Courses in English

A Eng 200 (= A Lin 200)
Structure of English Words (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. In this course students will study the structure of English words from a variety of perspectives. We begin by reviewing the history of the English language in general, from the time of the arrival of Germanic peoples to England in the 5th century, through the Norman Invasion in the 11th century, the time of Shakespeare, to the modern day. As we examine the current large and diverse vocabulary of English, we find that while some of it can be characterized as having Germanic roots, much of it has been added from other linguistic sources—most notably French—but also Scandinavian languages, other Romance languages, Arabic, Hindi, Native American languages, and many others. In addition to reviewing very interesting etymologies of a number of English words, we will develop a particular focus on the many English words with Greek and Latin roots. One goal of the class will be vocabulary-building, as students learn these Greek and Latin roots, enabling them to parse out and understand a great number of words which may have previously been unfamiliar to them.

(1719) Bickmore, Lee
4 Week 1: May 26-June 19
Online course in Blackboard

A Eng 240Z
American Experiences (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. (Formerly "Rewriting America" and "Growing up in America.") The 19th century saw an influx of narratives written by formerly enslaved men and women anxious to share the truth of their experiences and the horrors of slavery. Authors such as Harriet Jacobs, Fredrick Douglass, and Solomon Northrup all published accounts of their personal trials and traumas. In the end of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century, contemporary “popular” literature saw a resurgence of the slave narrative in new and inventive ways. Authors such as Toni Morrison and Colson Whitehead use the form of the slave narrative to examine the impact of slavery on the American consciousness and memory. Therefore, this course is designed to think about life in the 21st century, through the lens of the slave’s experience, but also, by extending slavery’s influence into the modern day. By pairing classic and 21st century texts of slave narratives with Angie Thomas’s The Hate You Give and Robin DiAngelo’s White Fragility, this class will seek to illuminate the enduring impact of slavery on the 21st century. We will examine questions such as – how does trauma impact our current society and culture? How/why does slavery continue to disturb our imagination? How do authors across time represent slavery differently? How are slavery and race related ideas? Assignments may include reading reflections and/or discussion posts, short critical responses and a creative project. This class fulfills the University’s requirements for challenges in the 21st century.

(2347) Waite, Kasey
4 Week 1: May 26-June 19
Online course in Blackboard

A Eng 242
Science Fiction: Science Fictional Bodies (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System.
Alien tentacles, animal meat, human flesh, robotic arms, bodily waste, brain cells, reproductive organs; these seemingly disparate words can all be linked to the single term “body.” Science fiction has historically stood as a key genre for imagining both a joyous liberation of bodies and the troubling regulation of bodies, and in this course, we will consider these imaginary forms of the body that undoubtedly impact the real bodies we encounter every day. By comparing some contemporary pieces of science fiction to their predecessors from the Nineteenth Century, we will observe how the genre has evolved, yet in many ways still grapples with very similar concerns surrounding the body and personhood. For instance, Jeff VanderMeer’s Borne (2017) features curious bio-engineered bodies created by scientists and machines to
survive a battered landscape, whereas in Mary Shelley’s renowned Frankenstein (1818), a “monstrous” body is pieced together in Victor Frankenstein’s humble laboratory. Although written nearly 200 years apart, both VanderMeer’s and Shelley’s novels deal with the construction of new bodies (and species). Although the course is centered around a single topic, the texts we encounter will overlap with a range of themes and types of sci-fi such as time travel, first contact, dystopia, post-apocalypse, and Afrofuturism. Beyond VanderMeer and Shelley course readings will include at least one more novel, a variety of short stories, and a graphic novel. Additional authors may include H.G. Wells, Arthur Clarke, Katherine MacClean, Kiini Ibura Salaam, Evie Shockley, Ursula LeGuin, and Margaret Atwood. This course will require responses and/or written assignments two-three times a week and a final project. The course fulfills the 200-400-level elective requirement for the English Major and the General Education Humanities Requirement.

(2348) Peterson-McCann Audrey
6 Week 3: July 6-August 14
Online course in Blackboard

A Eng 261
American Literary Traditions (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. This class will explore how American literary traditions and periods such as Transcendentalism and the Harlem Renaissance have addressed issues of “belonging” and “otherness.” We will start with defining "otherness" as a construct of difference made up by those that "belong" to certain cultural/political/ethnic groups. We will then look at various representations of "otherness" seen throughout different genres, including poetry, drama, and short fiction. We will begin the semester examining the relationship between slave narratives and the shaping of American history and conclude with texts that address the immigration experience. Reading and writing about American literature, culture, and literary history will reveal how texts construct, resist, and interrogate states of belonging and otherness.

(2349) Schoel, Marta
6 Week 2: June 22-July 31
Online course in Blackboard

A Eng 302W
Creative Writing: The Long & the Short (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. In this course, students will study craft and technique through plot and character development, detail and narration, as we focus especially on the "hero's journey" and what that phrase means in the modern world. Throughout the semester, we will explore creative and critical modes of both poetry and memoir, with an emphasis on underrepresented voices in the literary canon. Students will use contemporary texts as invitations for their own creative work, and will hone their writing skills through the composition of flash fiction, nonfiction, and poems throughout the semester, workshopping their own pieces in smaller discussion groups with one another. May be repeated once for credit when genre focus varies. Meets the Arts Gen Ed requirement and a 300-level course requirement for English majors.

(2138) Crews, James
6 Week 1: May 26-July 3
Online course in Blackboard

A Eng 302W
Creative Writing: Short Fiction (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Intermediate course in creative writing, usually focusing on the close study and practice of one or two genres. May be repeated once for credit when genre focus varies. Meets the Arts Gen Ed requirement and a 300-level course requirement for English majors.

(2239) Nadler, Benjamin
4 Week 3: July 20-August 14
Online course in Blackboard
A Eng 355
Studies in Film: Exploring Cult Classics (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. This 4-week course will examine the following cult films closely: Fight Club, Pulp Fiction, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and The Shining. Each week will be dedicated to a single film. As a class, we will consider existing cult theories as we discuss, theorize, and pose questions about the films. Additionally, we will form our own cult theories about each film. We will also consider how, over time, these films have gained a strong and dedicated following because of their focuses on (then) tabooed subject matters like rebelling against monotony and consumerism with organized violence (FC), drugs and intersecting "gangster" lifestyles (PF), the sexualized "other" (TRHPS), and the effects of isolation on mental stability/ mental illness (TS). Students will respond to Blackboard posts each week as part of a participation grade. Students will also write short reflection papers each week about the films, using cult theories and secondary source materials as support. Meets a 300-level course requirement for English majors.
(2139) Cosentino, Nicole
4 Week 1: May 26-June 19
Online course in Blackboard

A Eng 368
Women Writers (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. This course examines the gendered dimensions of nations and gendered meanings of nationalism. Political categories such as nationhood, nationality, and sovereignty seem to be predominantly predicated on masculinist norms and values. In this course, we will look at the role of Israeli and Palestinian women writers in the political processes as active agents and victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict and try to understand history through the eyes of its women writers. We will be reading Leah Goldberg’s “Tel Aviv 1935”, Shulamith Hareven’s Twilight and Other Stories, Savyon Liebrect’s Apples from the Desert, Naomi Shihab Nye, Sahar Khalifeh’s Memories of an Unrealistic Woman and others from Gaza Writes Back— An Anthology. May be repeated once for credit when content varies.
(2350) Zahed, Sarah
4 Week 2: June 22-July 17
Online course in Blackboard