

Literature courses, Fall 2021

English 110

Popular Culture and Literature (theme: Saving the World, Anime Style!)

Course description: The class will include study of three stunning animated films by Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli: *Princess Mononoke* (1997), *My Neighbor Totoro* (1998) and *Spirited Away* (2001). Each anime will be contextualized within aspects of the natural world that it intersects with: respectively, forests and recent findings on the inter-connectivity of trees and fungi, regenerative agricultural that creates space for biodiversity, and ruined spaces burdened by pollution. Student presentations will offer avenues to a wider array of anime that explore the natural world (such as *Avatar the Last Airbender*, *Golden Kamuy* and *Mushishi*). One novel selected so far for the course is *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy, a poignant story set in a bleak future where a woman embarks on a journey to trace what might be the last-ever migration of a group of Arctic terns (there *are* glimmers of hope). This class will celebrate a kind of hands-on, low-tech learning experience after our days of online learning: spending time outside observing insects and birds, collecting prairie seeds, learning how to assess the health of streams, growing a bean plant in the greenhouse, and drawing and writing in a journal. However, we will also explore how ArcGIS story-maps open up a creative, visual way to share what we learn in an engaging way to an audience beyond a solely academic one.

NOTE: This course does not have First-Year English as a prerequisite. It does not count towards the English requirements for an English major or minor.

Instructor: Marjorie Rhine (TR, 12:30-1:45)

English 202

Introduction to US Latinx Literature

Course description: This course will present students with the diverse U.S. Latinx experiences, by introducing them to texts that examine literary works by authors of Latino/Latina backgrounds, in their historical context and cultural context. Cross-listed with LatinX.

Instructor: María Elena White (MW hybrid, 9:30-10:45)

English 206

British Literature Survey I

Course description: A survey of British literature from the Old English period through the 18th century. Prerequisite: Completion of First-Year English course sequence, or instructor consent.

Instructor: Maija Birenbaum (MW, 2:00-3:15)

English 226

American Literature Survey I

Course description: A survey of American literature from the 17th century through the Civil War, to acquaint the student with the foremost writers of our literary culture.

Prerequisite: Completion of First-Year English course sequence.

Instructor: Joshua Mabie (TR, 9:30-10:45)

English 251

Classical Myth and Legend as Sources for Literature

Course description: An examination of classical myths and legends and how they have been used in various periods and genres of English literature.

Instructor: Mark Zunac (MW, 3:30-4:45)

English 260

American Environmental Literature

Course description: Explore American environmental literature (creative non-fiction/poetry) from its origins, with special attention to key authors including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, John Muir, Teddy Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, Leslie Silko, Rachel Carson, Anie Dillard and Bill McKibben. Prerequisite: Completion of English 102, 105, or 162, or instructor consent.

Instructor: Joshua Mabie (MW, 9:30-10:45)

English 266

Gender and Film

Course description: Students will learn how to critically view, consider, and describe films, with special attention to representations of sexuality and gender. The course will include instruction in gender theory and methods for deploying gender analysis in the context of film studies. Prerequisite: Completion of English 101, 105, or 161. Cross-listed with Film and Womens' and Gender Studies.

Instructor: Anna Hajdik (TR, 11:00-12:15)

English 329

European Literature

Course description: Read and analyze famous works by modern European novelists, including Anton Chekhov, Albert Camus, and Gunter Grass. Prerequisite: Completion of English 102, 105, or 162.

Instructor: Asmahan Sallah (web based)

Spanish 333

Introduction to the Literature of Latin America I

Course description: Introductory-level study of representative 19th and 20th century literary texts of Latin America with an emphasis on vocabulary acquisition. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: both Spanish 321 and 322, or Spanish for Heritage Speakers, or instructor consent.

Instructor: Jodie Parys (MWF hybrid, 11:00-11:50)

English 350

19th Century British Literature

Course description: An exploration of topics, periods, or genres in British literature from the Romantic through the Edwardian eras. Themes will vary. Prerequisite: Completion of English 102, 105, or 162.

Instructor: Deborah Fratz (MW, 11:00-12:15)

English 352

Literature on Film (theme: Adapting Science Fiction and Dystopian Literature)

Course description: This course examines film adaptations from the 1960s to the present in order to analyze how the cinema appropriates science fiction and dystopian literature. For instance, how can a straight-forward short story evolve into what many consider the greatest sci-fi film of all time? How can a novel and film left forgotten suddenly become a “must see” television series? What do those transformations tell us about cultural and social values at those moments in time? What do they reveal about the nature of narrative in different media? Prerequisite: Completion of English 102, 105, or 162. Cross-listed with Film.

Instructor: John McGuigan (TR, 9:30-10:45)

English 363

Postmodern American Literature (theme: Consensus, Conformity and Rebellion)

Course description: What does it mean to conform? To follow the rules and play the roles scripted for us by the larger society? What rewards does “fitting in” supposedly bring? And what, conversely, does such obedience ask us to give up? Focusing on the decade of the 1950s, we will investigate how different writers, thinkers and cultural producers sought to address these questions, alternately celebrating and challenging the dominant values, assumptions, and stereotypes that defined American life.

Characterized by intense pressures to accept a singular model of national values and national identity, the 1950s were also marked by efforts among writers, artists and activists to promote alternative visions of American civic and social life.

In this course, we will explore how certain writers participated in this ongoing struggle to (re)define what American society should be: which rights it should champion, whose voices it should heed, what values it should espouse. As we conduct this investigation, we will also spend time exploring our own relationship to these questions, using these writers as a lens for more deeply interrogating the issues, questions and struggles of our own era. Some key texts include: Flannery O’Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find*; Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*; Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*; Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*; James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*. Covers 1945 to the present. Prerequisite: Completion of First-Year English course sequence.

Instructor: James Miller (MW. 2:00-3:15)

English 404

Shakespeare

Course description: This course examines a diverse selection of Shakespeare’s poetic and dramatic works. We will pay particular attention to the structure of Shakespeare’s texts—the nuances of prosody as well as the ways texts engage with literary-textual and dramatic conventions. During this semester, we will consider how Shakespeare’s works engage with early modern discourses of power, identity, economics, and gender relationships, as well as how the interests of our own era shape the ways we read and perform Shakespeare. Prerequisite: junior standing or instructor consent.

Instructor: Lisa Ulevich (MW, 2:00-3:15)

French 451

French Literature Survey I

Course description: General history of French literature from its beginning to the end of the 18th century. Reading of representative works of prose and poetry. Taught in French. Prerequisite: 9 units of 300-level French courses.

Instructor: Sheila Turek (TR, 2:00-3:15)

Spanish 451

Spanish Literature Survey I

Course description: General history of Spanish literature from its beginning to the end of the 18th century. Reading of representative works of each genre. Taught in Spanish.

Prerequisite: 9 credits of 300-level Spanish, three of which must be from a course in Spanish or Spanish-American literature.

Instructor: Alicia de Gregorio (MW, 2:00-3:15)

German 452

German Literature Survey II

Course description: General history of German literature from the end of the 18th century to the present, with readings from representative works. Taught in German.

Prerequisite: 9 units of 300-level German, or instructor consent.

Instructor: Pamela Tesch (MW hybrid, 9:30-10:45)

English 480

Seminar in Literature Before 1800 (theme: Fairies, Witches, and the Arts through an Early Modern Lens)

Course description: Magic and art have been closely linked from the beginning of western literature. This course will explore their interrelationship through the treatment of the figures of the witch and the faery in major literature of the early modern period (1540-1700). The class will also consider how these early modern models evolve and influence subsequent art forms, including those in contemporary popular culture.

This is a required capstone course for English majors. Prerequisites: senior standing, English 271, and either a major/minor in English Literature or English Education or instructor consent.

Instructor: Elena Levy-Navarro (MW, 9:30-10:45)

If you have questions about course content or need instructor consent to register for a course, please contact the instructor. If you have other questions, you should contact your academic advisor or the Department of Languages and Literatures (lambe@uww.edu).