English major survey requirement in British literature and the School of Education requirement in earlier British literature.**

ENGL 322W-01 (33134)

Global Literature Survey

Mirmotahari, E.

MWF 10:00-12:15pm

The question "Is world literature an inventory of foreign/non-domestic literatures?" will be answered in the negative in this course. Instead, we will explore world literature as a set of active critical practices that

call attention to the frameworks and categories of reading. Selected texts will invite the reader to engage the various definitions, conceptions, and uses of the very idea of “world.” Selected texts include Moacyr Scliar’s *Centaur in the Garden* (Brazil), Mohammad Naseehu Ali’s *Prophet of Zongo Street* (Ghana), Lafcadio Hearn’s *Chita* (USA), Marjan Satrapi’s *Persepolis* (Iran), Caryl Phillips’ *Crossing the River* (England), and Guillermo Verdecchia’s *Fronteras Americanas* (Argentina). **Fulfills the World Literature requirement for English-Education students. This course fulfills the Global Diversity Theme Area.**

ENGL 412W-01 (33135)

MW 5:00-8:30pm

**Spst: The Renaissance Sense of the Past
St. Hilaire, D.**

“Renaissance” means “re-birth”: the writers of the Renaissance, first in Italy and eventually in England, understood their place in history specifically as a “re-birth” of the Classical period that had been (in their minds) forgotten, ignored, and abused by the intervening thousand years. But comingled with the belief that they were breathing new life into the past was the persistent image of disinterment; the past might be reborn, but only because it was first dead and rotting in its grave. This tension, between what T.S. Eliot would much later call “not only the pastness of the past, but its presence,” drove the extraordinarily complex relationship between Renaissance literature and its predecessors. In this course, we will be reading classical texts by authors like Vergil, Ovid, and Seneca, alongside those Renaissance authors, from Sidney to Milton, who reimagined them. At the same time, we will look at both what Renaissance writers had to say about their relation to the past, and how modern critics have theorized difficult ideas like “tradition” and “allusion,” both generally and with regards to the Renaissance. Our topic of inquiry will be not just how the Renaissance conceived of literary history, but how its conceptions of “tradition” influenced later writers and our own thinking about the past. **Old Major: Fulfills the 400-level British literature requirement. New Major: Fulfills the pre- 1700 Historical requirement and the British Cultural requirement.**

ENGL 445-01 (31459)

TBA

Directed Studies

Glass, K.

Offers the opportunity for students and faculty to conduct in-depth study of a topic not covered, or covered only briefly, in other departmental courses. Admission by permission only.

ENGL 446-01 (30603)

TBA

Internship

Glass, K.

Provides a supervised observation/experience program of study in areas such as editing, technical writing, magazine and news writing, writing for business and industry, and theatrical performance and production. Admission by permission only.

ENGL 449W-01 (33136)

**American Literature and the Environment
Kinnahan, T.**

T/TH 5:00-8:30pm

In this course we will explore literary responses to the American environment from the early nineteenth century to the present. Our emphasis will be on notions of wilderness, the frontier, and the “middle ground” of American pastoralism. We will focus on modes of geographic perception, the symbolic resonances of particular environments over time, and the ideological dimensions of aesthetic responses to the natural world in American literature. We will engage questions that not only lead us to deeper insights about our environment, but also help us discern, define, and critique broader sets of values concerning our human community and relationships between nature and culture. Our reading list will likely include works by Cooper, Thoreau, Cather, Faulkner, Gary Snyder, and others. We will also briefly survey canonical critical works by Leo Marx, Annette Kolodny, Lawrence Buell, and others, and we will familiarize ourselves with major directions in contemporary eco-criticism. **Old Major: Fulfills the 400-level American literature requirement. New major: Fulfills the American Cultural requirement.**

THEA 496-01 (31210)

Directed Study

Lane, J.

TBA

THEA 497-01 (31211)

Theatre Management Practicum

Lane, J.

TBA

THEA 498-01 (31212)

Technical Theatre Practicum

Lane, J.

TBA

THEA 499-01 (31213)

Performance Practicum

Lane, J.

TBA