

Department of English: Undergraduate Courses Offered Fall 2019

Course ID: ENGL 4800

Course Name: Seminar in Literature

Course Date and Time: TR 12:30 pm

Course Instructor: C. Keirstead

Course Description:

1969. Woodstock. Monty Python. Led Zeppelin. The moon landing. Haley Center--brand new and hailed at its dedication in October of that year as “a building of architectural excellence, impressive in design, superbly equipped . . . a place for creative teaching and learning in an atmosphere of beauty and serenity.” While some of that original beauty and serenity may have faded, we are still living (and learning) in the political, cultural, and architectural aftermath of the 1960s, and in this capstone seminar, we will examine how some of the most influential and lasting literary texts produced in the final year of this tumultuous decade endeavored to understand their own times, re-examine the past, and make sense of possible futures. Defined in many cases by experiments with form and a willingness to break down cultural barriers, this literature, we will discover, engaged closely with the popular culture of the period as produced through music, film, and television. This is a course, however, not just about 1969, but about looking back at your own growth as an English major and the skills in research and writing you have developed along the way. Students will hone these abilities with a substantial research paper for the course. Students will also develop a reflective e-Portfolio project intended to help them better understand and articulate the kinds of skills in interpretation, research, and communication they’ve cultivated through the study of literary texts.

Course ID: ENGL 4700

Course Name: Topics in Literature

Course Date and Time: MWF 1:00 pm

Course Instructor: J. Charles

Course Description:

This course examines the ways in which Black girlhood is constructed and represented across cultural, social, and political contexts in African American literature—and how Black girls, through the influence of the Black women around them, make meaning of their lives and shape their social and political futures. Exploring the regulation of Black girls’ bodies, politics, identities, and emerging womanhood, this course analyzes how race and class influence notions of family, community, and culture. Focusing on how Black girls in American literature resist, revise, or reject pathological associations between domesticity and Black girlhood, we will engage themes like race and gender; fetishism; marriage and monogamy; queer sexualities; and strategies for social empowerment.

Course ID: ENGL 3740

Course Name: Identities

Course Date and Time: MWF 11:00 am

Course Instructor: J. Rodriques

Course Description:

Fictions of Migration is an upper-level division course designed to introduce students to fictions of movement and migration, across the world, across the twentieth and twenty-

first centuries. The texts we cover will provide students a critical and theoretical vocabulary for the discussion and analysis of not only the writing but the global contexts of travel and displacement, of im/migration, diaspora, of space and place. We will explore the diverse ways in which notions of exile, diaspora, empire, neo-colonialism, post-colonialism, globalization, tourism, terrorism, among others, have marked contemporary literature. In this course, we will interrogate the notion of “nation,” and its associated canons, to consider the myth of “global” or “world” literature, and its limitations. Students will develop a broader understanding of how literature operates beyond and across (rather than merely within) national frames; a greater critical sensitivity to how issues of movement and migration impact upon literary aesthetics, and upon cultural politics more widely; and an introduction to some of the key concepts, ideas and theories associated with postcolonial and diaspora studies and how these relate to questions of modernity and globalization.

Course ID: ENGL 4640

Course Name: American Authors

Course Date and Time: MWF 9:00 am

Course Instructor: J. McKelly

Course Description:

In this course, we will attempt to achieve a richly nuanced apprehension and a commensurately nuanced appreciation of William Faulkner and his work. Organized around a representative survey of his fiction, the course will take as its focus the implications of this inspiring, disturbing oeuvre upon what it means to be a young person alive and ashake in the New South -- including all the pitfalls, pressures, and possibilities at play in that liminal subjective dynamism. Our Yoknapatawpha drive-by offers particular promise to future writers, filmmakers, musicians, actors, artists, truckers, and teachers committed in their creative practice to a critically astute engagement with a culture in flux. As always, the professor will rely upon the informed generosity of his students to promote a spirit of enthusiastic collaborative inquiry.

Course ID: ENGL 4610

Course Name: Shakespeare

Course Date and Time: TR 12:30 pm

Course Instructor: A. Bertolet

Course Description:

Shakespearean theater came into its own during the period of transition from a predominately manuscript culture to the gradual advent and dominance of print. How was manuscript culture adapted to serve the functions of communication, record-keeping, and legal documentation, along with writing and dissemination of literary texts? What were the materials of this culture, and what can we learn from the process of making and using these materials? What were the attractions and anxieties associated with the culture of print? How did the technologies of writing and reading mark and imprint Shakespeare's works? We may experiment with making our own ink using a 16th-century recipe, writing with quills, and creating one-page publications using a printing press. About 4-5 weeks of the semester will be dedicated to playing a role-immersion game from Reacting to the Past series in which two theater companies will advocate for a play and compete for a theater license (the knowledge of manuscript and print cultures, and especially the skills of letter-writing and printing your own strategic writing will surely come in handy). As always in my classes, your individual interests will be an important factor in class discussion and research projects.

Course ID: ENGL 4520

Course Name: 19th Century Novel

Course Date and Time: TR 2:00 pm

Course Instructor: J.Ryan

Course Description:

This course will examine American novels that confronted artistic, social, and cultural changes occurring during the middle and later nineteenth century (about 1845-1900). Our objectives will be to read widely; to understand important fictional works in terms of style, structure, and content; to explore advanced literary scholarship; and to improve writing, research, and speaking skills. Our readings will lend themselves to many critical approaches, but several prominent themes emerge from these texts: evolving social values and minority political views, the emergence of American citizenship, progress for women's rights, the discussions of racial, gender, and sexual difference; the turn from rural to urban consciousness; and the development of commercial publishing. The works we study here will shed light on how American writers responded to these cultural themes while producing works of art that confront problems and opportunities associated with American life.

Course ID: ENGL 4510

Course Name: 18th Century Novel

Course Date and Time: MWF 1:00 pm

Course Instructor: E. Friedman

Course Description:

From 1759 until shortly before his death in 1767, Laurence Sterne published the weirdest work of fiction yet seen -- "postmodern" generations before the term would be coined. In it, Tristram attempts to tell the story of his life -- his whole life, from conception on -- as he is rapidly running out of time. Sterne claimed "Tristram Shandy... was made to baffle all criticism - and I will venture to rest the book on this ground - that it is either above the power or beneath the attention of any critic or hyper-critic whatsoever." Critics will critique, of course: in 1776, Samuel Johnson huffed that it was "not English" and that "Nothing odd will do for long... Tristram Shandy did not last." Twentieth-century critic FR Leavis dismissed what he called Sterne's "irresponsible (and nasty) trifling." But Tristram Shandy has lasted, thanks to those like Virginia Woolf who found the novel brings us "as close to life as we can be," C.S. Lewis, who found Tristram Shandy ideal teatime reading, and the generations of authors, from Karl Marx to Salman Rushdie to Milan Kundera, who were all inspired by Sterne's style.

Because it was published a volume or two at a time, across eight years, readers were able to respond, creating fake continuations, songs, dances, card games, pornographic parodies, sermons, cartoons, portraits, and more. Much more. Ignatius Sancho wrote to Sterne to encourage his characters to voice support for the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade, and their resulting correspondence became a talking point in the ongoing debate. This course takes seriously the idea that transformative work (adaptation, fanwork, and the like) is a useful form of literary analysis and critique. Our "slow reading" of Sterne's masterwork will be punctuated by readings of other novels published simultaneously (a feminist utopia, the first Gothic novel) as well as debates from the period (the abolition of slavery, the buildup to the American Revolution, transformations of copyright law). We will also consider the many creative responses by our own contemporaries (radio, film, and graphic novel adaptations), and do hands-on creative work using the tools of the new Book Lab Cart (marbling paper, setting type). We will also have the gift of many visiting

artists, writers, and scholars, thanks to the Women in the Arts 1660-1840 conference held here at Auburn.

Course ID: ENGL 4450

Course Name: Topics in African American Literature

Course Date and Time: MWF 10:00 am

Course Instructor: E. Gibson

Course Description:

In 1892, against the muddled sound of neo-American racism and sexism, a voice rang clear from the South: “Only the BLACK WOMAN can say when and where I enter, in the quiet, undisputed dignity of my womanhood, without violence and without suing or special patronage, then and there the whole Negro race enters with me.” Taking Anna Julia Cooper’s words as an epistemological consideration, this course surveys how Black women, as characters and writers, negotiated complex racial and gender identities. Additionally, it explores how Black women imagined the worlds outside of themselves; how they understood and constructed Black men, white America, and the other historical/cultural forces at play. Beginning with Phillis Wheatley and ending with contemporary Black women writers, this course will highlight how intersectional identity asks us to reconsider the ways in which we have come to know a world, a text, an experience.

Course ID: ENGL 4430

Course Name: Contemporary American Literature

Course Date and Time: TR 9:30 am

Course Instructor: M. Clark

Course Description:

This course will focus on uses of the past in contemporary American literature. Working with a selection of 21st century fiction, poetry, and films, we’ll consider how recent texts reflect on and represent—or re-represent—the past, both the private past of memory and lived experience and the shared past at stake in historical narratives, museum collections, and archives. Among the novels and volumes of poetry we’ll consider are Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*; Louise Erdrich, *The Round House*; Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*; Robert Hass, *Time and Materials*; Rose McLarney, *Its Day Being Gone*; Tyehimba Jess, *Olio*; and Robin Coste Lewis, *Voyage of the Sable Venus*.

Course ID: ENGL 4300

Course Name: Medieval Literature in Translation

Course Date and Time: MWF 10:00 am

Course Instructor: C. Bertolet

Course Description:

In the beginning of the medieval period, London was the large Roman town that grew up north of the only bridge that spanned the River Thames until the sixteenth century. By the end of the medieval period, London was the principal city of the Kingdom of England and, arguably, the whole island of Britannia. It has not lost this significance. How did London gain its pre-eminence over other political and economic rivals, such as Colchester, Tamworth, Winchester, and even York? How did writers of the medieval period describe life in this city? In this course, we will examine some texts that create London as a cultural space that has its own laws and accepted behavioral practices. In other words, how did the English invent London? Our texts will be largely drawn from England, but may include both translations and material in an earlier form of the language known as Middle English. Texts in Middle English will be in heavily glossed,

friendly editions. Our objective will be to see how texts reflect the culture of an early urban space. Or, how medieval London fits English culture to a tea.

Course ID: ENGL 4820
 Course Name: Capstone in Creative Writing
 Course Date and Time: TR 12:00 am
 Course Instructor: C. Spell
 Course Description:

Course ID: ENGL 3230
 Course Name: Poetry Writing I
 Course Date and Time: TR 9:30 am or 11:00 am
 Course Instructor: A. Ross
 Course Description:

This course will help you to better understand the intricacies of Poetics through critical reading, the drafting process, and class workshops. Revising your poems will be a major component of our creative work. We will read and analyze published poems with specific attention to craft elements, such as diction, syntax, line, stanza, meter, form, point of view, symbolism, sensory details, and tone. The course will focus on creating original poems, workshopping peer writings, and studying published poems. Assigned class readings will provide inspiration for our own work as well as opportunities to develop analytical language skills. Class activities include critical discussion, library and digital research, and attendance at select poetry readings, which may be off-campus and outside of class time. This coursework will prepare you to write a series of poems for our writing workshops, culminating in your completion of a portfolio of comprehensively revised poems. Students will be expected to practice presenting their work at public readings, explore possible venues for publication, and work together in writing groups.

Course ID: ENGL 4230
 Course Name: Poetry Writing II
 Course Date and Time: TR 11:00 am
 Course Instructor: M. Smith
 Course Description:

This is an intermediate study of the craft of poetry writing. Successful completion of Intro to Creative Writing and Poetry Writing I is a prerequisite for enrollment. The emphasis of the course will be divided between the students' own writing and the study of published works. Good readers make good writers, but this is not a literature class; the focus of our reading will be on the elements of craft, the techniques and strategies used by these more experienced poets. Students can expect to write in a variety of different forms and will submit poems for workshop on a regular basis. In addition, we will learn to critique peer work with a particular focus on supporting the execution of the writer's intention and discovering what is "right" about a piece as means to understand what is lacking.

Course ID: ENGL 3210
 Course Name: Fiction Writing I
 Course Date and Time: TR 9:30 am or 11:00 am
 Course Instructor: C. Spell
 Course Description:

This class will study the art of the short story. Class periods will focus on the building blocks of the short story--beginnings, structure, point of view, characterization, voice,

dialogue, plot, conflict, setting, and endings. We'll generate an understanding of these topics from reading, discussing, and critiquing professionally published literary fiction, essays on writing by well-known writers, and student work. And we'll then apply these writing lessons in our own work, moving through the process of drafting, re-thinking, and revising of two stories. We may also have guests visit the class—such as a professionally published fiction writer or an editor of a literary journal—to help understand what happens to stories in the professional world.

Course ID: ENGL 4210

Course Name: Fiction Writing II

Course Date and Time: MW 9:00 am

Course Instructor: S. Ruddick

Course Description:

Fiction Writing II is an advanced course in the crafting of short stories, taught primarily as a workshop. Each class, students will meet to discuss their work and the work of their peers, with an eye toward revision. Students should expect to write two full length short stories (7-15 pages) and revise each of them multiple times with the intention of sending the final product to various literary magazines in an attempt to publish. There is no textbook for this course, but we will be drawing heavily on various sources of insight into the fiction writing game, particularly the set of principles articulated by Chekhov in his letters of advice to other writers.

Course ID: ENGL 4040

Course Name: Public Writing

Course Date and Time: MWF 11:00 am

Course Instructor: D. Eidson

Course Description:

Engaging Publics focuses on writing in the public sphere. We begin with a study of scholarship on the public sphere and counterpublics, and we apply that knowledge to a variety of rhetorical situations in both analog and digital spaces. By partnering with university-sponsored programs and community organizations, students learn how to perform primary research, assess stakeholder needs, design appropriate materials for real-world audiences, seek and address feedback, and reflect upon their learning.

Course ID: ENGL 4020

Course Name: Technical and Professional Editing

Course Date and Time: MWF 12:00 pm

Course Instructor: S. Youngblood

Course Description:

English 4020 will familiarize you with principles and practical applications of copymarking, copyediting, comprehensive editing, and proofreading. We will work with professional writing from technology, business, science, as well as texts intended for academic publication. We will work with both print and online documents inside and outside of class. Additionally, you will learn the various roles of editors; strategies for working as part of an editorial team; the concept and application of “levels of edit”; strategies for using standard tools for electronic and online collaboration, editing, and manuscript preparation; strategies for solving common problems in usage, syntax, and organization such as wordiness, faulty parallelism, and lack of cohesion; conventions and nuances of punctuation in standard written English; ways to use standard reference works (e.g., Chicago Manual of Style) that editors rely on, and how those works vary; and the concept of “house style” and the process of creating a style guide and style sheet.

Course ID: ENGL 3060

Course Name: Writing in the Health Professions

Course Date and Time: TR 2:00 pm

Course Instructor: C. Welhausen

Course Description:

In this class, you will learn to analyze different communication situations and to write, revise, and design medical and health-related information to meet the needs of different readers (experts and non-experts) through several document genres: reports, magazine articles, and scientific posters. This course is designed for students pursuing careers in medicine and health-related fields as well as English majors interested in learning how to write more effectively in these scientific areas. Students will be encouraged to adapt assignments to their specific area(s) of subject matter interest and to share and discuss their work in class.

Course ID: ENGL 3250

Course Name: Creative Non-Fiction I

Course Date and Time: MW 10:30 am

Course Instructor: J. Gardiner

Course Description:

Creative Nonfiction 1 aims to familiarize students with the intricacies of the genre, with a primary focus on work that falls under the broad label of Narrative Nonfiction. The course will look both at early practitioners of the genre and contemporary innovators to help establish a useful lineage for one's own creative work. Our workshop will center on three sub-genres of Creative Nonfiction: the personal essay and memoir, literary journalism, and nature/travel writing. While writers in these forms often incorporate personal elements into their work, all strive to also transcend them, consistently turning to outside research and cultural mediations that extend far beyond the self. Students will study a wide range of such professional work and attempt to emulate it in their own creative essays. End of the semester portfolios will consist of work from all three sub-genres, and an ongoing critical component will also factor into student grades.

Course ID: ENGL 3130

Course Name: Survey of Critical Theory

Course Date and Time: TR 2:00 pm

Course Instructor: B. Fagan

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to foundational ideas about literature and its interpretation. We will read from a wide range of critical theories including, but not limited to, Formalism, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Black Feminism. Students should come away from this course with a firm grounding in the key works and questions that continue to shape discussions of literary interpretation.

Course ID: ENGL 3120

Course Name: Survey of Rhetoric

Course Date and Time: TR 3:30 pm

Course Instructor: F. Walters

Course Description: ENGL 3120 introduces you to the history and principal theories of rhetoric. Our main avenue into these theories will be through the primary texts anthologized in Bizzell and Herzberg's *The Rhetorical Tradition*. Beginning with the classical theories of the Sophists, Plato, and Aristotle, our coverage will broaden to

include rhetoric's relationship to logic, Christian and secular influences on rhetoric, rhetoric and politics, rhetoric and aesthetics, and more recent approaches to rhetoric from feminism, new media, and so on. Students will write two papers of moderate length and present their findings in one of them in the form of a report to the class. They'll also take a midterm and a final exam.

Course ID: ENGL 3110

Course Name: Survey of Linguistics

Course Date and Time: MWF 9:00 am

Course Instructor: D. Eidson

Course Description:

In this course, you will encounter recent thinking about language in the United States while learning about language structure & language history more generally. Successful students develop sophisticated ways of thinking about our most essential human attribute – language. Linguistics is a field that has impact on many other fields, such as psychology, philosophy, public administration, education, sociology, anthropology, computer science, and artificial intelligence.

Course ID: ENGL 3890

Course Name: Writing in a Research University

Course Date and Time: TR 2:00 pm

Course Instructor: C. Basgier

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of writing centers. This class will be immediately relevant to students who have worked (or are interested in working) in a writing center (either Auburn's Miller Writing Center or at other institutions), as well as to students invested in the broader issues of writing studies and teaching (both at the college and secondary levels). We will examine the historical development of writing center theory, how it relates to major theoretical strains of writing studies, and map out some of the current controversies in writing centers today. We'll investigate how writing center theorists engage with important cultural issues, including racial/ethnic diversity, translanguaging/multilingualism, gender/sexual identity, class, and disability. We will also attend to how technological developments have expanded and complicated the theory of writing centers, as "communication centers" become more and more prevalent. We will also focus on everyday writing center practice, integrating direct observation and hands-on experience of writing center work (both tutoring and administrative) into our discussion of theoretical concerns.

Course ID: ENGL 2020

Course Name: Introduction to Literary Studies

Course Date and Time: MWF 12:00 pm

Course Instructor: J. Braun

Course Description:

English 2020 introduces students to the academic study of literary texts in English with an emphasis on formulating an argument about a text, developing goals and strategies for research, and managing the different stages of the writing process. Unlike other 2000-level literature courses offered at Auburn, ENGL 2020 is not a historical period survey or an introduction to a specific form such as poetry, fiction, or drama. Rather, in this course, we will develop a set of skills that will serve us as students of literature across a range of upper-division (3000 and 4000 level) literature courses. We will learn how to engage with literary texts and the critical conversations surrounding them in focused, strategic,

and scholarly ways. Some of the questions we will consider include: How do we talk about literature, both in class and in other academic environments? How do we begin to answer the question that interests us about the text? What is literary research and how is it produced? How do we use research to help a writing project evolve? How do I begin to think critically and reflectively about my work and development as an English literature major? How do we see a literary text as a document that speaks from and speaks to a culture of readers? As a shared platform for exploring these questions, we will read F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, and *The Awakening*, a novella by Kate Chopin.

Course ID: ENGL 2020

Course Name: Introduction to Literary Studies

Course Date and Time: MWF 9:00 am

Course Instructor: J. Rodriques

Course Description:

In the Introduction to Literary Studies, expect to be introduced to the “nuts and bolts” of the academic study of English Literature at tertiary level. This course is designed for students at the beginning of the Literature Track. We will work on how to formulate arguments about a given piece of poetry, prose or drama – beyond emotional response – based on close, critical reading, and develop tools and strategies for articulating these arguments in clear, precise, professional prose. We will also work on advancing our research skills, in order to support said argumentation, in conjunction with regular writing exercises. ENGL 2020 is not tied to any particular historical period or genre, but is rather designed to develop a set of skills that will serve you through and across the remainder of your literary careers. We will learn how to engage with literary texts and their surrounding critical (contextual) conversations in focused, scholarly ways, so that we may, in turn, develop our own critical voices in response to them. Some of our key questions will include: How do we talk about literature, privately, publicly, professionally? What are some of the key questions that we should ask of a text? What is literary research? How is it done? How do we apply said research to academic writing? How can we think critically and reflectively about literature? How is a literary text located in various cultures and contexts? What is the relationship between reader and text?

Course ID: ENGL 2010

Course Name: Introduction to Professional Writing

Course Date and Time: MWF 12:00 pm

Course Instructor: A. Ludewig

Course Description:

This course familiarizes you with the rhetorical principles, professional practices, and research skills you will need as a professional writer or writing in your profession. The course will also introduce you to the professional and public writing track in the English major and give you and your classmates a set of shared experiences that will help you throughout your coursework in this track or other majors and disciplines. To accomplish these aims, we will devote time to the following: 1) interrogating what professional writing means in both academe and in careers in the private, public, or non-profit sector; 2) building an understanding of professional writing as ethical action; and 3) discovering the meaning and value of core concepts such as community, publics, technology, and the knowledge economy. Given the nature of professional writing, the course will involve both individual and collaborative work.

Course ID: ENGL 2010

Course Name: Introduction to Professional Writing

Course Date and Time: MWF 10:00 am

Course Instructor: S. Youngblood

Course Description:

Have you ever considered why a particular piece of professional writing or design is—or maybe isn't—effective, be it a report on a flu outbreak or an infographic on how wind instruments work? Or maybe you've wondered how you could apply public and professional writing to a career. (Hint: You can do a whole lot more than writing.) In this course will learn about how writing and design choices work in the fabric of contemporary society. You also will learn how to write, design, test, and present materials so they are effective and ethical.

Course ID: ENGL 2000

Course Name: Introduction to Creative Writing

Course Date and Time: TR 12:30 pm

Course Instructor: M. Smith

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to creative writing through studying the craft of published writers in the genres of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. While this is an active workshop, and end-of-the-semester portfolios will account for over a third of your overall grade, a significant portion of class time will be dedicated to discussing select readings, with the bulk of your writing and revision taking place in what free time you have available. An ongoing critical component, quality peer feedback, attendance at a departmental reading, and a poetry recitation are also required of the course.

Course ID: ENGL 2000

Course Name: Introduction to Creative Writing

Course Date and Time: MW 12:00 pm or 1:30 pm

Course Instructor: J. Gardiner

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to creative writing through studying the craft of published writers in the genres of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. While this is an active workshop, and end-of-the-semester portfolios will account for over a third of your overall grade, a significant portion of class time will be dedicated to discussing select readings, with the bulk of your writing and revision taking place in what free time you have available. An ongoing critical component, quality peer feedback, attendance at a departmental reading, and a poetry recitation are also required of the course.