The English Department offers majors in English and in English with a concentration in creative writing. It also offers minors in English and in creative writing.

Students pursuing majors in English and creative writing read from a range of literary and cultural texts, drawn from Anglophone traditions in their broadest and most inclusive conception. Students develop the critical and creative skills to interpret and engage with varieties of complex textual and rhetorical expression, to write persuasively and purposively in multiple genres, and to express themselves articulately in both the spoken and written word.

The English Department offers a range of courses that emphasize the study of literature as an artistic tradition and the study of language more generally as a crucial component of cultural production and civic engagement. Students develop skills directly applicable to the further study of law, politics, journalism and publishing, leadership and stewardship.

English courses emphasize diversity in historical periods, genres, authors, cultures, and themes. The majority of courses in the major are seminar-style with limited enrollment emphasizing active student participation, critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills. The Creative Writing Program offers fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry courses at the introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels. The department offers special-topics courses and supervises numerous independent studies and honors projects. Students frequently pursue internships and study abroad.

English is one of the most useful majors for those who want to attend professional schools of law, medicine, and business, as well as for those seeking jobs in nonprofits, business, and government. Some majors become teachers; some become writers; some go into journalism, library science, or publishing. Students interested in teaching in private and public schools are urged to read the “Education” section of the catalogue and to contact a member of the Education Program. The department also encourages interdepartmental and interdisciplinary studies and supports the American Studies Program, the Theater and Dance Department, the Cinema Studies Program, and the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the major, students will be able to:

- Recognize continuities and differences among a variety of literary periods and genres
- Use appropriate knowledge of form, genre, and historical context to interpret and analyze literary or cultural texts
- Use appropriate theoretical paradigms to analyze literary or cultural texts
- Develop cogent and well-structured arguments
- Write with appropriate attention to voice, style, and form
- Demonstrate advanced disciplinary research skills and correct citation of sources
- Make effective oral presentations and participate effectively in small and large group discussion
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and improve upon their own work and arguments independently, based on disciplinary feedback.

Requirements for the Major in Literature Written in English

The English Department offers an 11-course major in English and a 13-course major in English and creative writing. The 11 courses required for the core major consist of the following:

- English 200, 271, and one other 200-level course (including introductory creative writing courses: English 278, 279, and 280)
- Five English 300-level or 400-level courses (excluding creative writing courses—see electives)
- English 493, the senior seminar
- Two electives in these categories: English literature courses or creative writing workshops at the 200, 300, or 400 level; approved courses in a foreign literature in that language or in translation, approved theater and dance electives, or selected cinema studies courses. All cross-listed courses count only in this category.

Our distribution field requirements within these 11 courses include:

- One poetry course at any level, either in literary study or creative writing (P)
- Two early literatures in English courses (E)
- Two diaspora/crossroads courses that explore the literatures of underrepresented groups, or courses that address alternative literatures in
ethnic American, diasporic works, world literatures, or postcolonial literatures; these courses might set these literatures in dialogue with works across the curriculum (D)

- Two comparative literatures and media courses that cross national boundaries, cross historical periods, or intermix media forms (C)

See course descriptions for P, E, D, and C designations. Please note that one course taken in the Colby English Department may fulfill up to two distribution requirements.

Majors from the Classes of 2018 and 2019 may elect to fulfill the prior requirements for the English and English/creative writing majors described in earlier catalogues.

The point scale for retention of the major applies to all English courses that may be used to fulfill major requirements. No requirement for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Requirements for the Major with a Concentration in Creative Writing

The English major with a concentration in creative writing requires 13 courses. Four courses must be creative writing workshops at the 200 level or above (English 278, 279, 280, 378, 379, 380, 382, 386, 478, and 479). English majors wishing to pursue a concentration in creative writing should declare the English major with a concentration in creative writing; the creative writing minor is only an option for students whose declared major is not English. Students may count Theater and Dance 141 (Beginning Playwriting) as one of their creative writing courses. Students are encouraged to take at least one course in a genre other than their sequence genre. Students should note that creative nonfiction courses are not offered as frequently as fiction and poetry courses.

Requirements for the Minor in Literature Written in English

The English minor requires a total of six courses. These must include:

- English 200 and 271
- Two English courses at the 300 or 400 level, excluding creative writing workshop courses
- English 493, a senior seminar
- One elective from these categories: English literature courses or creative writing workshops at the 200, 300, or 400 level, literature at the 200 level or above in a foreign language or in translation chosen in consultation with the minor advisor.

Within these six courses, minors must meet the following distribution field requirements:

- One poetry course at any level, either literary study or creative writing (P)
- One early literature in English course at any level (E)
- One diaspora and crossroads course at any level (D)

Requirements for the Minor in Creative Writing

A minor in creative writing is described in the "Creative Writing" section of the catalogue.

Honors in English

Students who meet the prerequisite, define a project, and secure the support of a department tutor and a second reader may elect to take English 483, 484, the Honors Thesis, and, upon successful completion, graduate with "Honors in English." Students seeking honors in English will complete 12 courses, and students seeking honors in English with a creative writing concentration will complete 14 courses.

Preparation for Graduate School

Students planning to continue the study of English in graduate school should confer with their advisors to be sure that they have planned a substantial and adequate curriculum. They should be proficient in at least one foreign language. Most universities require two languages, and some require a classical language as well. Work in classical or foreign literature, history, philosophy, art, music, and some of the social sciences reinforces preparation in the major and enhances one’s chances for success in graduate study.

Course Offerings

[EN115]  English Composition  Frequent practice in expository writing to foster clarity of organization and expression in the development of ideas. The assigned reading varies, but all English 115 courses discuss student writing. Students should select their first-choice course and submit alternate preferences via the Web page provided.  Four credit hours.  W1.

[EN115A]  English Composition: Models of Voice  “A writer must be in command of a variety of styles, in order to draw on the style that is most appropriate to the situation” (Corbett and Connors, 3). What rhetorical strategies have worked well for writers in the past? How can
EN115C  English Composition: Critical Inquiries into Medical Ethics  We engage with debates in medical ethics as a basis for analyzing, then developing, ideas and arguments about real-life situations and hypothetical scenarios. Philosophical, legal, and scientific readings are paired with works of literature and film that imaginatively explore topics including genetic testing, organ trafficking, sex selection, and cloning. Through frequent exercises and essay assignments, students cultivate a sophisticated writing process that fosters intellectual growth as well as precision of analysis, persuasive argumentation, coherent organization, effective use of secondary sources, and clarity of style.  

Four credit hours.  W1.

EN115F  English Composition: Art of the Personal Essay  Focuses on how prose style shapes the articulation of personal voice and persona in writing essays. Students will learn to shape personal voice more actively in their writing through the analysis and imitation of essays written by a range of essayists. Class exercise and assignments will include the study of rhetoric and implied argument; exercises in prose analysis, expository writing, and imitation; and an intensive review of grammar and syntax in standard American English; and strategies of successful academic writing across the College. Assessment is based on daily quizzes, an examination, the completion of several short essays, and the completion of a final and more substantial “personal essay.”  

Four credit hours.  W1.

EN115H  English Composition: Environmental Imagination  Considers the environment and understanding the ways in which it is represented, imagined, constructed, and manipulated by humans. We will start with a historical foundation in literature, and add examples from the visual arts, music, philosophy, religion, and the built environment, asking the question, what do our imaginative products reveal to us about our relationship to the non-human? Students will engage with the Maine environment on several occasions, including two field trips to the Maine mountains and seacoast. Environmental humanities lab.  

Four credit hours.  W1.  BURKE

EN115J  English Composition: Critical Writing  We use Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein as a starting point for analyzing and developing student writing. We write in several different modes as we take on critical writing in several forms: writing about literature, analyzing and using primary and secondary sources, approaching the problems associated with different kinds of writing projects (argumentative essays, comparison/contrast essays, summary essays, etc.), identifying and conquering usage and grammar problems that impair clarity, using research and close reading to develop ideas and arguments. We work with an array of materials in addition to our work with the primary text.  

Three credit hours.  W1.  OSBORNE

EN115K  English Composition: Writers on Writing  Encourages students to think of writing as an indispensable, improvable, and pleasurable aptitude worthy of a lifetime’s dedication, hard work, and practice. Will help students take greater possession of the multitude of voices they can effectively generate and maintain by using writing to examine the aims of writing in human culture generally. Assignments will move from first-person accounts of students’ experience with writing to a more formal research project in which students will link their own attitudes and beliefs to the insights of our most well-respected writers and scholars so they might practice the more collective thinking common to the public sphere.  

Four credit hours.  W1.  BRAUNSTEIN

EN115M  English Composition: Border Formations, Narratives of Nation Building  Analyzes discourses of border formations and immigration by engaging with a wide array of writing genres: news articles, blogs, investigative journalism, scholarly articles, and works of fiction. The goal is to understand how border formations shape national identity and how each genre is shaped by different writing conventions, multiple discourse communities, and varying ideological investments. By focusing on each piece of writing’s purpose, audience, and context, students will be able to evaluate, assess, and produce different kinds of writing.  

Four credit hours.  W1.  QUINTANA WULF
EN120s  Language, Thought, and Writing  A small seminar teaching writing through instruction in critical reading of literature and writing of critical essays. Multi-genre and writing-intensive, it focuses on different ways of conceptualizing the connections between thought and linguistic expression. Topics include developing skills for reading metaphorically and symbolically, using poetic and narrative models; investigating literature as a form of persuasion; and engaging different historical and critical approaches that enlarge ways of writing about literature and representation. Students are introduced to some of the primary critical modes of thought in literary and cultural studies.

Four credit hours.  W1.  MARVIN

EN120Af  Language, Thought, and Writing: Styles of Persuasion  This writing-intensive course focuses on the strategies writers of both fiction and nonfiction use to persuade an audience. To evaluate such strategies, and to discover what they can teach us about our own writing projects for college course work and beyond, we will read a range of political and personal essays, short fiction, and poetry. We will focus on the relationship between attentive reading and persuasive writing, with the central goals of developing skill sets and critical vocabularies for both, and of sharpening the analytical acumen that persuasion demands.  Four credit hours.  W1.  HANLON

EN120Bf  Language, Thought, and Writing: Writing as a Reader  In this writing-intensive seminar, we devote particular attention to the ways that form, voice, and style shape textual meaning, both in literary works and in college-level academic writing. We read poetry, prose, and drama from a variety of historical periods; develop a critical vocabulary for literary and rhetorical analysis; and work to situate our own interpretations of texts in relation to those of other readers and scholars. Throughout, we explore how writing about literature can make us better, more attentive readers, and how reading can make us more effective and thoughtful writers.  Four credit hours.  W1.  COOK

EN120Df  Language, Thought, and Writing: Thinking about Language  How is a language different from a dialect? How are proper grammar rules formed, and what do they have to do with the way people actually talk? How do the rules change? How is our language different from foreign languages? Why is language mixture necessary (as in restaurant, the English word) and why is it despised (a "bad accent")? We will develop analytical, argumentative (college) writing, while we read about the history of language (e.g., John McWhorter's The Power of Babel: A Natural History of Language) and style, and stories and essays by writers who open up questions of high and low language, assimilation to linguistic norms, and the ways speech and writing reflect larger social divisions and opportunities.  Four credit hours.  W1.  SUCHOFF

EN120Ef  Language, Thought, and Writing: Playing in the Dark: Writing Race  Before the insistent shouts that "Black Lives Matter," philosopher Cornel West wrote Race Matters, the title of his 1994 book. And earlier still, in 1986, an intellectually diverse group of contributors banded together to produce the essay collection, "Race," Writing, and Difference, that contended race was a sign, a metaphor and not an irreducible, absolute "reality." Notwithstanding, race as ideology, custom, aesthetic, and law has shaped virtually every dimension of American experience and preoccupied many of our most persuasive and provocative writers, including James Baldwin, John Edgar Wideman, Toni Morrison, Stephen Jay Gould, Barack Obama, and Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will close read these and other commanding voices as exemplary models of the persuasive essay and write about race as it shapes both a national debate and our own multi-dimensional lives.  Four credit hours.  W1.  BRYANT

EN120Ff  Language, Thought, and Writing: Literature as Persuasion  This writing-intensive course examines the multiple ways in which literature functions as persuasive art. Rooted in human experience, literature makes specific claims about the nature of lived social reality and the way language shapes that reality, and, in turn is shaped by it. We explore metaphor, language, and persuasion in specific essays in order to study the sonnet; we read prose satire to examine how it employs metaphor to make specific claims about social and political reality; and we read fiction and drama to show how narrative functions metaphorically to imaginatively shape the experience of crossing borders.  Four credit hours.  W1.  ROY

EN120Gs  Language, Thought, and Writing: Games, Rules, and Play  Happy Hunger Games! We will examine the concepts of games, rules, and play across literary history. By focusing on the conventions of poetry, short fiction, the novel, drama, and new genres, we will work through close reading strategies and devote serious attention to the writing process. Topics include poetic forms; linguistic play; the "rules" of race, gender, and sexuality; adaptation; globalization; the concept of "the end." Texts include poems by Shakespeare, Spenser, Millay, Duffy, Mullen; fiction by Diaz, Chiang, Larsen, Doyle; Collins's The Hunger Games and film adaptation; drama by Shaw, Beckett, Ives; conceptual writing by Goldsmith, and Shirinyan.  Four credit hours.  W1.  ARDAM

[EN120H]  Language, Thought, and Writing: Contemporary Women's Literature  Explores how women writers in the 20th and 21st centuries interrogate central mythologies that have long framed cultural perceptions of women in Western society. We will read the original Grimm's Fairy Tales (in their many incarnations) alongside the work of contemporary female fiction writers who work in both realist and fabulist modes, and we will study female poets who rewrite Greek myths to present the female perspective. Builds critical reading and writing skills; assignments will include personal responses to and critical analyses of the assigned texts. The culminating project will introduce the rigors and pleasures of incorporating scholarly research into one's academic work.  Four credit hours.  W1.

[EN135]  Literary New York  Writing-intensive, using the literature produced in different eras and locations of New York City as content
and as a means of reflecting the economic and cultural dynamism of the city. Sample periods include the Gilded Age, Jewish immigration, the Beats, black arts, and the rise of Wall Street. Involves both close reading of imaginative texts in several genres and mimicry of some of those texts, as well as traditional expository essays. Intensive writing in various modes and active discussion will be emphasized. Part of the three-course Integrated Studies 135, "New York: Global City." Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in American Studies 135A and 135B. Elect IS135.  

Four credit hours.  L, W1.

EN138f  Fantasies of Modernity: American Literature between the Wars  How did American literature respond to the dramatic social and cultural transformations that shook the United States after the devastating Great War? Moving from the roaring twenties through the Depression, we will study texts that emerged from the Lost Generation and the Harlem Renaissance, as well as the work of immigrant and working-class writers. Students will engage in a series of writing-intensive exercises and workshops, producing and revising four essays over the course of the semester. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in History and Philosophy 138. Elect Integrated Studies 138.  

Four credit hours.  L, W1.  STUBBS

EN141f  Beginning Playwriting  Listed as Theater and Dance 141.  

Four credit hours.  A.  OLDHAM

EN142fs  Introduction to Cinema Studies  Listed as Cinema Studies 142.  

Four credit hours.  A.  WESSELS

[EN174]  Public Speaking  A foundation in public speaking, with an emphasis on oral presentation, rhetorical and expository persuasion, argument and counter-argument. Students will write and orally present speeches to audiences, as well as read and watch examples of effective public speaking. Especially appropriate for those considering careers involving public speaking, including teaching, government, politics, law, etc., but all are welcome. In case of over-enrollment, confirmation of admission is by email application. Prerequisite: W1 course.  

Four credit hours.

EN200fs  Foundations of Literary Studies  Required for the English major, this introduction to college-level literary studies incorporates poetry, drama, and fiction, explores canon formation with a historical range of literary works, and emphasizes close reading, interpretive vocabulary, and critical writing skills. Also introduces students to critical perspectives and scholarly research. Previously listed as English 172. Prerequisite: W1 course or equivalent (can be taken concurrently).  

Four credit hours.  GIBSON, HANLON, OSBORNE

EN200Jf  Foundations of Literary Studies  Required for the English major, this introduction to college-level literary studies incorporates poetry, drama, and fiction, explores canon formation with a historical range of literary works, and emphasizes close reading, interpretive vocabulary, and critical writing skills. Also introduces students to critical perspectives and scholarly research. Previously listed as English 172. Prerequisite: Any W1 course or equivalent.  

Three credit hours.  STUBBS

[EN213]  Introduction to Shakespeare: Stage, Page, and Screen  Introduces students to Shakespeare’s works and their rich material history and explores not just the texts themselves but how their changing material forms affect their meaning and influence. We will address plays that explicitly engage staging, like Henry V, that have particularly rich textual histories, like King Lear, and that have recent film versions, including Macbeth and Much Ado about Nothing. Fulfills English C and E requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  

Four credit hours.  L.

EN214s  Tutoring Writing in Theory and Practice  A pedagogy and training course for writing tutors and writing fellows that focuses on peer review and collaborative learning in both theory and practice. Readings include essays and articles on peer review, learning styles and differences, multilingual student writing, strategies of revision, and writing center pedagogy. Assignments include writing, readings, grammar review and practice, a reflective blog, mock tutorials, and supervised tutorials to prepare enrolled students to help their peers improve as writers and to work with faculty as writing fellows. Students completing the course may apply for work-study positions in the Writers’ Center. Prerequisite: W1 course.  

Four credit hours.  HARRINGTON

EN224f  Performance History I  Listed as Theater and Dance 224.  

Four credit hours.  L.  OLDHAM

EN226s  Performance History II  Listed as Theater and Dance 226.  

Four credit hours.  L.  OLDHAM

[EN231]  Tolkien’s Sources  An examination of some of the mythologies, sagas, romances, tales, and other writings that are echoed in the stories of Middle-earth. Not an introduction to Tolkien’s fantasy literature; a knowledge of The Silmarillion, The Hobbit, and The Lord of the Rings is assumed. Topics include the role of myth and fantasy in society and the events of Tolkien’s life as they relate to the world he created.  

Three credit hours.  L.

[EN233]  Data and Literature in the Scientific Revolution  Examines the origins and history of data in its epistemological context, focusing on the ways that literary texts contributed to Enlightenment notions of data and on how literary texts provide data. Combines histories, imaginative literature, philosophy of science, and theories of data and data science to critically assess the relationship between
data and meaning. Fulfills English C and E requirements. Four credit hours. L.

[EN235]  Satire  We will cover satire, in prose and in poetry, from its roots in antiquity (Horace, Juvenal) to contemporary novels, punditry, and television, with significant coverage of the formative years of satire in English in the 17th and 18th centuries. Fulfills English C requirement. Four credit hours. L.

[EN237]  Postcolonial Pastoral: Ecology, Travel, and Writing  A critical examination of the pastoral as a literary genre from a global postcolonial perspective. Conducted in Kalimpong, India, enables students to work with Shiva's outreach center on biodiversity, ecology, and wilderness. Students combine their interest in civic engagement with a critical study of traditions relating to land, food, ecology, sustainability, and community, emerging in the global south. Students reflect on and write about their experiences of land and community from the perspective of informed observers, participants, and travelers. Fulfills English D requirement. Cost is $3,900. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Three credit hours. L, I. ROY

[EN238]  Art of Fly-Fishing: Maine and Bishop, California  Fly-fishing classics and instruction in casting, knot and fly-tying. Week three is spent fishing the Lower Owens River near Mammoth Lakes, Calif. Reading of literary classics (including Thoreau, Hemingway, Izaak Walton), critical essays, and blog required. Includes analysis of online nature writing; acquisition of fly-fishing techniques: gear choice, knot and fly-tying, casting, fly selection and nymphing; and writing a fishing blog that promotes awareness of and respect for the natural environment. Beginners and experienced fly-fishers welcome: students must apply to instructor for admission. Course cost: $1,900 to $2,400 depending on gear owned. Prerequisite: Application, permission of instructor, and non-refundable deposit. For more information, see web.colby.edu/fishing-professor. Three credit hours. L. ARDAM

[EN239s]  Literature Against Distortion  Takes literary and archival research as a foundation for combating misinformation, specious claims, faulty arguments, "alternative facts," "fake news," and other violations of intellectual rigor and integrity. Origins humanities lab. Four credit hours. L. HANLON

[EN243j]  19th-Century American Poetry  A study of the revolutionary poetics of Whitman, Dickinson, Dunbar, and others. We will examine how these poets challenged the function of art and form and reconstituted the meaning of an American art. Students will discuss the poems in class; write analytical papers; study the letters, treatises, and historical contexts of the poems; and engage in communal discussions of the poetry. Prerequisite: Any W1 course or equivalent. Four credit hours. L.

[EN245f]  Poems, Paintings, and Printing: Text Versus Image in the Lyric  An exploration of the relationship between poetry and the visual arts from creative, analytical, historical, and experiential perspectives. In the Colby College Museum of Art we will write poems about paintings and photographs. In Special Collections we will examine a broad range of printed texts. At the Pickwick Press in Portland, we will handset type for our own poetry broadside. Students will analyze and use appropriate technical terms for understanding poetry, identify several poetic traditions in which poets encounter other arts, articulate ideas and insights in visual and written media, and reflect upon their own work. Fulfills English C and P requirements. Previously offered as English 297 (Fall 2016). Prerequisite: Any W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L. GIBSON

[EN246]  Poetry and Cognition  What insights can poetry offer to the study of human cognition, and how might discoveries and ideas from linguistics, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy of mind illuminate our experience of poems and our understanding of poetry's central role in cultures through history? We will begin to answer these questions through interdisciplinary reading and research, discussion, and creative engagement, and we will experiment with poems from the Renaissance to the present. Fulfills English C and P requirements. Four credit hours. L. COOK

[EN248s]  History of the Book  An introduction to the study of the book as an object and as technology, from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. Focuses on the manuscript cultures of the European Middle Ages and the development and rise of print culture during the handpress period. Also explores related histories of authorship, readership, and publishing. Students will work with primary source materials in Colby Special Collections and a range of digital tools. Fulfills English C and E requirements. Four credit hours. A. WESSELS

[EN251f]  History of International Cinema I  Listed as Cinema Studies 251. Four credit hours. A. WESSELS
EN255f  Studies in American Literary History: Pre-1860  Introduces key movements in American literature and works written by American writers of different cultural backgrounds. Attends to themes that run throughout American literature prior to 1865 and considers how and why they are adapted and transformed. Explores the role of literature in shaping conceptions of the American self and how it has been used as a form of social protest. Traces the development of the American literary tradition, with particular attention to relationships between generic traditions, contexts surrounding the birth of certain genres, and how genre relates to a work's cultural and historical context. Fulfills English D and E requirements.  

EN256s  Studies in American Literary History: Civil War to the Present  Focusing on the theme of justice, we will examine key movements, genres, and traditions in U.S. literature from the Civil War to the present, investigating their relationship to the historical, political, and social contexts they both reflect and shaped. Through readings representing a diversity of racial, ethnic, religious, gender, and sexual identities, and communities in and around the United States, we will explore how literature has been used as a tool for social protest and has contributed to shaping and revising conceptions of "American" selfhood and national identity. Along the way, we will ask: What is America? Who is America for? Whom should it be for? Fulfills English C requirement.  

EN262  Poetry of Revolution  Poetry has a long history of undermining authority, challenging assumptions, and forging connections between bold and daring minds. We will examine Renaissance and 17th-century texts that are both poetically and politically powerful, from speeches of Elizabeth I to Shakespearean political drama to poems advancing new scientific ideas to the revolutionary oratory of Satan in Milton's *Paradise Lost*. We will also explore the influence of Shakespeare and Milton on political discourse in the early United States and ask how it illuminates the rhetoric unfolding around us this election year. Fulfills English E and P requirements.  

EN263  Poetry and the Nature of Being  Poets and biologists are closer kin than you might know. Many great poems are rooted in unflinching, patient, penetrating observation and fearless inquiry into the nature of things. Poets and natural scientists (called "natural philosophers" in earlier centuries) have also shared alertness to form, pattern, rhythm, complexity, and the constancy of change—"never-resting time" and "interchange of state" in Shakespeare's terms. Reading poems by poet-naturalists from the Renaissance to the present, we will explore ways poetry and myriad biological sciences have inspired each other in the past and might inform each other in new ways in the future. Science majors welcome. Previously listed as EN297 (Jan Plan 2016).  

EN264f  Comparative Studies: Emily Dickinson and English Poetry  An introduction to fundamentals of literary study through comparative reading. Compares poetry by 19th-century American poet Emily Dickinson to poetry of the Renaissance, Romantic and contemporary English poets she read deeply, particularly Shakespeare, Milton, Keats, and E.B. Browning. Students will gain specific strategies for reading poetry and for exploring the nature and power of language, particularly metaphor, syntax, and sound structures. They will also explore the transatlantic reading culture of Dickinson's New England and Dickinson's own boldly thoughtful life. Includes hands-on exploration of books in Colby's own Special Collections. Fulfills English E and P requirements.  

EN265  Early British Literary History  This survey course explores early British literature from Beowulf to early Romanticism and helps students develop an understanding of canons formation/reformation and the emergence of literature and authorship as social and political influences. Students will develop skills in analyzing early genres of poetry and prose as well as familiarity with the emergence of literary periods and current challenges and revisions to literary canons. Fulfills English C and E requirements.  

EN268  Survey of International Women Writers  Through lectures, discussion, and critical writing, students will explore different aspects of creativity that have inspired international women writers in their struggle for civil and political rights. Designed to attract, in addition to English majors, students from global studies, anthropology, women's studies, and sociology who are not specifically trained in literary analysis. Students will be trained to read fiction with a critical eye and will be encouraged to respond to specific historical and cultural contexts and to write from varying perspectives—as ordinary readers, as historians, and as cultural critics. Fulfills English C and D requirements.  

EN271f  Critical Theory  Introduction to major ideas in critical theory that influence the study of language, literature, and culture. Students gain mastery over an array of theoretical discourses and develop awareness of how underlying assumptions about representation shape reading practices. Possible approaches include classical theory, cultural materialism, structuralism, poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, Marxism, feminist theory, or postcolonial theory. Students learn to read complex arguments, recognize assumptions about interpretation and language, and use theoretical approaches and tools for interpreting the systems of representation that constitute culture.  

EN278s  Fiction Writing I  Writing short literary fiction. No prior experience with fiction writing presumed, only interest. Class sessions will
be devoted to talking about fiction basics, analyzing short stories, and critiquing fellow students' fiction in workshops. Outside of class, students will be writing fiction exercises and complete stories, as well as reading professional stories. By the end of the semester, students should have insight into the creative process. They should have learned the basics of the craft of writing, and they should have practiced what they have learned through writing and rewriting. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. A. BRAUNSTEIN, MARVIN, SPARK

EN279fs Poetry Writing I Students will learn to identify and internalize the fundamental techniques and strategies of poetry. Each week students will read the work of published poets, write their own poems, read poems aloud, and critique the work of their peers. To help hone writing abilities and aesthetic judgment, there will be practice in revision and in analytic craft annotation. By semester's end, students will produce a portfolio of revised poems and a statement of what they have learned about their creative process, their aesthetic preferences, and their growing mastery of craft. No prior experience with poetry presumed. Fulfills English P requirement. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. A. BLEVINS, MARVIN

EN280f Creative Nonfiction Writing I A creative writing workshop that introduces students to the forms and possibilities of creative nonfiction, including essays of time and place, memoirs, profiles, and literary journalism. Progresses through a review of models, writing exercises, drafts, and finished pieces, with an emphasis on the workshop process, in which students share work and comment on each others' efforts. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. A. BURKE

[EN282] Environmental Literature: Reading through the Ecocritical Prism Using literature to understand the complicated relationship of humans to the nonhuman is one of the important innovations in literary studies of the last 30 years. Students see the ways by which we perceive and articulate values we hold about the environment, our relationship to other animals and landscapes, and our place in the ecosystem. Works considered will range from the canonical and expected (Thoreau, Muir, et. al.) to modern works from other continents and authors we do not ordinarily think of as environmental writers. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. L.

EN283f Environmental Humanities: Stories of Crisis and Resilience What can literature teach us about nature and environmental justice? Do the humanities and environmental studies share a vision of a sustainable future? Is it possible to understand climate change without telling stories about its uneven global impacts? To address these and other questions, we will examine how the environmental humanities implicitly respond to the "two cultures" debate. We will then investigate the relationship between environmental justice and western societies' extractive logics, economies, and management of nature. From within this theoretical framework we will analyze novels, poetry, and environmental films. Four credit hours. L. WALKER

EN297Af Geographies of Home: Latina/o Literature of 20th-21st Centuries We will read a variety of Latina/o literary texts that span from the turn of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century. These texts reflect many different patterns of migration and permanence, part of the multifaceted history of the United States, that engage with the dynamic idea of "home": what constitutes home? How do we develop a sense of belonging to a place? How does the idea of home underlie the notion of social inclusion and exclusion from social representation? How does the idea of home allow us to articulate narratives of the nation? The seemingly simply notion of home will guide our approach to Latina/o multiverse of literary expression. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Four credit hours. L, U. QUINTANA WULF

EN297Bf Science Fictions Introduces students to the diverse genre of science fiction, a genre that imagines the possibilities and limitations of human experience, thought, and worlds. Topics will include alien encounters, time travel, artificial intelligence and post-human life-forms, and environmental apocalypse. We will read short stories and novels by Wells, Asimov, Dick, LeGuin, Butler, Gibson, Ishiguro, Chiang, Whitehead, Mandel, as well as explore science fiction in film (Blade Runner, Arrival) and television (The Twilight Zone, Battlestar Galactica, Orphan Black). Fulfills English C requirement. Four credit hours. L. ARDAM

EN297Jj Border Crossings Focuses on literary works and movies that take on border crossings both in a geopolitical sense (physical border crossings across national boundaries) and in a metaphorical sense (social and cultural border crossings). As we analyze the cultural, ideological, and artistic implications of these works, we will take on questions such as: What are borders? What function do they play in our lives? What role do they play in organizing social life? How do our ideas about borders clash with the realities of borders? Students will engage with literary and cultural artifacts and practice close reading and cultural analysis. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Three credit hours. L. QUINTANA WULF

EN298s Teach This Poem: Poetry and Art in Education Informed by the aesthetic education principles of John Dewey and Maxine Greene, students will study lesson plans for teaching poetry and art as experiences that involve deep noticing, wonder, and discovery. Students will develop short lesson plans modeled after the "Teach This Poem" resources from the Academy of American Poets, meant to empower educators with easier and more effective ways to bring poetry and art into the classroom. Students will visit local area schools and serve as guest teachers following the lesson plans they have developed to inspire students and educators with a more profound understanding of, and an enthusiasm for, the life-enriching power and relevance of poetry and art. Nongraded. Prerequisite: W1 course. One credit hour.
EN311f  Global Middle Ages  What did it mean to imagine a global world in the Middle Ages? We will answer this question by reading accounts of travelers from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions; meeting the fictional English knight John Mandeville, who claimed to have ventured as far from home as China and Indonesia, and the very real 10th-century Muslim traveler Ibn Fadlan, who trekked through what is now Russia and Scandinavia. We will study the history of map-making, compare fictional and historical accounts of crusade, and consider how a multi-cultural medieval world is represented in medieval fantasy like Game of Thrones. The only prerequisite is curiosity about the Middle Ages. Previously listed as EN397 (Fall 2015). Fulfills English C, D, and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L, I.

[EN312]  Death and Dying in the Middle Ages  Medieval writers approached death in a variety of ways: as heroic sacrifice, tragic loss, and inevitable transition. We will trace themes of death and dying through late medieval literature and explore topics including heaven, hell, and the Last Judgment; grief and mourning; death by violence and accident; the Black Plague; and the idea of a good death. Genres we will read include elegy, dream vision, and lyric, and study; authors include Chaucer and the Pearl Poet, as well as anonymous works. Some readings will be in Middle English; no previous experience with medieval literature is required. Fulfills English E and P requirements.  Prerequisite: A W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN313s  Poetry and Power in the English Renaissance  In the 16th and early 17th centuries, a wildly inventive period for the English language itself, poetry played an increasingly powerful role in both private and public life. Poetry could seduce in the realms of ideas and politics as well as love, and was integral to new modes of thought. We will study and experiment with a wide range of lyric, narrative, and dramatic poetry by women and men, bringing to our study cognitive linguistic insights as well inquiries into history. Fulfills English E and P requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.  SAGASER

[EN314]  17th-Century Literature and the Natural World  A study of English literature in the century of Galileo and Newton, from Shakespeare's King Lear through Milton's Paradise Lost, with emphasis on representations of the natural world and the moral, political, and gendered uses of the concepts of "nature" and "natural." We explore how essays, plays, pastoral poetry, erotic lyrics, political prose, and epics engage in pressing anxieties and questions of late Renaissance culture. How does God control nature, if at all? How does one reconcile natural observations with contradictory scriptural claims? Could "the law of nature" be "the beginning and end of all government," as Milton writes? Fulfills English E and P requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN315]  Medieval Saints and Sinners  What did it mean to be very good—or very bad—in the Middle Ages? We will consider possible answers to this question through readings drawn from a variety of medieval genres and textual traditions, including saints' lives, autobiography, allegory, and handbooks for confessors. We will consider how these stories work as literature that also endeavors to show readers how to live their lives and will explore the ways that religion, gender, and social class all affect prescriptions for moral living. No previous experience with Middle English is required. Fulfills English E requirement.  Prerequisite: English 172 or 200.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN316s  Sex, Love, and Marriage in the Middle Ages  Examines literary and cultural representations of romantic love and sexual desire in late medieval England. Topics will include courtly love and courtship, the possibilities of same-sex desire, prostitution and sex work, and sexual encounters both in and out of marriage. We will read widely in a variety of medieval genres including lyric, dream vision, epic, and short narratives. Readings may include works by Chaucer, Gower, and Marie de France, as well as anonymous writings. Some readings will be in Middle English but no previous experience with medieval literature is required. Fulfills English E requirement.  Prerequisite: W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, W2.  COOK

[EN317]  Literatures of Reform: Censorship, Science, and Satire, 1660-1740  The "long 18th century", including the 1660-1700 era of the monarchy's Restoration and the 18th century proper, is a period during which the tumultuous politics of overthrowing and reinstating kings, identity conflicts between urban and rural lifestyles, and brash "paper wars" between authors competing in a rich literary marketplace combine in a raucous literary scene. We illuminate this scene, and reflect on what the writings of Aphra Behn, William Congreve, Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and others tell us about our contemporary approaches to class, gender, religion, national identity, foreign policy, and the wider interplay between literature and politics.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN318f]  Dating and Relationships in 18th-Century British Literature  How 'modern' is the modern romantic relationship? Explores how dating and courtship, marriage and divorce, and affairs and flings have long complicated politics and social relations in Britain and early America. Focuses on relationships represented in the literature and cultural history of Britain from roughly 1740 to 1815, including narratives of 'British' relationships tested by the French and American revolutions. Topics include long-distance relationships, gender roles and expectations in courtship, the impact of matrimonial law on social relations, and the implications of inter-class and interracial relationships. Fulfills English D and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.  HANLON

[EN319]  Fictions of Empire  Using Edward Said's Orientalism as a starting point, an exploration of the rich literature of the long colonial
era beginning with the 17th century and leading up to the 20th. The complex ways in which the historical, social, and political forces accompanying colonization produced the sense of the “other,” one that served to define and limit, but also test, the often fluid borders of Western identity and culture. Authors include Shakespeare, Jonson, Aphra Behn, Conrad, and Kipling. Fulfills English E requirement.

Four credit hours. L.

[EN322] British Romanticism A study of the literature and culture of the British Romantic period (1770-1840) in its national, international, and comparative contexts. In addition to consideration of canonical writers (e.g., the Shelleys, Byron, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Blake), includes representative texts from studies in political theory, popular poetry and fiction, travel and exploration, cultural materialism, other national literatures, and subgenres such as the gothic or contemporary drama. The selection of writers varies each semester; may be taken more than once. Well-prepared non-majors are welcome. Fulfills English E requirement. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing; English 271 recommended. Four credit hours. L.

[EN323] Victorian Literature I The idea of “culture” in the mid-Victorian period and the social pressures of class, religion, gender, and race that formed and transformed it. Readings include Victorian predecessors such as Walter Scott; novels by Charles Dickens, Emily Brontë, and George Eliot; prose by Thomas Carlyle, J.S. Mill, and Matthew Arnold; and poems by Alfred Tennyson and the Rossettis. Novels, essays, and poems considered as participants in Victorian debates that created “culture” as a political category and helped shape modern literary and cultural criticism. Four credit hours. L.

[EN324] Victorian Literature II Examination of the transformations that questions of empire, race, sexuality, and popular social discontent registered in late-19th-century British culture through early modernism. Study of this fin-de-siècle period by concentrating primarily on the growing split between a “high” culture, which fears an increasingly democratized society, and the popular voices of the period. Authors include Browning, Hardy, Wilde, Yeats, Synge, Joyce, and others. Overall course objective: critical thinking. Discussion and close attention to the text in class and in writing are considered. Four credit hours. L.

[EN325] Modern British Fiction A historically informed critical study of modern British writers between 1898 and 1945, namely Thomas Hardy, Joseph Conrad, H. G. Wells, E. M. Forster, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, D. H. Lawrence, and Aldous Huxley. Focus is on the competing visions of modernity and the ways in which these writers simultaneously challenged and upheld the dominant social, cultural, political order and the sexual codes operating within urban British society. Special attention to questions about literary representation and history and to issues of language and form that emerge within the context of an emerging modernist tradition in Britain. Four credit hours. L.

[EN329] 21st-Century Comparative Literature A consideration of contemporary literature of the first decade of the 21st century, with an international focus. We will read some of the most innovative novels of the current moment in an effort to think more broadly about issues of genre, narrative, modernity and postmodernity, the aesthetics of postindustrial capitalism, globalization, and the resonance between current events and literary representation. Writers featured range from American authors such as Don DeLillo to Polish author Magdalena Tulli and Norwegian writer Per Petterson. Non-majors are welcome. All works are read in English. Fulfills English C requirement. Prerequisite: English 271 recommended, but not required. Four credit hours. L.

EN331s Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville We will explore many of the most famous literary texts by these two writers central to the American literary canon while seeking to answer a number of fascinating questions. How did the brief but very intense personal relationship between Hawthorne and Melville shape their work? Why did Hawthorne enjoy both popular and critical success during his lifetime, while Melville died in obscurity after initial popular acclaim? What cultural factors conditioned the Melville revival of the 1920s? How have recent critics — particularly scholars of gender and sexuality — understood the work of Hawthorne and Melville? Fulfills English E requirement. Four credit hours. L, U.

[EN333] Environmental Revolutions in American Literature and Culture Explores the role that literature and the arts have played in the ongoing “environmental revolution” waged by people of color and their allies. Case studies will introduce students to a range of environmental justice issues and movements, bringing a humanities-based approach to topics most often treated through the lenses of science, law, and policy. Texts will include multiethnic American literature, film, and music, as well as several artworks in the Colby College Museum of Art. We will analyze how environmental justice activists, scholars, and artists have responded to new challenges while also revising core concepts and priorities of mainstream environmentalism. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. L.

EN336s Early American Women Writers Is there a female literary tradition in America? Moving from the colonial era to the early 20th
EN337s  Climate Fiction  Investigates contemporary literature, film, and media in the developing genre known as "climate fiction." We will situate these texts within the environmental humanities, an interdisciplinary field that combines scientific-cultural discourses about the environment with humanistic concerns for justice. We will ask how cli-fi narrates disaster on a global scale, but also strives to imagine more just futures that combine environmentalism and social equality. These texts will be paired with philosophical and eco-critical writings that will aid our development of the humanistic methodologies needed to analyze this new genre. Fulfills English C requirement.  Four credit hours.  L.  WALKER

EN338s  Narratives of Contact and Captivity  We will explore the vexed, often violent encounters, interactions, and inter-penetrations of Europeans, Africans, and the indigenous peoples of the Americas. By examining a wide range of representations—both narrative and visual—of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries depicting contact and captivity, we will investigate critically the construction of gender, race, and nation. Fulfills English C, D, and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN341s  American Realism and Naturalism: Then and Now  Investigates different forms and philosophies through which writers, artists, and performers have sought to portray "real life." Begins with an in-depth examination of three literary movements that dominated U.S. literature from the late 19th- through the early 20th centuries: realism, regionalism, and naturalism. Investigates how these cultural categories developed in relation and in response to specific social and economic conditions, and to similar movements in visual arts and music. Then looks at examples of Italian neo-realist cinema and contemporary U.S. reality TV to discover how visual media makers in the mid-20th and early 21st centuries have redefined the relationship between representation and the "real." Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN342s  African-American Literature: Speaking in Tongues  Beginning with Lucy Terry's poem, "Bars Fight," the earliest known work of literature by an African American, Black Art in the United States has been inherently political and aesthetically complex. This course is, diachronically, a survey of multiple, intertextual genres and periods including poetry, short and long fiction, and creative nonfiction. Synchronically, it is a close reading of seminal writers—for example Rita Dove, Ralph Ellison, Sherley Anne Williams, and John Edgar Wideman—whose thematic foci include (existential) identity, migration, race and racialism, art and propaganda, power and privilege. A critical understanding and articulate sense of these interlocking issues are the specific learning goals. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN345s  Modern American Fiction  Major works of American fiction since 1920—by Faulkner, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Bellow, O'Connor, Alice Walker, and others—will be analyzed, emphasizing the pattern of experience of the protagonist in conflict with the modern world. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN346s  Culture and Literature of the American South  In a cold, New England dormitory, a northern student asks his southern roommate to "tell about the South." The effort to do so engenders not just one narrative about what it means to grow up amid the palpable shadows of the Civil War and institutional slavery, but a whole tradition of imaginative fiction demarcated by elusive terms like "regionalism," "grotesque," "realism," and "modernism." Because so many of our writers are Southerners by birth, experience, and disposition, the South, as myth and reality, has become a trope for what is essentially and problematically "American"—and what isn't—in our literature and cultural history.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN347f  Modern American Poetry  An introduction to modern American poetry guided by questions including: What makes a poem "modern"? What is the relationship between modern poetry and its literary forebears? What is free verse, and are our poets writing it? How are social realities (gender, race, class) figured by modern poetry? What kind of (American) self do these poets imagine? Organized into four units: "natural" language, forms and reforms, experiments, and imagination and reality. We will read poetry and prose by Pound, H.D., Williams, Toomer, Frost, Eliot, Moore, Millay, cummings, Stein, Hughes, Stevens, Loy, and Brooks. Fulfills English P requirement. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN351s  Contemporary American Poetry: Politics, Experiments, Selves  Covers American poetry from World War II to the digital age. We will be concerned with individual authors and styles and also with the social and formal concerns that unite them. Asking questions such...
as: How do poets reimagine form and its relationship to the self after the innovations of modernism? What happens to the lyric "I" in this period? We will read work by Ginsberg, Plath, O'Hara, Bishop, Creeley, Rich, Clifton, Hejinian, Cha, Mullen, Goldsmith, and Rankine, and study clusters of poems that take on political issues (including abortion, racism, and September 11th) by other poets. Fulfills English P requirement. Prerequisite: English 120, 172, or 200.  Four credit hours.  L.  ARDAM

[EN353]  The American Short Story  A historical, cultural, and analytic look at the American short story from its origins to the current day, including works by Hawthorne, Melville, Freeman, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Hughes, O'Connor, Updike, Cheever, Baldwin, O'Brien, Robert Olen Butler, Carver, Grace Paley, Jamaica Kincaid, Louise Erdrich, and John Barth. Students will write two papers and a take-home exam synthesizing class concerns and will respond to a structured question on weekly forums. The forums serve as triggering devices for class discussions. Prerequisite: English 172 or 200, and 271.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN354]  Slavery and the American Literary Imagination  Devoted to sounding the implications of slavery in shaping the American literary imagination and an analysis of the larger iconography of color that has haunted (and in some instances horrified) our national writers and literature since Jamestown, 1619 when the first small band of negroes arrived in North America. Collectively, we will construct an inherently polemical dialogue between 19th- and 20th-century racial ideologies, myths, and customs; read authors like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs who write about slavery as a "lived experience"; and explore 20th-century writers, including Toni Morrison, Lucille Clifton, and Gayle Jones, engaged in "reconstructing slavery through the literary imagination." Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

[EN357]  History of the English Language  Explores the development of English in both its linguistic and cultural dimensions. The first half examines historical changes in English language and grammar, from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present. The second half considers a wide variety of issues in contemporary sociolinguistics. Topics will include the standardization of spelling and grammar, dialect and slang, history of lexicography, the rise of global Englishes, and emerging digital tools for linguistic study. Prerequisite: A W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN359]  Reading Race Now: 21st-Century Multiethnic-American Literature  An introduction to 21st-century fiction, poetry, and drama by writers of color, providing opportunities to examine the innovative literary forms and styles through which these writers represent racial and ethnic identity. Building an understanding of contemporary theories of racial formation, we will also examine the ways in which literary representations of race and ethnicity intersect with gender and sexuality, class, ability, and nation in the wake of major events, including the attack on the World Trade Center, the U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Hurricane Katrina. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN378f  Fiction Writing II  An intermediate workshop in writing fiction. Focuses on the writing and revision of the literary short story, with particular attention to the structure of dramatic action, character, texture and tone, inspiration, and the process of revision. Prerequisite: English 278.  Four credit hours.  BRAUNSTEIN

EN379fs  Poetry Writing II  Presupposes basic familiarity with the poetic uses of metaphors, images, lines, and fresh and rhythmic diction. Requires students to read more extensively and analytically in contemporary poetry and continue their practice working with the kind of divergent thinking that makes poetry possible. Students will also undertake a more sophisticated investigation of the interplay of syntax with lineation, the nuances of pacing and structure, the resources of associative thinking, the gambits of rhetoric, and the complexities of tone. Final portfolio, emphasis on revision. Fulfills English P requirement. Prerequisite: English 280 or other nonfiction writing course.  Four credit hours.  A.  BURKE

EN380s  Creative Nonfiction Writing II  Advanced course in creative nonfiction. Students will refine their knowledge of the types and tropes of creative nonfiction, and will advance their ability to produce quality nonfiction, through the use of the workshop method. Students will be urged to focus on memoir; personal, reflective, or juxtaposition essays; literary journalism; or adventure narratives. Familiarity with particular examples of nonfiction, exercises, and intensive drafting and review of student work are required. Prerequisite: English 280 or other nonfiction writing course.  Four credit hours.  A.

[EN382]  Environmental Writing: Writing on Place  Creative writing using the workshop method to teach students about the principles, strategies, and achievements of writing about the relationship of human to nonhuman. Focus on the role that place plays in that relationship. Students study professional models, draft exercises, workshop their peers' writings, and produce finished essays and narratives for a final portfolio.  Four credit hours.  A.

[EN386A]  The Mother Tongue(s): Grammar, Syntax, and Style for Writers  A shame-free and stress-free conversation on the grammar, syntax, and style of contemporary written English. We will re-familiarize ourselves with the rules and conventions of Standard American English in order to better employ them when necessary and ignore them if not. We will also ferret out the contradictions, exceptions, and myths surrounding the written linguistic behaviors of everyone from "Abercrombie & Fitch" to James Baldwin. We will work with our own prose in a metawriting (writing about writing) workshop. Readings on writing, usage, and style will include essays by Steven Pinker, David Foster Wallace, George Orwell, E.B. White, Virginia Woolf, Joan Didion, Annie Dillard, and many others. Prerequisite:
[EN386C] Special Topics: Documentary Radio  Students will listen to and make a variety of short documentary pieces, learning how to use recording equipment, interview, write radio scripts, and edit and mix sound. They will produce radio essays, public service announcements, vox pops (person-on-the-street-type interviews), soundscapes, and profiles. They should expect to go off campus for assignments. Includes readings about sound reporting and the making of *This American Life*, as well as guests from on and off campus. Fulfills English C requirement.  Four credit hours.

EN398s Space and Place in Contemporary Native American Literature  We will read contemporary Native American literature as we work to understand how the notions of “place” (concrete experience) and “space” (abstract concept) shape indigenous experiences and identities in the United States — and in turn, our own. We will start by considering the differences between Euro-American cartographic practices and Indigenous mapmaking. Then we will read works by Native American authors that deal with histories of removal, the “Trail of Tears,” termination, forced boarding school education, sovereignty, slave holding, endurance, and survival. Fulfills English D requirement.  Prerequisite: A W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.  QUINTANA WULF

EN411f Shakespeare on Screen  An examination of Shakespeare's plays in the context of their lengthy film performance history from the silent film era to postmodern adaptations. Testing Michael Andregg's assumption "that their relationship to language and to what we characterize as 'the literary' may be the most notable characteristic of films derived from Shakespeare's plays," we will work with several film adaptations and other screened versions. No prior knowledge of film necessary, but we will work with and analyze film in the terminology of the field. Fulfills English C and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.  OSBORNE

[EN412] Global Shakespeares  A humanities lab that examines international appropriations of Shakespeare's plays through film, through exploration of translation practices and adaptations, and through development of an exhibition of German Shakespearean prints in conjunction with the Colby Museum of Art. Explores Shakespeare's plays within the context of intercultural dialogues, theories about cultural imperialism, and filming/artistic practices in global markets. Significant research required. Required film screenings. Fulfills English E requirement.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN413As] Author Course: Samuel Beckett: Comedy of the Abyss  Beckett faces the emptiness of modernity, and finds humor and critical meaning in it: in the holes between "words without things, things without words." His absurd plays, in which nothing happens, parody the absurd ideals of a Western culture where "everything waits to be called off to the dump" but life goes on as normal: discovering the meaning of the expelled. As the "comedian of the impasse," Beckett makes meaningless language speak, in a world that cannot go on, but must. The central texts of one of the hardest and most rewarding modern writers: including *The Trilogy* (*Molloy, Malone Dies, The Unnamable*), *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, and other short prose. Fulfills English C requirement.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN413E] Author Course: Herman Melville  An examination of significant works by Herman Melville, considered through his life history and the larger historical, cultural, economic, and political contexts conditioning his representations. We will pay special attention to how critics in the new millennium have understood these texts, focusing on the new interpretations made possible by the insights of recent scholars of gender and sexuality.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN413Ff] Author Course: William Faulkner  Close reading of William Faulkner's major short fiction and novels in the context of the modernist struggle for authority and authenticity. The provocative, cross-racial literary discourse between black and white writers during the modernist period will be theoretically situated into a larger cultural context. The "burden of Southern history," the vanishing wilderness, and the politics of race and gender will help thematize the fiction that transformed Faulkner from an almost-out-of-print regionalist writer in 1945 into the Nobel Prize recipient just five years later. Fulfills English D requirement.  Four credit hours.  L.  BRYANT

[EN413G] Author Course: Cormac McCarthy: Novels and Film Adaptations  What Flannery O'Connor famously said in 1960 about the influence of William Faulkner's novels and stories on American writers may be said with equal force about the early 21st-century impact of Cormac McCarthy's fiction: "No one wants his mule and wagon stalled on the same track the Dixie Limited is roaring down." O'Connor's paradoxically intimidating and inspiring caution is put to the test by close reading McCarthy's major novels and their film adaptations, including *All The Pretty Horses*, *The Road*, and *No Country For Old Men*, that contribute to the ongoing regional and national dialogue.
Jonathan Swift was a prolific writer across genres. In the 18th century he was well known for his wry and at times profane poetry, his political pamphlets, and his dynamic prose fiction. He was also the subject of much gossip surrounding his romantic affairs and much speculation about his complicated political and national allegiances. We'll examine the life and writings of Swift—satire, poetry, pamphleteering, novelistic writing, science fiction—with emphasis on what reading the multifaceted Swift today teaches us about contingency, identity, and the instability of meaning. Accordingly, we will ask and answer: to what extent are Swift's complications also our own?  

**EN413M**  
**Author Course: The Complications of Jonathan Swift**  
Best known for his acerbic satires, "A Modest Proposal" and *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift was a prolific writer across genres. In the 18th century he was well known for his wry and at times profane poetry, his political pamphlets, and his dynamic prose fiction. He was also the subject of much gossip surrounding his romantic affairs and much speculation about his complicated political and national allegiances. We'll examine the life and writings of Swift—satire, poetry, pamphleteering, novelistic writing, science fiction—with emphasis on what reading the multifaceted Swift today teaches us about contingency, identity, and the instability of meaning. Accordingly, we will ask and answer: to what extent are Swift's complications also our own?  

**EN413Q**  
**Author Course: Stephen King: Mystery, Magic, and Maine**  
"Ourself behind ourself, concealed-/Should startle most," the speaker announces in a gothic poem by Emily Dickinson. Earlier practitioners of the American Gothic like Poe concur with this sentiment, but it is in the works of Stephen King that the tensions between material and immaterial spaces—and the intersections of horror, the uncanny, and terror—reach their full measure in the 20th century. Almost no other American author is as prolific as Stephen King and writes across as many genres, including novels, short stories, novellas, and essays. We will explore the shaping influence of King's writing on American pop culture, Maine, and New England, and nightmare subjects including alienation, dystopia, blackness, and abjection that should startle most. **Prerequisite:** Any W1 course.  

**EN413R**  
**Author Course: Edith Wharton**  
How biographical information and critical responses aid in understanding the key themes, literary projects, and central problems of works by one of the most famous writers of the American literary tradition, Edith Wharton. Fulfills English D requirement.  

**EN413S**  
**Author Course: Two Early 19th-Century Novelists: Scott and Austen**  
The origins of the Victorian novel, exploring themes of race, class, and the narrative structure that would shape the social and literary structures of classic narratives. The preconditions of the female-centered plot, ideological uses of raced identities, the Austen heroine, and the origins of feminism and commodity culture will be considered through literary and film versions. Fulfills English C and D requirements.  

**EN417**  
**Literary Criticism: Postmodern Identity in Contemporary Novels**  
Explores the interplay of commodity culture and new expressions of difference in gendered, racial, queer, and transnational terms, using theoretical texts from Appiah, Derrida, Butler, Deleuze, and Guattari. Other texts include DeLillo's *White Noise* on media saturation; trans-national quests to re-conceptualize official history, race, and queerness in Murakami's *Hard Boiled Wonderland at the End of the World*, Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, and Ozeki's *Tale for the Time Being*; and the contemporary comedy of Silicon Valley, Eggers' *The Circle*. Fulfills English C requirement.  

**EN422**  
**Queer Theory and U.S. Literatures and Cultures**  
Students will develop an advanced understanding of key concepts and movements in queer theory, an interdisciplinary field of critical theory that has had wide-ranging effects. As we move through major works, we will review their theoretical underpinnings: women of color feminism, poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, and historical materialism. We will explore queer theory's relationship to and influence on American literary and cultural studies and will develop sophisticated skills for engaging in original theoretical analyses of creative texts, influenced by new developments including queer of color critique, queer ecology, crip theory, and trans studies. Fulfills English C and D requirements. **Prerequisite:** A course focusing on critical theory or theories of gender/sexuality such as English 271, WGSS 201 or 232, or another with instructor approval.  

**EN442**  
**U.S. Orientalisms and Arab American Literature**  
What assumptions do Americans make about the Middle East and Arabs, and how have these beliefs been shaped by literary representations? What topics do 20th- and 21st-century Arab American writers explore and how are these writers in dialogue with the history of Orientalist expression? Reading texts by writers such as Tyler, Irving, Poe, Melville, and Twain depicting the Middle East and the Islamic regions of North Africa, we will be attentive to "the Arab" and "the Arabesque" as unstable terms in relation to racial constructs of darkness and whiteness, and normative categories of gender and sexuality. After examining paintings and films, we will turn to texts produced by Arab Americans themselves. Interested non-majors are welcome.  

**EN457**  
**American Gothic Literature**  
Horror, especially gothic horror of the American variety, always masquerades as something else; it can usually be found "playing in the dark," in Toni Morrison's phrase, or beneath a monster-other mask. Surveying horror's effects—the narrative strategies that make horror fiction so horrifying—is a focus, but emphasis is on learning to use various critical tools, Jungian myth, psychoanalytical, feminist, and race criticism to explore the deeper, semiotic relation of signs and signifying that codify the cultural meaning behind the monster masks—werewolves, shape-shifters, vampires, succubi, demons, and (extra)terrestrial aliens—that conceal a humanity
too terrifying to confront consciously.  

EN478s  Advanced Studies in Prose  An advanced “group independent” workshop, providing a capstone experience to creative writing concentrators and minors working in fiction, drama, or creative nonfiction. Students will execute a semester-long writing project. This may be a series of short stories, a novella, novel chapters, a script, a screenplay, or some other project to be approved by the instructor.  

Prerequisite:  English 378 or 380.  Two to four credit hours.  SPARK  

EN479s  Advanced Studies in Poetry  An advanced “group independent” workshop, providing a capstone experience to creative writing concentrators and minors working in poetry. Fulfills English P requirement. Prerequisite:  English 379.  Two to four credit hours.  BLEVINS  

EN479J, 484s  Honors Thesis  An independent, substantial project approved by the English Department or the Creative Writing Program. The student will work in close consultation with a faculty member. Students are responsible for selecting their faculty tutor and submitting their proposal by May of their junior year. Prerequisite:  A 3.25 grade point average in the major and approval from a faculty tutor.  Two to four credit hours.  FACULTY  

EN491f, 492s  Independent Study  Individual projects exploring topics for which the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. Prerequisite:  Permission of a project advisor and the chair of the department.  One to four credit hours.  FACULTY  

EN493As  Seminar: Literature and Film Adaptation  From Beowulf to Fight Club, literary texts become films in ways that expand our understanding of the relationship between literature and adaptation. This seminar will explore adaptation studies, moving beyond fidelity studies, through an array of films and literary texts, including some chosen by seminar participants. Fulfills English C and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.  OSBORNE  

EN493Cf  Seminar: James Joyce's Ulysses and Early Writings  An examination of Joyce's idea of otherness as both an English that limited Irish writing and that inhabits language and gives a nation different voices. We will study Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man to see how Joyce developed his idea of linguistic identity and difference; then we will go on to study the chapters of Ulysses, each with a different narrator, learning how to read the Bloom, Stephen Dedalus, and the allusions that allowed Joyce to remake the realist novel in a comic, self-conscious vein. Fulfills English C requirement.  Four credit hours.  L.  SUCHOFF  

EN493Ds  Seminar: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales  Learn Middle English as we read and analyze a selection of the stories drawn on Chaucer's great literary road trip, The Canterbury Tales. Attention will be given to issues of Chaucer's sources, narrative personae, and generic variety, as well as to key themes in recent Chaucer criticism. Through secondary sources, we will develop a context for our readings that includes consideration of the political, social, and literary contexts of late medieval England. No previous experience with Middle English is required. Fulfills English E and P requirements. Prerequisite:  W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.  COOK  

EN493Gq  Seminar: Poetry and Cognition  What insights can poetry offer to the study of human cognition, and how might discoveries and ideas from linguistics, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy of mind illuminate our experience of poems and our understanding of poetry's central role in cultures through history? We will begin to answer these questions through interdisciplinary reading and research, discussion, and creative engagement, and we will experiment with poems from the Renaissance to the present. Fulfills English C and P requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.  

EN493H  Seminar: Migratory Poetics  How are poetic forms and tropes transformed as their creators migrate from one country, place, or language to another? How do writers use poetic forms to confront new places, engage with new languages, and make their ways across cultures? How do lyrics or narratives allow writers to shape the experience of cultural estrangement? We will engage several case studies, from late 18th- and early 19th-century India (William Jones, H. L. V. Derozio, and others), to the Canadian backwoods (Susanna Moody, Anne Knight, and Margaret Atwood), to native American/First Nations poets encountering a dominant Anglo culture (Pauline Johnson and
EN493f  Seminar: Imperialism and Literature  A critical exploration of the British imperial imagination, the seminar examines the imaginative discourses produced in Britain about its colonies from the 17th century to the modern era. It analyzes ways in which literature was shaped by, and in turn, directed the social, political, and cultural forces that marked imperialism. More specifically, it identifies narratives about "frontiers" (physical, psychological, and moral) across which British identity was defined and consolidated. Using Edward Said's theory of orientalism, the seminar traces the multiple, and sometimes contradictory, worlds evoked in literature through which ideas about alterity or otherness enter the domain of culture. Fulfills English C, D, and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.  ROY