



English Course Descriptions

Fall 2021

August 21 – December 11

Undergraduate & Graduate Courses

See the [Class Schedule](#) for information about prerequisites, locations, dates, and times.

ENG 203 Creative Writing: Forms & Techniques
Professor Ted Lardner

This course is a reading and “workshop” introduction to the fundamental working modes (poetry, fiction, drama) of creative writing, based in a broad survey of literary approaches and viewed from the standpoint of the writer. Students will read and analyze a wide range of modern and contemporary literary texts while the principal work of the class will be writing: first, writing to help us see and understand the effective forms and techniques we encounter in our reading and thereafter, writing to deploy or adapt those same forms and techniques in the students' own creative work. There will be both analytical and creative writing assignments, and the major means of assessment will be a portfolio of written work.

ENG 207 African-American Literature
Professor Adrienne Gosselin

Introduction to the tradition of African-American literature and its underlying historical experiences, cultural values, and modes of literary expression.

ENG 221 British Literature I
Professor Jim Marino

400 years of British literature in one semester: sex, violence, immortal poetry, and filthy jokes.

ENG 231 American Literature I
Professor Joseph Kane

American literature from the 17th century to 1900, intended to provide a sense of historical movements - Puritanism, federalism, classicism, romanticism, transcendentalism.

ENG 240 Introduction to Poetry

Staff

The study of poetry written in English, with emphasis on its forms and distinctive characteristics. Students will develop their ability to analyze literary texts and to write persuasive essays about them. Particular attention will be paid to understanding some principal genres of poetry. The course will include poets, both women and men, from several different historical periods in which English verse has been composed, and poets from the diverse national/ethnic groups who have written in English. To place English poetry in the context of world literature, some poems composed in other languages will be read in translation. This course introduces English majors to research and critical techniques needed for the baccalaureate study of literature. Students must receive a C or better in this course for it to count towards the major.

ENG 241 Introduction to Fiction

Professor Jennifer Jeffers

An introduction to analyzing and writing about literature, focusing on the genre of fiction. Students will learn techniques for reading analytically and critically and for writing critical/research papers on fictional works. The course will examine the generic characteristics of a variety of types of fiction, including works written in English by men and women from diverse ethnic/cultural groups and some translated works illustrating various national traditions, from several different historical periods. Students must receive a C or better in this course for it to count towards the major.

ENG 248 Multicultural Literature of U.S.

Professor Julie Burrell

Focusing on Asian, Latinx, Indigenous, and African American novels, poetry, and the performing arts. We'll consider how non-white authors (re)imagine what we call the United States, unsettle dominant narratives, and find the joy in community and liberation in art. We'll focus on the weird, the experimental, the joyful, and the genre-bending. Text are yet to be determine, but feel free to ask closer to the class start date:
j.m.burrell@csuohio.edu.

ENG 301/509 Advanced Topics in Writing & Rhetoric (Writing & New Media)

Professor Melanie Gagich

Discussion and practice of writing and rhetoric in various nonfiction genres such as the expository essay, argument, technical writing, and digital media compositions. Special topics will emphasize writing as a rhetorical act focusing on audience, voice, data organization and formatting, and the formulation of web texts using linguistic, visual and aural materials. Course may be repeated with a change in topic.

ENG 306 Literary Analysis
Professor Brooke Conti

This course provides an intensive introduction to literary study and analysis and serves as the gateway course to the English major and minor. This particular section is organized around the theme “Love Under Pressure.” All of the texts we are reading involve characters whose experiences of love or desire are marked by conflict: some of the problems are caused by external circumstances (such as familial pressures or social upheaval) and some by internal ones (in the form of emotional or psychological difficulties); many characters experience both. These works depict individuals’ struggles for intimacy and fulfilling relationships even in the face of those challenges. We will be reading poems, plays, short stories, and a novel, from the Renaissance up to the 2010s. Among those works will be Shakespeare's *Sonnets* and *Twelfth Night*, Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.

ENG 306 Literary Analysis
Professor Adam Sonstegard

The study of fiction, poetry, and drama written in English, with an emphasis on form. Students will develop their ability to closely analyze literary texts in multiple genres and write persuasive essays about them. This course teaches English majors and minors the formal analytical techniques needed for college-level literary study. Theme or focus may change by instructor. Required for admission to all other 300- and 400-level courses. Students must receive a C or better in this course for it to count towards the major.

ENG 308/506 Composition Theory for Teachers
Professor Ted Lardner

This course prepares students to effectively integrate writing instruction in the secondary language arts curriculum and provides information about current beliefs and best practices. Students in the course will examine current theories in writing instruction and the historical background of composition studies in order to establish a well-grounded foundation for their own teaching.

ENG 309/507 Writing Center Practicum
Professor Mary McDonald

Composition and tutoring theory integrated with practical experience in the teaching of writing. May be repeated up to four times. Counts toward the secondary English certification requirement in advanced composition.

ENG 310 Traditional Grammar
Professor Lydia Grebenyova

The instructor will communicate with students via a variety of interactive tools including discussions, announcements, email, and chat. There will be no required face-to-face meetings for this course, but students will be expected to make weekly progress online. A computer and access to the internet are required.

ENG 315 Introduction to the English Language

Professor Lydia Grebenyova

An overview of the main components of a linguistic description of English and of the history of the language with an introduction to some relevant areas of applied linguistics: language acquisition; regional and social dialects; socio-linguistics; and pragmatics. Cross-listed with Linguistics (LIN) 315.

ENG 335/535 20th Century English/Anglo Literature (20th Century Irish Literature)

Professor Jennifer Jeffers

Modern and contemporary British and Anglophone authors, genres, themes or movements.

ENG 347/547 African-American Literature (Colorism in Literature)

Professor Adrienne Gosselin

This course examines approaches to teaching African American Literature in middle and high-school. Its premise argues that, once future educators learn to approach literature and literary interpretation from a non-binary perspective, they bridge the gap between theory and praxis by becoming students themselves. Instruction features an interdisciplinary approach with heuristic strategies for cognitive apprenticing based on cultural foundations that align literature with history. While students will read texts representative of the African American literary canon, they will study these texts from culturally-based perspectives that reveal issues of agency and social justice embedded in the literary tradition. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize the ways in which African American authors continue the “both/and” tradition of challenging racism and social justice while celebrating African American cultural history.

ENG 359/545 Later American Literature (Prison Literature)

Professor Julie Burrell

Primarily focused on contemporary African American Literature, we'll read literature and theory that envision the ends of prison and police, imagine radical alternatives to state and white supremacist oppression, and dream of different futures for Black folk (and thereby everyone else). We will learn about the long history of abolitionist movements—from slavery to prison abolition—and think about literature and art as not only political tools & survival mechanisms, but imaginative realms of possibility for the oppressed to conjure more livable lives. Texts might include the radical Communist novel *Iron City* by Lloyd Brown, poetry by Langston Hughes and Reginald Dwayne Betts, theory by Angela Davis, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and Ava DuVernay's documentary *13th*.

ENG 363/563 Gender Issues in Literature (Gender in Film)

Professor Jennifer Jeffers

Studies in gender theory and gender issues in literature. Topics may include contemporary feminist themes, writings of women of a particular ethnicity such as Asian-American or Latina; the intersection of gender, race, and class; the relationship of gender to voice, technique and genre; archetypes and how questions of language are linked to these issues.

ENG 364/545 Popular Culture (The Road in Literature)

Professor Ted Lardner

Critical methodology and study of genres in such areas as science fiction, the western, gothic romance, comparative studies in literature and film, or mass media aesthetics. This course may be repeated for a total of nine credit hours with a change in topic.

ENG 372/575 Shakespeare II

Professor Jim Marino

Shakespeare's histories and tragedies: murder, revenge, dirty politics, bad romance, and clowns. Bonus materials for grad students.

ENG 391 Intermediate Fiction Workshop

Professor Jim Marino

Writing fiction, reading fiction, revising fiction, and helping each other become better writers as we go along.

ENG 392 Intermediate Creative Non-Fiction Workshop

Staff

Intermediate craft course in the writing of creative non-fiction.

ENG 393 Intermediate Playwriting Workshop

Professor Michael Geither

Intermediate craft course in the writing of playscripts.

ENG 394 Intermediate Poetry Workshop

Staff

Intermediate craft course in the writing of poetry.

ENG 400 Critical Research Methods

Staff

Research methods for English majors. This course teaches students advanced research and critical techniques in preparation for the senior capstone. Students will engage with 20th and 21st century literary theory and contemporary scholarly research, applied to a particular text, author or topic, and culminating in a substantial research paper. Completion is required prior to enrollment in ENG 495 or 498. Students must receive a C or better in this course for it to count towards the major.

ENG 491 Advanced Fiction Workshop

Staff

Advanced craft course in fiction.

ENG 495 Senior Seminar (Interrelated Short Stories)
Professor Adam Sonstegard

Literature studied in the context of significant theoretical questions: an author, genre, or theme considered from a variety of critical perspectives. The seminar may be repeated with change of topic for a total of 6 credit hours.

ENG 497/597 Literary Editing & Publishing
Professor Hilary Plum

This course offers a comprehensive study of the structures and issues defining contemporary publishing, as well as case studies in small press, magazine, and DIY literary projects. Students will gain both practical skills and theoretical background in the work of literary editing. The course will consider the editorial process and author/editor relationships; the history, tradition, and forms of the book; connections between presses and larger cultural communities; reading publics in the internet age; and the role of Amazon, Apple, Google, and Facebook. We will consider how to develop an editorial aesthetic and editorial practices, as well as practical approaches to budgets, mission statements, online platforms, submissions, design, and distribution. Students will articulate connections between their own work and the social, cultural, and economic contexts of contemporary publishing. Our coursework will culminate in a final publishing project that students will design, with instructor guidance, and in which they may pursue their own interests (in web or print publication; translation; book design; marketing; etc.). This course is recommended for those interested in interning or reading for the Cleveland State University Poetry Center, the *Vindicator*, *Whiskey Island*, or other literary and cultural publications.

ENG 506 Composition Theory
Professor Ted Lardner

See ENG 308/506 above.

ENG 507 Workshop in Teaching
Professor Mary McDonald

See ENG 309/507 above.

ENG 509 Technical Writing (Writing & New Media)
Professor Melanie Gagich

See ENG 301/509 above.

ENG 535 Studies in 20th Century Literature (20th Century Irish Literature)
Professor Jennifer Jeffers

See ENG 335/535 above.

ENG 545 Studies in American Literature (The Road in Literature)

Professor David Lardner

See ENG 364/545 above.

ENG 545 Studies in American Literature (Prisons in U.S. Literature)

Professor Julie Burrell

See ENG 359/545 above.

ENG 553 Major Genres / Studies in Genres

Professor Michael Geither

Literary themes, genres, or works significant in British, American, European, or world literature. Topics in the past have included European Romanticism, the Faust theme, and Literature and Science. May be repeated with change of topic.

Section topics:

MFA Non-Fiction

MFA Argument/Research Writing

MFA Ecocriticism

MFA Craft and Theory Non-Fiction

ENG 563 Gender Issues in Literature (Gender in Film)

Professor Jennifer Jeffers

See ENG 363/563 above.

ENG 575 Major Author (Shakespeare II)

Professor Jim Marino

See ENG 372/575 above.

ENG 597 Literary Editing and Publishing

Professor Hilary Plum

See ENG 497/597 above.

ENG 600 Literary Analysis

Professor Brooke Conti

Essentials of practical criticism with emphasis on close reading of selected masterworks that represent various genres and historical contexts. Core course required of all MA candidates. Offered fall semester.

ENG 610 MFA Fiction Workshop
Professor Hilary Plum

Graduate-level work in fiction writing.

ENG 612 MFA Playwriting Workshop
Professor David Todd

Graduate-level work in playwriting.

ENG 615 MFA Craft and Theory (Craft & Theory of Fiction)
Professor Imad Rahman

Genres of fiction, non-fiction, playwriting and poetry studied with an emphasis on the craft of the practitioner. Literary texts are used to demonstrate the formal range of the genres studied. Craft exercises are used to explicate the operations and assumptions underlying literary techniques. Core course for NEOMFA students. MA students may enter with permission of instructor. May be repeated with change of topic.

ENG 616 MFA Literature (Dramatic Structure)
Professor Michael Geither

Studies in literary themes, genres, or works significant in British, American, European or world literature. May be repeated with change of topic.

ENG 695 Graduate Seminar (Exploding the Courtship Plot)
Professor Rachel Carnell

Study of an important topic in literary or cultural history, criticism, or rhetoric, with special emphasis on methods of analysis and research. May be repeated with change of topic.