ENGLISH

Chair, Professor Mary Ellis Gibson
Professors Adrian Blevins, Cedric Gael Bryant, Michael Burke, Laurie Osborne, Debra Spark, and David Suchoff; Associate Professors Megan Cook, Aaron Hanlon, Elizabeth Sagaser, and Katherine Stubbs; Assistant Professors Sarah Braunstein, Mohammad Shabangu, Dyani Johns Taff, Christopher Walker, and Arisa White; Visiting Assistant Professors Menglu Gao, Adam Giannelli, and Samantha Plasencia

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

The Colby English and Creative Writing department fosters engagement with multiple media as objects of study and making. We encourage students to embrace contemporary writing while fostering critical engagement with past literatures and cultures. We support the study of global Anglophone literatures and environmental/ecological understanding. Our courses represent wide-ranging, diverse creative and critical practices.

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. In medical school admissions, students in English and humanities do very well in comparison to students in other fields.

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. Our 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, the Environmental Studies Program, and the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

Learning Outcomes

Students and faculty in English and creative writing become active learners engaged in

- Sustaining a reshaped literary canon
- Reading and making across genres, platforms, and media
- Integrating making and analysis
- Building community and listening across differences
- Writing with others at Colby, in Waterville, and far beyond
- Understanding how representation shapes the world
- Bringing both analytical and creative skills to global histories and ecological challenges
- Finding pleasure and personal meaning in reading and writing together

Requirements for the Major in Literature Written in English

The English Department offers an 11-course major in English and a 12-course major in English in the two concentrations: literature and the environment 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 no more than two distribution requirements.

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 English Major with a Concentration in Literature and the Environment (ENLE)

In addition to the requirements for the English major, students concentrating in ENLE will take EN283 Introduction to Environmental Humanities and EN357 Literature and the Environment plus two courses drawn from the ENLE concentration list, one of which may be EN493 Senior Seminar when the topic is approved. Students must take one approved course outside the department in Environmental Studies (ES) or in the area of environmental humanities. Approved courses are listed on the department website.

Requirements for the Major with a Concentration in Creative Writing (ENCR)

The English major with a concentration in creative writing requires 12 courses. Four courses must be creative writing workshops at the 200 level or above (English 278, 279, 280, 378, 379, 380, 382, and 386). 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. Note: To complete the major with 12 courses, the 200 level course requirement must be met with a Creative Writing workshop (EN 278, 279 or 280).

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 an honors project advisor 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 13 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 an appropriate curriculum. They should be proficient in at least one foreign language. Most universities require two languages for the Ph.D. 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

[EN120] Language, Thought, and Writing Four credit hours. W1.

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

EN120Cs  Language, Thought, and Writing: Dynamic Reading, Empowered Writing  Long before psychology and neuroscience were disciplines, writers experimented with language and the mind, discovering ways to engage attention, influence perception, provoke and test ideas, amplify memory, and collaborate with thinkers far away in space and time. We will study examples of powerful writing from the 17th c. to the present (poems, speeches, letters, essays) while gaining strategies to make our own writing more effective. Ideas from cognitive psychology, linguistics, philosophy and literary studies will enrich our inquiry into the nature and power of language. Four credit hours. W1. SAGASER

[EN120E]  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.

EN120Gf  Language, Thought, and Writing: Community Literacy and Migration  Where are we? Why are we here and how did we arrive? How do we know what we know? Who needs our stories? We’ll use these questions to explore essays, literary texts, images, and more as we gain literacy-reading and writing ability as well as cultural knowledge-about Colby, our communities, and migration. We’ll reflect on, analyze, narrate, and research our journeys and compare them to stories by Margaret Cavendish, bell hooks, and Mohsin Hamid. Students will develop a college-level writing practice while asking why we migrate, what we carry with us, and how we become creators of new knowledge. Four credit hours. W1. TAFF

EN120Hf  Language, Thought, and Writing: Writing as Technology  What is writing? How is it different from other forms of representation, such as speech, painting, and photography? (How) does writing empower and/or enslave its users? In this writing-intensive seminar, we will engage with reflections on the power of writing as technology in essays, fiction, poetry, and scholarly works, from Plato to contemporary postcolonial and science-fiction authors. Four credit hours. W1. GAO

[EN120I]  Inventing Nature in New England  Combines field trips around Maine with work in the Colby Museum and the rare book room. We’ll read some of the classics of New England nature writing, make our own "field journals" on Mayflower Hill, and think about how our ideas of and relationships to the natural world are shaped by our knowledge, our technology, and our historical situation. We’ll read prose and poetry, from Emerson to Maine writer Sarah Orne Jewett’s short stories, to modern poetry broadsides in our library’s collection. When spring finally comes we’ll make a field trip to the Maine coast to see for ourselves the world described in Celia Thaxter’s The Isle of Shoals. We will keep journals and write and revise both research essays and journalistic essays. Four credit hours. W1.

EN120Lf  Language, Thought, and Writing: Coloniality of Language Instruction  Teaches you how to write in complex, intersectional rhetorical contexts by first and foremost addressing how our use of language is always racialized within our shared context of western settler colonialism-manifesting paradigmatically in the institutionalization of Standard Written English (SWE) and the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Our class investigates the relationship between language, race, and rhetoric in first year college writing instruction so as to study what is at stake in how you learn writing, as well as the effects of normalizing the language and perspective of the colonizer. Four credit hours. W1. PLASENCIA

EN120Qf  Language, Thought, and Writing: Scenes of Displacement, Migration, and Exile  This writing intensive course emphasizes the fundamentals of academic writing and evidence-based argumentation skills. Pursuant to that goal, we will look at various ways that selected texts including novels, essays, film, poetry and photography respond to the subject of displacement, migration and exile in the 20th and 21st Centuries. From voluntary migration in search of more habitable spaces, to politically exiled intellectuals and writers, from narratives of asylum seekers to undocumented migrant labours in the North Atlantic, we will examine and analyze different forms of exile as represented in selected fiction and non-fiction work. We will train to read critically and write compellingly, in relation to the aesthetic
responses to forms of dispossession and exploitation.  

**EN120R**  Language, Thought, and Writing: How to Read a Beautiful Book  In this writing intensive seminar we focus on writing to read and reading to write. How can reading be a pleasure? What happens to your brain when you read on screens? How can writing analytically and persuasively add to the pleasures of reading? We'll concentrate on three or four big books from Shakespeare to the twenty-first century, dive deep, and emerge with new ideas and new reading and writing strategies.  

*Four credit hours.  W1.*

**EN120Tf**  Language, Thought, and Writing: The Hero's Journey in the (Post)Modern World  Any intensive writing course is predicated on the simple axiom that *writing is thinking:* the act of writing engenders the rhetorical strategies that expand and develop what and how we think. In a powerful sense, the full measure of an idea is not revealed until it is subjected to the special stress tests of written and oral discourse, including logic, persuasion, evidence, debate, and the imagination. The overarching theme that gives our course coherence is "the hero's journey in the (post)modern world" and engages the work on myth, literature, and culture by Joseph Campbell, Claude L?vi-Strauss, and Wolfgang Iser. Because effective writing, i.e., *writing that fulfills its desire rhetorical intentions*, is a process improved by constant constructive evaluation and the opportunity to write and revise, much of our time will be devoted to producing argumentative, analysis, research-based "critical essays" and debating the implications of our collective thinking in class.  

*Four credit hours.  W1.*

**EN138**  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 Cinema Studies 138 and History 138. Elect Integrated Studies 138.*  

*Four credit hours.  L, W1.*

**EN141f**  Beginning Playwriting  Listed as Theater and Dance 141.  

*Four credit hours.  A. WEINBLATT*

**EN142f**  Introduction to Cinema Studies  Listed as Cinema Studies 142.  

*Four credit hours.  A. WURTZLER*

**EN174f**  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.*  

*Two credit hours.*

**EN178fs**  Language, Thought, and Writing: Introduction to Creative Writing  Process-centered exploration of the fundamentals of writing fiction, poetry, nonfiction, drama, and hybrid forms. Students bring questions about self to a rigorous writing practice. Through reading and writing — in both creative and critical modes — we interrogate the many ways self is understood and expressed in the literary arts. Students write in a variety of forms, with peer review and revision guiding their choices. Readings reflect a wide range of backgrounds, traditions, and voices.  

*Four credit hours.  W1.*

**EN200fs**  Foundations of Literary Studies  How and why do we read? How do we decide what counts as literature? What counts as knowledge for readers of imaginative texts? We begin to answer these questions in this broad ranging course. Required for the English major, the 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. *Prerequisite: W1 course or equivalent (can be taken concurrently).*  

*Four credit hours.  L. HANLON, SAGASER, STUBBS, TAFF*

**EN202s**  Topics in Writing: Communicating Across Difference  

*Four credit hours.  U. SHERIFF*

**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 (may be taken concurrently).*  

*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
EN219 | Epidemics and Literature  | This course examines how epidemics have been narrated, studied, and imagined. Reading literary, scientific, philosophical, and journalistic texts, we'll think about contagion, immunity, and public health alongside topics such as environment, individualism, racism, inequality, and biopolitics. Assignments will include short essays and a brief analysis of news relevant to Covid-19. Students will hone their analytical and writing skills as they analyze texts from different genres and periods. English C credit. L. GAO  

Four credit hours.  

EN221j | Style and Substantive: Writing Fiction by Imitation  | Plagiarism is stealing, but imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. In this class we will read collections of short fiction from contemporary writers, as well as classic writers, analyzing the style and substance of their stories. These discussions will be followed by writing assignments which focus on specific elements of those stories, using them for inspiration and guidance. Students will write and revise four short stories, after feedback from the class and professor. Hybrid course, taught in a mix of live and remote sessions. Prerequisite: W1 course. Three credit hours. A. O'DONNELL  

EN222j | Visual Poetics  | Explores the various ways that poetry and the visual arts intersect, examining how visual elements have shaped poems. We will trace the history of this intersection, including ekphrasis, illuminated books, erasures, Open field poetry, and hypertext poetry. How do white space, typography, and other graphic elements contribute to the effect of a poem? We'll read work by a range of writers that includes George Herbert, E. E. Cummings, Larry Eigner, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Jen Bervin, Matthea Harvey, and Tyehimba Jess. In response, students will compose close readings of poems, and produce their own creative hybrid texts. Fulfills English C and P requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Three credit hours. L. GIANNELLI  

EN227j | Enlightenment Data and Literature  | 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 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. Three credit hours. L.  

EN232f | Early African American Literature  | Introduces early African American literature as an inscription of fugitive existence—or as Fred Moten calls it, stolen life. Our goal is to sketch this story of unruly writing from 1773 to 1900 by considering how black citizens usurped and (re)-formed dominant literary genres and political institutions in order to carve out a space of freedom within a hostile nation. We will read sermons, political tracts, spiritual autobiographies, testimonies of enslavement, and newspapers to ascertain how people of African descent theorized anti-blackness as a way of life and, in response, fashioned other forms of being-in-the-world. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Four credit hours. L, U. PLASENCIA  

EN233J | 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 $4,000. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Three credit hours. L, I.  

EN234f | Introduction to Journalism  | An introduction to features of journalism, including news gathering, interviewing, feature writing, rewriting and editing. Previously offered as English 298 (Spring 2020). Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Two credit hours. GIBSON  

EN236s | Writing the Empire, the Nineteenth Century and the Present  | By 1900, the British empire had extended its reach and control over literally every time zone. This course explores how nineteenth-century British and Anglophone authors represented imperial expansion and how their reflections on the empire have shaped the way we think about power and inequality today. Topics include social (and racial) stratification and uplift, travel and migration, labor and the global marketplace, and aesthetics. Some attention will be paid to twentieth- and twenty-first-century rewritings of nineteenth-century texts and databases on slave trade and contemporary refugees. Fulfills English C requirement. Prerequisite: Any W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L. GAO  

EN237 | 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. Prerequisite: Any W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L.
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 hand-press 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. L. COOK

EN249s Black Liberation Theology: Kendrick Lamar's Religious Rhetoric  Posits contemporary Hip Hop artist Kendrick Lamar as a Black Liberation Theologian whose albums are sermons in verse form. As such, he follows an exegetical tradition that began with Jupiter Hammon and Phillis Wheatley in the late 18th century, but which coalesced in the 20th century with Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Black Liberation Theology understands God as principally concerned with the dignity and lives of oppressed multitudes, and interprets the Bible as a liberatory text. These strands of thought and interpretative practices come together in Lamar's four studio albums. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Previously offered as English 297A (Jan Plan 2021). Four credit hours. L, U. PLASENCIA

EN252s History of International Cinema II  Listed as Cinema Studies 252. Four credit hours. A. KIM

EN253f Literature and Medicine: Body, Addiction, and the World  What can literature teach us about the modern self's relationship with stimuli from the external world? Reading accounts of addiction from the nineteenth century through the present day, we will also examine films, medical writing and visual representations, alongside topics such as liberalism, inequality, imperial expansion, consumerism, ?digital drugs,? and the roles of gender, race, and class in the pathologization of addiction. In addition to writing critical essays and informal posts, students will evaluate smartphone addiction treatment apps and devise an encyclopedia entry to an addictive object. Fulfills English C requirement. Prerequisite: Any W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L. GAO

[EN255] 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. Prerequisite: W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L.

[EN256] Studies in American Literary History: Civil War to the Present  In this introductory survey 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, class, 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. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Four credit hours. L, U.

EN264s Comparative Studies: Emily Dickinson and English Poetry  In this course, we compare poems by 19th-c. American poet Emily Dickinson to poems by writers she read intensely, from Shakespeare to Keats, the Bront–s and E. B. Browning. We consider other contexts for Dickinson's work as well: the natural world, her family life, education, and the Civil War. And we compare Dickinson poems to poems by 20th-21st-century writers who consider(ed) her an influence, including Gwendolyn Brooks and Evie Shockley. Students gain analytical skills and creative strategies for engaging in poetry and literary history. Fulfills English C, E, and P requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. L. SAGASER

[EN265] Early British Literary History: from Beowulf to Blake  We will encounter and enjoy great writing from an 800-year period of literary invention, reading tales of love and lust, of severed arms and near-severed heads, of tragic heroes, saucy wives, and valiant maids. We will trace the history of gender and consent, the invention of the 'self,' and the construction of the category of race. Introduces a variety of literary works in multiple forms and genres, including epic battles, dirty jokes, and lyric poetry. We will think about canon formation, and become attentive to the processes of literary inheritance, borrowing, stealing, and invention. Fulfills English C and E requirements. Prerequisite: W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L.

[EN266] British Literary History II from Wordsworth to Rushdie  We will encounter and enjoy great British poems and novels from the Romantic period to the present. Along the way we will discover how modern understandings of gender and class developed, how the processes of empire building and industrialization shaped the literary world, how ideas about nature and the environment were created in response to industrialization, and how modernist experimentation took shape in the aftermath of World War I. A final unit will focus on contemporary and postcolonial literature. Fulfills English C and P requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course (may be taken concurrently). Four credit hours. L.

[EN267] Introduction to Contemporary World Literature  In Black Skin, White Masks, the French writer Frantz Fanon observes: "To speak ... means above all to assume a culture, to support the weight of a civilization." The course on colonial and postcolonial studies
EN271fs  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.  Prerequisite:  English 120, 172, or 200 (may be taken concurrently.)  Four credit hours.  L, I.

EN278fs  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, SPARK

EN279fs  Poetry Writing I  What distinguishes a poem from a story from an advertisement from a phone call home? How do poems get written? And does it need to rhyme? In this workshop, students investigate these and many other questions about poetic process and craft by reading and critically analyzing contemporary poetry, writing their own poems, and offering feedback on the work of their peers. By semester's end, students will produce a portfolio of revised poems and a statement of what they have learned about their creative process, 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, Giannelli

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. Blevins, Giannelli

[EN280A]  Creative Nonfiction Writing I: Coming-of-Age in the Anthropocene  An introduction to the forms and possibilities of creative nonfiction, with a particular emphasis on the theme of coming-of-age in the climate change era. Reading assignments will come from the literature of the Anthropocene, as well as from classic creative nonfiction essays. Essays of time and place, memoirs, profiles, and literary journalism will be discussed. The course progresses through a review of models, writing exercises, drafts, and finished pieces, using the workshop process, in which students share work and comment on each other's efforts.  Prerequisite:  Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.

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. Fulfills English C and D requirements.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN297  Reading the Combahee River Collective  Centers on a foundational context for contemporary feminism, The Combahee River Collective Statement (1977). This text, by a group of path-breaking Black feminists, critiqued the racism of white feminism and the sexism of the Civil Rights movement. It became a crucial context for intersectionality and remains central to debates about women in society, the harms of misogyny, and the role of white supremacy in United States history. We will read and analyze this and supporting historical and theoretical texts, engage in formal and informal writing, and come to understand key ideas in historical context. Fulfills English D requirement.  Three credit hours.  L, U.  Spampinato

EN298s  We Learn by Doing: Poetry into Theatre  More a lab experiment than a course, we begin with the notion that poetry is our most interior genre, a solitary act. But we'll quickly go rogue to rework a volume of poems, Bestiary Dark, as theater, a public gesture that returns to poetry's other ancient roots. Students will remake this work into a hybrid piece they will perform on stage before an audience. Real and mythic creatures to be brought to life include kangaroos, platypus, koalas, plus a snarky archangel, an emu come back from the dead, and the old Roman, Pliny the Elder—and who/whatever else the students invent. Students may also have a chance to work in teams transforming beloved poems by class members or established writers into one-act plays. Requirements include a log which details failures and triumphs and a final essay. Fulfills English P requirement.  Prerequisite:  Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  A. BORUCH
EN310s    Professional Writing    Listed as Writing Program 310.    Four credit hours.    W2, U.    SCHLACHTE

[EN311]    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. 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.

[EN313]    Poetry and Power in the English Renaissance    In 16th-17th-century England, poetry and other rhetorical arts played increasingly powerful roles in public and private life. Poetic language (in oratory, drama, lyric, epic) was integral to politics, intellectual exchange, entertainment, and for many, personal reflection. Informed by both cognitive linguistic insights and inquiries into history, we will study and experiment with a wide range of poetic texts by women and men. We will also consider the afterlives and influence of Renaissance texts in ensuing centuries through the present day. Fulfills English E and P requirements.    Prerequisite: Any W1 course.    Four credit hours.    L.

EN314f    17th-Century Literature and the Natural World    Explore literature written during the scientific revolution, from Shakespeare’s King Lear through works by Lanyer, Philips, Cavendish and other women, to Milton’s Paradise Lost. How do these texts imagine the natural world and the human within it? How do they challenge assumed boundaries between human and non-human animals? What do these texts and their afterlives teach us about attitudes toward the environment from the 17th-century to the present day? We seek answers through lively reading strategies and discussion, creative exercises, and research both online and in Special Collections. Fulfills English E and P requirements.    Prerequisite: Any W1 course.    Four credit hours.    L, W2.

EN315f    Medieval Women’s Mysticism    Explores the spiritual writings of medieval women writers including Margery Kempe, Julian of Norwich, and Hildegard von Bingen. Considers how their writings navigate gendered religious and social systems, endeavoring to craft a cultural place for women’s lived experience and spiritual authority. Also includes related works of spiritual, didactic, and medical writing. No previous experience with Middle English is required. Fulfills English E and P requirements.    Prerequisite: W1 course.    Four credit hours.    L, W2.

[EN316]    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 and P requirements.    Prerequisite: W1 course.    Four credit hours.    L, W2.

EN317s    Childrens Literature    How does reading shape childhood and how, in turn, do ideas about childhood shape writing and publishing? We will read a wide range of children’s literature, from the eighteenth century to the present. We will investigate the changing history of childhood as we encounter school readers, moral tales and fairy tales, old and new poems, nineteenth-century magazines for children, picture books, fantasy and young adult fiction, classics and comics. Students will develop historical research skills and theoretical/analytic frameworks for the study of childhood and writing for children. Fulfills English C and P requirements.    Prerequisite: W1 course.    Four credit hours.    L, W2.

EN318s    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.    Freedom and Captivity humanities theme course.    Four credit hours.    L, HANLON
[EN320] Introduction to Rhetoric and Writing Studies  Listed as Writing Program 320.  Four credit hours.

[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. Fulfills English D requirement.  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, globalism, 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

[EN330] Introduction to Writing and Cultural Studies  Prerequisite: Any W1 course. Four credit hours. L

[EN333] Environmental Revolutions in American Literature and Culture  Explores the role that literature and the arts have played in representing environmental justice issues and envisioning possibilities for social transformation. Readings will include theoretical works from critical race and ethnic studies and postcolonial studies; these works will inform our engagement with contemporary works of multiethnic American literature and film that integrate environmental concerns with questions of social and political justice. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours. L

[EN336] Early American Women Writers  Is there a female literary tradition in America? Moving from the colonial era to the early 20th century, an exploration of many of the themes central to women's lives and an investigation of the literary genres traditionally associated with women's writing, exploring the insights of feminist historians, and assessing the recent critical revaluations of "female" genres such as domestic fiction and the sentimental. Fulfills English C, D, and E requirements.  Four credit hours. L

[EN337] 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. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours. L

[EN339s] Disability Studies and the Environmental Humanities  Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 339. Four credit hours. L, U, SIBARA

[EN340] U.S. Protest Writing: Revolutionary War to the Black Panthers  Engages students in a transhistorical study of protest traditions in the United States and the conditions that produced them. Through this 200-year jaunt, we'll discuss the disagreements that led to a civil war between Britain and its American colonies, anti-slavery movements, factory labor and proletariat resistance, the reconsolidation of white power through Jim Crow laws, and the women's movements. At each turn, well historically situate and transhistoricize the rhetorics of protest, their movements organizational practices, and the apparatuses of dominance and power they resist. Fulfills English D and E requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours. L

[EN342s] Literature of the Rural  The “rural” in the American imaginary depends on a relation between the city and country that challenges systems of belief and value about the natural world and the possibility of human agency within it. Many of the myths of place writers create are essentially rural and pastoral rather than urban and industrial spaces, including Stephen Crane's Whilomville, William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County, and William Carlos Williams's Paterson. Concentrating on novels, stories, essays, and poetry, we will explore the dynamic play of margin and center, national and local identity, and the shifting sense of what it means to be, and not be, "rural" and American in the long 20th century. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours. L, U, BRYANT

[EN343] 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. Fulfills English D requirement. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours. L, U.
EN345f  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.  BRYANT

[EN346]  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.

EN350s  Pirates and Captives in Early Modern Romance  Pirates, slaves, and shipwrecks are ever present in romances from the 16th and 17th centuries. We will place representations of these figures from ballads, plays, poems, and prose fiction—including texts by William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, Mary Wroth, and Margaret Cavendish—alongside historical accounts of captivity, forced migration, and environmental violence in both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic worlds. We'll examine early modern discourses about race, class, gender, and ability and the ways in which our texts sometimes reinforce and sometimes challenge social prejudices. Freedom and Captivity humanities theme course. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN351s  Pirates and Captives: Early Modern Romance  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: W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.  BRYANT

EN352s  Hang and Rattle: The West in the American Imaginary  How did the American West as a geography of the imagination and of reality, as a "middle ground" located somewhere between the "actual and the apocryphal," engage the 19th- and 20th-century national debate about American identity? Moreover, how did the cowboy, the signal figure of the "open range," science and technology's "machine[s] in the garden," and transformative ideas about time, place, gender, race, and morality all contribute to the making and unmaking of an American imaginary in literature, film, politics, and popular music? Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN353f  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: W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.  BRYANT

EN355s  Pirates and Captives: Early Modern Romance  Pirates, slaves, and shipwrecks are ever present in romances from the 16th and 17th centuries. We will place representations of these figures from ballads, plays, poems, and prose fiction—including texts by William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, Mary Wroth, and Margaret Cavendish—alongside historical accounts of captivity, forced migration, and environmental violence in both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic worlds. We'll examine early modern discourses about race, class, gender, and ability and the ways in which our texts sometimes reinforce and sometimes challenge social prejudices. Freedom and Captivity humanities theme course. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN357s  Literature and Environment  Introduces students to the history and diverse traditions of global environmental writing. By analyzing this tradition, students will gain mastery over a range of methods for interpreting representations of nature, human-environment relations, and nonhuman animals, with a focus on how these representations intersect with the history of environmental racism and environmental justice movements. Topics may include the history of ecocriticism, eco-poetics, queer ecologies, animal studies, posthumanism, and postcolonial ecocriticism. Environmental and Global humanities lab. Fulfills English C requirement. Prerequisite: English 200 or 283.  Four credit hours.  L.  WALKER

EN358f  Donning the Mask IN THE WAKE: The Persona Poem  Brings new meaning to the popular phrase and hashtag “Stay Woke.” We will look at poetic works that use persona, personification, and/or dramatic monologue as the dominant literary device to construct long poems and book-length narratives that re-imagine and reanimate historical figures and events that have had material and sociopolitical consequences for the Black community. Christina Sharpe’s wake theory will inform the reading of these poetry collections. Through discussion, critical reflective writing, and poetic re-enactments we will examine how contemporary Black poets don the “mask” to comment on our historical times and challenge us morally. Fulfills English D and P requirements. Freedom and Captivity humanities theme course. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L, U.  WHITE

[EN362]  Energy and Utopia  From the appearance of slavery in Thomas More’s Utopia (1516) to the centrality of the alien energy source “vibranium” in Nnedi Okorafor’s Afro-futurist The Black Panther (2018), utopian narratives have been written under the myth of endless, free energy, and the elision of exhausted, disenfranchised labor. Considering this historical problem, we will ask what type of works of political work is performed by the utopian genre today? To do so, this humanities lab will investigate literary, cinematic, and theoretical examinations of our current climate, energy, and political crises. Fulfills English C and D requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.

[EN363]  The Enlightenment and the Anthropocene  This seminar is guided by the question: Is the Anthropocene a product of the Enlightenment? We will explore questions of what exactly “the Enlightenment” and “the Anthropocene” are, and when and where slippages in our usage or understanding of these concepts cause confusion and error that can ripple across disciplines. Fulfills English C and E requirements.  Four credit hours.  L.

EN366f  Writing the Crisis: Post-Apartheid Literature in Focus  Ever wondered how the logic of racism operates in South Africa? This
course investigates postcolonial literary and aesthetic practices of South Africa after the legislative end of apartheid (1994—). We examine the traumas of postcoloniality, paying attention to the aesthetic and ethical implications of these works. We'll also explore the ethics and politics of witnessing; the impossibility and yet the absolute necessity of certain ethical gestures such as hospitality, forgiveness, shame, and responsibility, all of which are at the core of the post-apartheid nation's self-image. Fulfills English C and D requirements. 

**EN368s Literary and Visual Narratives of Postcoloniality** From a globally informed perspective, this class examines literary and visual representations of the socio-political processes of colonialism. We explore the production and emergence of visual narratives such as anti-colonial cinema in formerly colonized regions. We approach film and literature through a comparative lens as we analyze counter-narratives to the ones established by ?empire cinema? We trace the development of film as a critical mode of expression in addressing notions of race, class, gender and nationhood. Reading both fiction and theoretical essays alongside one another, the class introduces students to black experimental film and global contemporary visual vernaculars. Fulfills English C and D requirements. 

**EN369 Reading Race Now in Theory and Contemporary 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. 

**EN370 Literature and Medicine: Voices from the Margins** Explores what we can learn about the field of medicine from works of 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. Thus, patient-centered narratives by people of color, people with disabilities, poor people, women, and queer and genderqueer folks will be our focus, alongside theoretical readings from the fields of women of color feminism, critical disability studies, and biopolitics. Our explorations in this Humanities Lab course will also include visits to the Art Museum and Special Collections. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Boundaries and Margins humanities lab. Prerequisite: Any W1 course. 

**EN378 Fiction Writing II: Special Topics** An upper-level course in fiction writing with a different focus each semester, affording students the opportunity for further study in the art of fiction with an emphasis on increasingly sophisticated elements of craft. Class sessions will include mini-lectures, close analysis of contemporary fiction, author visits, in-class writing exercises, and workshops. Each semester will highlight an element of craft, a literary form, or a literary movement, asking students to experiment with form or genre and to read deeply in a single subject. Prerequisite: English 275 or 278. 

**EN378BF Fiction Writing II: Experiments in Perspective** Focuses on narrative perspective and point of view. It asks: Why write in the first-person versus the third? Why does one story call for an epic omniscient narration and another an immediate present tense? Which comes first, the content or the form? We'll think/talk about POV in terms of craft and technique; we'll also discuss the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of our narrative devices. And we will find ourselves contending with critical corollary questions: How do I write the not-me? The Other? Will I be believed? Am I allowed? Prerequisite: English 278. 

**EN378C Fiction Writing II: Constrained Writing** Course in constrained writing that looks at how work by the French Oulipo, Dr. Seuss, present day New Yorker writers, and others play with and grow from restrictions. We'll read and write stories written around a single phrase or assigned image, stories written with technological or linguistic constraints, borrowed form stories, and more. Boundaries and Margins humanities theme course. Prerequisite: English 278. 

**EN378Ds Fiction Writing II: Writing the Present Moment** Climate change, the pandemic, MeToo, police brutality, Black Lives Matter, toxic politics Z How have fiction writers responded to the present moment in their fiction, and what obligation do you feel if you do feel it-to capture what is going on right now in your fiction? We'll look at writers who have taken on the challenge of writing about the political and social realities of the moment, while also considering whether there are other ways to think about “the present moment and writing,” thanks to a meditation session with a guest teacher. We'll read the climate change issue of Guernica, the New York Times Decameron series about the pandemic, and short work by Curtis Sittenfeld, Esme Wang, Te-Ping Chen, Jade Jones, Susan Perabo, and others. Prerequisite: English 278. 

**EN379s Poetry Writing II: Studies in Voice** We will complicate the traditional workshop in this course with questions about what we mean by "voice" in verse and by weekly interrogations of the voice(s) of a range of contemporary American poets working out of a range of aesthetic sensibilities, aims, and ambitions. Who or what speaks in or through a poem? How do we know who or what that "speaker" is? What makes the sound the speaker makes audible (or not)? Which speakers do we most want to listen to? Why? Fulfills English P requirement. Prerequisite: English 279.
[EN380] Creative Nonfiction Writing  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, other nonfiction or prose writing course.  Four credit hours.  A.

EN380As Creative Nonfiction Writing: I to Other in Creative Nonfiction  Introduces students to the range of subjects in Creative Nonfiction, from the first person I to the 3rd person Other. Students will encounter memoir, literary journalism, flash nonfiction, cultural critique, and autofiction, in addition to the canonical personal essay. However, central to the course is the self-designed project that each student will create, in consultation with the professor, which will define an individual ambition and goal for the semester, allowing for considerable flexibility in the kinds of work students will produce. The semester begins with examples, exercises, and discussion; students build towards a portfolio of polished nonfiction by the end of the semester. Prerequisite: English 280, other nonfiction or prose writing course.  Four credit hours.  A. BURKE

[EN382] Environmental Writing: Writing on Place: Special Topics  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.

EN386Cs Special Topics: Documentary Radio  Do you like This American Life, Hidden Brain, Two Dope Queens, or any of the classic or new podcasts out there? This is your chance to learn how to tell stories in sound. In this class, you will listen to and make a variety of short documentary pieces. You'll learn how to use recording equipment, write radio scripts, interview on tape, and edit and mix sound. You will produce radio essays, public service announcements, vox pops, soundscapes, profiles, and/or features. Course includes readings about sound reporting, close attention to the 1619 podcast, and guests from on and off campus. Fulfills English C requirement.  Four credit hours.  SPARK

EN386DF Special Topics: Prose Poem, Flash Fiction, Lyric Essay  This part-imitation, part-workshop course explores the potential for a greater and stranger range of expression by working at the border of the three major literary genres. Techniques from theoretically opposing approaches—narrative, lyric, associative, persuasive, linear, fragmentary, and disjunctive—will be commingled in an effort to renovate traditional definitions and constraints. Prerequisite: Any 200-level creative writing workshop course: English 278, 279, or 280.  Four credit hours.  BLEVINS

EN397j Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom  I borrow our title from Sylvia Wynter, whose career has been devoted to articulating how western white societies over the last 400 years have colonized what it means to be human and by extension the parameters of freedom, truth, and power. This course tracks the contours of Wynter's 30-year research project through four landmark epic essays, each of which is conversation with dozens of thinkers. This interdisciplinary intellectual journey introduces students to theories of being and behavior generated by theology, classical humanism, political science, existential philosophy, and neuroscience. Fulfills English C and D requirements. Prerequisite: Any W1 course.  Three credit hours.  L, U. PLASENCIA

EN411s 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. Prerequisite: Any 200-level creative writing workshop course: English 278, 279, or 280.  Four credit hours.  L. OSBORNE

EN413As Author Course: Toni Morrison  An intensive exploration of Toni Morrison's life, fiction, and nonfiction—eight novels, collected essays/lectures, and short fiction—and their aesthetic and political location within the national discussion about race, class, and gender, canonicity, and literary production. As a writer, teacher, and critic, Morrison positioned her work at the crossroads of cultural criticism, insisting that we, her readers, look unflinchingly at issues that, in the African-American vernacular, "worry" all of her writing—brutality, wholeness, love, community, cultural and political marginalization, and history. Like so many of her characters who struggle to find a voice to speak the unspeakable, this course is predicated upon dialogue and critical inquiry. 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
concerning violence and divinity, “being and nothingness,” art and entropy. Fulfills English C requirement.  

Four credit hours.  L, U.

[EN413H]  Author Course: Henry James and Edith Wharton  Examine major works by two of the most famous writers of the American literary tradition. The writers will be considered individually, in terms of how biographical information and critical responses (both at the time of each text's publication and today) help us to understand key themes and literary projects, paying special attention to gender and sexuality. We will also consider the fascinating close friendship between these two writers, and how this relationship shaped their work. Fulfills English E requirement.  

Four credit hours.  L.

[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 films versions. Fulfills English C requirement.  

Three credit hours.  L.

[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.  

Four credit hours.  L, U.

[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. Fulfills English C and D requirements.  

Four credit hours.  L, U.

[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.  

Prerequisite: W1 course.  

Four credit hours.  L, U.

EN482f  Honors Proseminar  Practicum for students undertaking senior honors theses in English.  

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in English 483 or 484.  

Two credit hours.  COOK

EN483f, 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

[EN493]  Seminar  Four credit hours.

[EN493A]  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.

[EN493B]  Seminar: Beyond Borders in American Literature and Culture  We will explore the perils and possibilities of border
crossings, the dreams of those who traverse and thereby stretch the limits, and the rewards and repercussions of their journeys as represented in American literature and film. Theoretical readings from border studies, comparative race and ethnic studies, environmental humanities, and gender and queer studies will animate and inform our close analyses of literary works including Maxine Hong Kingston's China Men, Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony, and Karen Tei Yamashita's Tropic of Orange, and films including Sleep Dealer (Alex Rivera), Maquilapolis (Vicky Funari and Sergio de la Torre), and The Aggressives (Daniel Peddle). Fulfills English C and D requirements. Four credit hours. L.

EN493Es Seminar: Digital Manuscript Studies Takes a critical digital humanities approach to manuscript studies and introduces students to a variety of tools for the analysis of early books. Focuses both the contents and the material form of British Library MS Additional 37049, a manuscript made in Yorkshire, England near the end of the fifteenth century. The collection brings together a wide variety of late medieval texts, including both prose and verse, many accompanied by vivid—if somewhat unrefined—illustrations depicting religious figures, decaying bodies, and the fate of souls in the afterlife. No prior knowledge of medieval literature is required. Fulfills English C and E requirements. Four credit hours. COOK

[EN493G] Seminar: Poetry and Cognition Long before psychology and neuroscience were fields of study, poets experimented with language and the brain, discovering ways to engage attention and amplify memory. It makes sense therefore to ask what insights poetry and cognitive science might offer each other now. We'll invite to our table poetry from the Renaissance to the present along with readings from cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics and and philosophy of mind. We will focus in particular on poetry as a non-electronic yet mighty (because cognition-savvy) technology for bringing together minds and voices not living in the same shares of spacetime. Fulfills English C and P requirements. Four credit hours. L.

[EN493J] Seminar: Gender and Genre in Victorian Literature We will read Victorian novels and poems that will disrupt our common sense of what Victorian culture is all about. Were the Victorians really prudish? How did they understand race and sexuality? How and when were they wildly experimental as writers? As we think about these questions we will also learn to practice immersive reading. We will begin with Tennyson's In Memoriam and engage with significant novels and long poems by Eliot, Gaskell or Dickens, the Brownings, and George Meredith, ending with the poetry and prose of Oscar Wilde. We will also consider remakes in the form of film and contemporary fiction. Fulfills English C requirement. Four credit hours. L.

[EN493K] Seminar: 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 wit 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 in/stability of meaning. Accordingly, we will ask and answer: to what extent are Swift's complications also our own? Fulfills English C and E requirements. Four credit hours. L.

EN493Ms Seminar: Phillis Wheatley and her Literary Afterlives Phillis Wheatley was 20 and enslaved in 1773 when she published a book of poetry that challenged all the racialized assumptions of her era. She has since become a literary foremother who's influenced Black theologians, creative writers, and scholars. This course begins with Wheatley's poetry and then moves through 230+ years of creative and scholarly work inspired by Wheatley. As a Freedom and Captivity Humanities Lab, students in this class will also have the opportunity of meeting Black artists and thinkers whose work speaks to and with this controversial child genius. Fulfills English C, D, and P requirements. Freedom and Captivity humanities lab. Prerequisite: Any W1 course and English 200 or 271. Four credit hours. L, U. PLASENCIA

[EN493N] Seminar: 17th-century Literature and the Natural World Explores English literature written during the scientific revolution, including Shakespeare's King Lear, poems and prose by 17th-c. women, and Milton's Paradise Lost. How do these texts imagine the natural world and the human within it? How do they propose or challenge boundaries between human and non-human animals? How do attitudes toward the environment emerge, change and persist in literary history and more broadly in the history of ideas? We seek answers through lively reading strategies, creative exercises, and research both online and in Special Collections archives. Fulfills English E and P requirements. Environmental Humanities lab and Boundaries/Margins theme course. Four credit hours. L.

EN493PI Seminar: Britain in India, India in Britain in the Long Nineteenth Century Reading fiction, essays and poems by British and Indian writers written between 1780 and 1920, we'll examine how empire was both created and resisted. Texts include poems by Indian and British writers, novels by a variety of writers from C. Bronte to Rabindranath Tagore, and as well as writing in the periodical press in India and Britain. The course will raise broader questions about power, gender, race, and language. Fulfills English C requirement. Four credit hours. L. GIBSON