

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Graduate Course Descriptions

Spring 2017

MASTER'S LEVEL

EGL 502.01 Studies in Shakespeare

This class will center completely on Shakespeare's Hamlet. We will read revenge plays that came before and may have inspired Hamlet, as well as later plays that took inspiration from Shakespeare. And we'll read Hamlet too, of course. There will be contemporary texts that illustrate the historical times and ideas, and we will watch movies made on Hamlet. You will be assigned presentations based on culture, history, and theater, and you will write two research papers.

LEC 01 THURSDAY 4:00-6:50 PM B. VIDEBAEK

EGL 506 Studies in Literary Theory

This course examines a few of the most influential texts in the Anglo-European tradition of defining the nature and value of literature. We begin with Plato's attempts to supplant rhetoric (*Phaedrus*) and poetry (*Ion* and *Republic* II, III, X) with philosophy, then spend some time with the other classical and late antique texts that together develop what have turned out to be literary criticism's most enduring second-order languages. We then examine a few medieval, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Romantic, and Victorian texts that borrow, develop, disguise, or discard what they inherit. We end with a unit on structuralist hermeneutics at the moment of the explosion of "theory" into American academia in the 1960s. Foremost among our concerns will be the leading role in this tradition played by the technology and theory of rhetoric, primarily as articulated by Aristotle, Cicero, and Quintilian. We will also focus on questions of what has come to be called "disciplinarity," since most of the assigned texts position literature and literary criticism in contest or dialogue with what they imagine to be their sister arts. In addition to those mentioned above, authors include Horace, Longinus, Augustine, Valla, Sidney, Dryden, Pope, Johnson, Kant, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Arnold, and Eliot.

LEC 01 MONDAY 4:00-6:50 PM D. PFEIFFER

EGL 570 20th-C American Literature –

Fiction of the Americas since 1900

We will pursue a broad survey of American fiction from a hemispheric perspective, Encompassing stories and short novels by Canadian, U.S., and Latin American authors of distinction in our period. It is hoped we will arrive at a more diverse and complex appreciation of all that the signifier “American literature” signifies. Individual presentations and substantial, engaging research papers will be the order of the day.

LEC 01

WEDNESDAY 4:00 -6:50 PM

E. HARALSON

EGL 586

Topics in Gender Studies

Women’s Friendship and Women’s Writing

In her 1929 book *A Room of One’s Own*, Virginia Woolf examines the material and immaterial difficulties that women encountered when they attempted to write and publish creative work. After assessing the work of writers from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, Woolf turns her attention to twentieth-century female novelists, whom she credits with presenting rich accounts of relationships between women. In this course, we will assess Woolf’s vision of literary history and change by reading novels that predate her essay as well as works that were published long after *Room*. We will consider whether and how women writers were limited in their choice of subject matter before the turn of the twentieth century, and we will assess whether more recent works justify Woolf’s optimism at the end of *Room*. Throughout the semester, we will consider how representations of women’s relationships have changed over the course of centuries and discuss whether (and what) a female literary tradition means. Readings will include work by Jane Austen, Hannah Webster Foster, Mary McCarthy, Jean Rhys, Nella Larsen, and Toni Morrison among others.

LEC 01

TUESDAY 4:00-6:50

C. MARSHIK

EGL 598 Thesis Research 1-3 credits

Writing a master’s thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. **Instructor permission and Graduate Director approval required.** See the Graduate Coordinator for the necessary form.

STAFF

EGL 599 Independent Study 3 credits

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Director. English majors only. Please see the Graduate Coordinator for the form.

Independent Study is **By Permission Only.**

STAFF

Doctoral Level

EGL 603.01

Problems in Literary Theory and Criticism

Benjamin, Bakhtin & Others

This doctoral seminar builds on the theme of the year in the Humanities Institute, "Histories of the Future," particularly the conference on "Romanticism's Futures" this November, followed by the visits of the noted Romantics Scholars Theresa Kelley and Maureen McLane in the spring, whose work will be incorporated in the syllabus, We will look at the theme in a number of ways: for example, Romantic self-development posits a future in which one might develop, but environmental catastrophe forecloses such a future; millennialism and revolution; apocalypse; on the other side, the future as obsessive repetition of the past. Though the examples on the syllabus would be chiefly British (Wordsworth, Byron, DeQuincey, Percy and Mary Shelley), the focus on the theme of temporality should appeal to students from across departments for whom the assigned theoretical works will be fruitful (e.g., Schiller, Benjamin, Ricoeur, Freud, Marx's *Eighteenth Brumaire*, Derrida). I will accept seminar papers on the particular projects of students in Hispanic, CSCL, ELLC, History, and others

MONDAY 1:00-3:50 PM

P. MANNING

EGL 606.S01

Period and Tradition

Early American Literature

This course employs perhaps the most narrow of the many contested definitions of the field of early American literature by focusing on literary works composed in the United States during the early national period. We'll be analyzing American instantiations of transatlantic literary genres, including the seduction novel (Susannah Rowson and Hannah Webster Foster) the historical romance (Charles Brockden Brown, Catherine Maria Sedgwick, James Fenimore Cooper), poetry and drama. Assignments will include a "conference" presentation, a seminar paper, and an oral final examination.

THURSDAY 1:00– 3:50 PM

A. NEWMAN

EGL 608. 01

Problems in the Relationship of Literature to Other Disciplines

Neoliberal Narratives

In Literary and Cultural Studies, the prominent term "Neoliberalism" can refer to several overlapping but distinct phenomena. At times, the term points to an economic philosophy developed over the course the 20th century in the writings of Gary Becker, Jacob Mincer, Friedrich Hayek, and others associated with the Chicago School of Economics and the Mount Perelin Society. Politically speaking, neoliberalism refers to historically specific governing policies—first implemented by Augusto Pinochet, Ronald Regan, and Margaret Thatcher—that have been adopted over time (to varying degrees) by states

across the globe. Alternatively, in literary studies, the term is often deployed to analyze how discourses of entrepreneurship, risk management, and "human capital" are represented within settings designed to foster competition and inequality. In addition to exploring the limits and multiple meanings of neoliberalism as a critical concept, this class will also consider neoliberalism as a form and object of storytelling. For example, what stories--and what kinds of stories--does neoliberalism tell about itself? What stories do others tell about neoliberalism? How do contemporary novelists and filmmakers repeat, resist, and reimagine neoliberal narratives?

In this course, we will likely read novels by Margaret Atwood, Mohsin Hamid, Lionel Shriver, Ben Lerner, Indra Sinha, Tom McCarthy, Colson Whitehead, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Jamaica Kincaid. We will also examine critical texts by Wendy Brown, Maurizio Lazzarato, Rob Nixon, Henry Giroux, Lauren Berlant, Melinda Cooper, David Theo Goldberg, Jasbir Puar, Lisa Duggan and Sara Ahmed.

TUESDAY 1:00– 3:50 PM

J. JOHNSTON

EGL 614 /WRT 614

Topics in Composition and Writing

Digital Rhetorics

This course crosses disciplinary boundaries in pursuit of theories that do not occupy a stable home in any one field, such as reader-response criticism, ethical literary criticism, and affordance theory. Our aim is to develop working approaches to the question of what “literary” texts (broadly conceived) do and what might be done with them beyond conventional treatments in today’s postsecondary and secondary classrooms. The backdrop consists of complicated politics between English and Composition Studies, as well as institutional labor issues and the burgeoning Writing about Writing movement. Additionally, course materials derive from Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Ecological Psychology, Cognitive Science, and Contemplative Studies. Common readings feature work by Barthes, Benjamin, Booth, Burke, de Certeau, Fish, Nussbaum, Rorty, Rosenblatt, Scholes, Sontag, and others. Students also choose a primary literary text to work with individually. Assignments include autoethnographic research, low-stakes reading responses, in-class participation and workshop leading, and a final paper or equivalent project. This course will be useful to English or Composition scholars seeking to expand their theoretical and pedagogical repertoires, and to anyone interested in exploring how to do (unconventional) things with literary texts. Inquiries welcome: peter.khost@stonybrook.edu.

THURSDAY 4:00-6:50 PM

P. KHOST

EGL 615

Independent Study 3 credits

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Director. English majors only. Please see the Graduate Coordinator for the form.

Independent Study is **By Permission Only**.

STAFF

EGL 690

Directed Readings.

For G4 students studying for exams and working on the- Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. 3 credits

STAFF

EGL 695.T01 (83599)

Methods of Teaching English

Patricia Dunn

EGL 697. T01 (83600)

Practicum in Teaching Literature

Patricia Dunn

EGL 699 Dissertation Research on Campus

Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G5).

Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab. Fall, Spring, and Summer

STAFF

EGL 700 Dissertation off Campus Domestic.

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus.

All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer

STAFF

EGL 701 Dissertation off Campus International

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces.

Domestic students have the option of the health plan..

International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed.

International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if the other plan is deemed comparable.

All international students must receive clearance from an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer.

IF YOU PLAN TO REGISTER FOR EGL 599, 615, 690, 699, 700 or 701, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH A FACULTY MEMBER WHO IS TEACHING. DO NOT REGISTER WITH SOMEONE WHO IS ON LEAVE.