

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND: UPPER-DIVISION ENGLISH COURSES



SPRING 2019 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENG 225 – Intro to Literary Studies TR 11:20-12:45

Prof. J. Swidzinski

(While not an upper-division course, this is one new majors should be mindful of.) This course introduces students to an array of interpretive methods that will help them better understand, explore, and appreciate works of literature. These methods will range from traditional habits of reading to newer theories and techniques (e.g. digital tools for analyzing and visualizing texts). Readings will include a wide variety of poetry, Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

ENG 302 – British Lit. Survey II: 1800 to Present MWF 1:35-2:30 Prof. G. Brassard

Historically-grounded survey of representative texts and authors from the early 19th century to the present, with special attention to key artistic movements (Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and Postmodernism), important trends and events (Imperialism, the Suffrage Movement, and two World Wars), and an emphasis on historical research and understanding of cultural contexts surrounding literary productions in written assignments. Class and gender as intersecting thematic concerns will connect many of our readings. Expect to read Austen, Blake, Keats, Dickens, Rossetti, Shaw, Forster, Woolf, and Stoppard, among others.

ENG 311 – Advanced Writing (3 credits)

Section A: TR 12:55-2:20

Prof. J. McDonald

Section B: TR 2:30-3:55

Prof. P. Hannon

The writing and editing of various kinds of essays in a workshop setting, plus an examination of the writing process itself and the reading of fine essays.

ENG 343 Studies in Nonfiction TR 9:45-11:10

Prof. P. Hannon

Intensive analysis of the methods, modes, and manipulations of nonfiction prose. Readings may draw from such nonfiction works as essays, memoirs, political documents, documentaries, and reportage to explore topics of truth and falsehood, representation and reality, medium and message.

ENG 371 City Life in American Literature MW 2:40-4:00

Prof. L. Larson

Most of the human population now lives in cities. Americans in particular saw their lives restructured around cities throughout the most recent centuries. Through the varying formats of prose, poetry, and drama, this course explores questions of politics, power, identity, growth, individualism, protest, and cooperation, which evolving configurations of urban space force us to ask. Expect short works by such authors as Whitman, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Yeziarska, Parker, and Cheever, and longer works such as Nathanael West's *Day of the Locust*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Jeffrey Eugenides *Middlesex*, Anna Deveare Smith's *Twilight: Los Angeles* – and most certainly the semester's campus-wide ReadUP selection Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* (with a special visit to our class by the author).

ENG 373 African-American Literature TR 12:55-2:20**Prof. M. Hiro**

#Blacklivesmatter: it's a rallying cry and movement reminding us that a century and a half after the abolition of slavery, and a half-century after the passage of historic civil rights legislation, African American citizens remain disadvantaged, even imperiled, in their own country. Yet we are also in an age which many imagine or wish to be "postracial." African American literature has a similarly divided legacy. For some, writing has been a tool of political struggle (slave narratives, antiracist literature) or of personal exploration (e.g. W.E.B. Du Bois's famous question: "How does it feel to be a problem?"). Some writers, however, have chafed against the expectation that their writing must fit into certain molds to be "authentically" black. As we encounter stories, novels, autobiographies, speeches, essays, poems, and a play by black Americans, from the earliest days of the nation to recent times, we will confront the question of the relationship between racial identity, art, and politics. While we might think of a novel as being outside the political spectrum, and of an anti-slavery speech as being devoid of art, this course will aim to reveal the art in politics and the politics in art. And yet we'll also want to ask: *must* art by African Americans be political in nature? Authors read include Frederick Douglass, Charles Chesnutt, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Toni Morrison, Amiri Baraka, and Claudia Rankine.

ENG 401 Seminar in British Lit. I: Otherness in Early British Lit. M 4:10-6:55 Prof. C. Hersh

This course will explore representations of "otherness" in medieval literature. We will explore poetry, plays, and prose that include provocative representations of monstrosity, gender, Islam, Judaism, race, and homosexuality. Applying modern lenses such as feminist theory, queer theory, race theory, and posthumanism to these pre-modern texts, we will investigate how our own conceptions of "otherness" have both developed and differ from medieval perspectives. Our readings may include *The Song of Roland*, *The Lais of Marie de France*, *The Siege of Jerusalem*, *The Croxton Play of the Sacrament*, and selections from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

ENG 402 Seminar in American Lit. I: American Romanticism TR 2:30-3:55 Prof. J. Orr

We will be looking at representative works from the first flowering of a distinct American literature covering roughly the years 1836 through 1865. A part of the course will focus on questions of identity: What does it mean to be an American? What are the implications of a radical sense of individuality? How does the experience of being American diverge among different minority groups in contrast to the dominant group? How do we come to understand who we are? How do these motifs play out in the current American culture? How do we experience personal power, and from what does it derive? (AND any student who reads the entirety of *Moby-Dick* receives a bookmark that I designed that signifies their accomplishment.)

ENG 492 Gender & Women's Studies Capstone Seminar W 11:25-12:20 Prof. G. Brassard

[Required Capstone experience for Gender & Women's Studies minors only; not open to other students.]

ENG 499 Senior Capstone Seminar W 4:10-6:55**Prof. M. Hiro**

Seminar course required of all majors, with emphasis on applying and mastering all major skills (close reading, critical thinking, integration of sources, and persuasive writing) through the development of individual research project from portfolio of prior course assignments. *English majors only.*

