

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Undergraduate Course Descriptions
Winter 2019

EGL 112.30-B World Literature: Modern and Contemporary SBC: GLO, HUM

As inhabitants of the 21st Century, we find ourselves living in a world that feels more closely connected and open than ever before. In the recent past, the internet has unified billions through easy communication and accessible information, and a film like Pixar’s *Coco* has been able to achieve international popularity and commercial success with a story rooted in tradition and place. During this same period, however, we’ve also been forced to grapple with the uncomfortable and tragic side of connection: millions have been forced to leave their homes by violent, transnational conflicts, only to receive a hostile welcome in their new countries, and the looming reality of climate change seems to ask us to unify in recognition of our single planetary fate. In order to grapple with the duality of “connection” in a global context, we must ask ourselves: What does it mean to *feel* connected? How are the histories of empire, colonization, and capitalism entangled in these feelings? How do we communicate connection and connect through communication?

We will ask these questions as we read texts organized around the tragic, revelatory events: disasters. Through a combination of readings, essays, discussion board conversations, and lectures this course will focus on disaster, tragedy, and the looming threat of apocalypse in order to consider the bonds that unite humanity, their origins and their limits, and the role literature plays in shaping the world. Readings will include: Aimé Césaire’s *The Tempest*, Indra Sinha’s *Animal’s People*, Jamiaca Kincaid’s *A Small Place*, Milton Murayama’s *All I Asking for Is My Body*, and works by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, Junot Díaz, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Please be advised, this is a condensed, nineteen-day version of a 15-week course and will be reading intensive (300-400 pages/week). Please prepare yourself (and your schedule) accordingly.

Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A

LEC 30 FLEX ONLINE J. C. SWANSON

EGL 130.30 H Literature, Science & Technology SBC: CER, STAS

In this online course we will be reading a selection of literature involving digital technology from the perspective of 2013. Such a focused study will work toward two related goals. First, students will learn about how to apply study of literature toward the development of knowledge about a technology. Second, students will learn how to use research on a historical, technological context produced communally to better understand

and analyze literary works. Students will also be expected to keep up with online discussion throughout the semester and complete a final exam assessing material from throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A

LEC 30

FLEX,

ONLINE

T. WILCOM

EGL 191-30

Introduction to Poetry

HUM



Poetic Form(ations)

This course is designed to introduce you to the literary genre: poetry. Throughout the course, we will be examining the formal features of different poetic structures, including rhyme, meter, figurative language, and other literary devices. We will be exploring various poetic forms from a range of historical periods, with an emphasis on English language poetry from the Renaissance to the present. In addition to considering the formal aspects of poetry, we will examine the historical and cultural contexts surrounding the poems, for critical analysis purposes. We will work to develop strategies for interpreting poetry and analyzing it in conjunction with critical essays by performing close readings both together in Voice Thread discussions and through formal and informal written assignments, including an analytic recitation. Together, we will aim to establish a collaborative learning environment in which we can discover and explore the different methods of analyzing poetry.

Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A

LEC 30

FLEX

ONLINE

A RIMBY

EGL 266-G

20th –Century Novel

SBC: HUM

This course covers major works and developments of the modern and contemporary novel. Proceeding largely in chronological order, the sequence of readings is divided thematically. We will examine a range of American writing produced between the end of the First World War and the dawn of the twenty-first century, considering the ways in which traditional American settings and literary forms interact with and adapt to national and transatlantic historical change. Authors considered for the course include Ernest Hemingway, Nella Larsen, Vladimir Nabokov, Shirley Jackson, Thomas Pynchon, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Toni Morrison. Because this is an online class, you must have access

to Blackboard and be conscientiously engaged with technology. Also, you will be asked to engage with our virtual classroom: video conferences, blog posts, group readings, and online videos will be central to our investigations and discussions.

WRT 102 or equivalent

LEC 30

FLEX ONLINE

J. MANN