



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Graduate Course Descriptions**

Fall 2016

MASTER'S LEVEL

EGL 509.01/ WRT 509.01 (94258) Studies in Lang and Linguistic- #HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: NEW YORK ENGLISH

This course provides an introduction to the history, structure, and workings of the English language. Students will learn about the major shifts in the history of the English language and the hidden laws that govern the creation of words, sentences, and sound combinations in English. Along the way, they will sharpen their skills in modern English grammar and usage. As a special topic added to this introduction, the focus of this course is "New York English." The course explores the hidden history of the English language in New York City in order to shed new light on both the workings of language and the social history of the city. The course investigates the development of a distinctive world of language in New York City -- a history that encompasses social class, immigration, culture, economics, and, of course, real estate.

TH 4:00 PM - 6:50 PM SOCBEHAV SCI N102 Jean Graham

EGL 545 (94259) Studies in Victorian Literature

Over the course of the nineteenth century, Britain consolidated its grip on an assortment of overseas territories, so as to emerge as a supreme global power by the First World War. The identity of the British nation, during this time, became inextricable from foreign landscapes, economies, and cultures. Yet "empire" was by no means a stable subject—much to the contrary. It emerged as a fiery term of debate among artists, social commentators, philosophers, poets, and novelists, as writers struggled to make sense of the moral and political meanings of the nation's spectacular encroachments abroad. This course samples the literature of empire with a focus on fiction, poetry, and drama in Britain circa 1830 - 1914. What were the major fascinations and anxieties linked to Victorian imperialism? How did the locations of empire help to spur new forms of literature, and vice versa: how was literature mobilized to support, critique, or otherwise reimagine the lived realities of globalized British rule? Possible authors include Alfred, Lord Tennyson, H. Rider Haggard, Bram Stoker, Olive Schreiner, H.G. Wells, Joseph Conrad, W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, and Amitav Ghosh. Secondary reading might include David Cannadine, Immanuel Wallerstein, Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, Rob Nixon, Mike Davis, Franz Fanon, and Patrick Wolfe

W 5:30 PM - 8:20 PM PHYSICS P128 Michael Tondre

EGL 570 (94260) 20th-C American Literature - #CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FICTION

The last twenty-five years has been an especially exciting period in American fiction, as older practitioners working at their peak (e.g., Don DeLillo, Philip Roth, Toni Morrison, Thomas Pynchon) have been joined by a set of younger writers (e.g., Dave Eggers, Michael Chabon, Richard Powers, Lori Moore, Chang-rae Lee, Junot Díaz) of tremendous talent. Collectively, these authors have updated genres that occupy a prominent place in the American literary canon (e.g., the historical novel, regional fiction, the political novel, the war novel), addressed issues unique to contemporary times (e.g., 9/11, globalization, hypercapitalism), examined shifting notions of subjectivity and citizenship (e.g., the role played by border, race, and conspicuous consumption in the creation of American identity), and speculated about the future of print technology (e.g., the graphic novel, the hypertext novel, the e-book). This course will expose students to a sampling of these authors, and explore the ethics and aesthetics of the contemporary American novel, from the decline of postmodernism to the emergence of what has tentatively (and somewhat awkwardly) been termed “post-postmodernism.” Papers, oral presentations, and energetic classroom participation.

M 4:00 PM - 6:50 PM

HARRIMAN HALL 115

Stacey Olster

EGL 587 (94261) Topics in Race, Ethnic Studies - #SAVAGE ED PEDAGOGICAL FRONTIER

In American Literature, the educability of persons of Native American and African descent is more than a theme. Since literariness is perhaps the ultimate manifestation of an educated status, in writing by and about Indians and Blacks it is an issue that transcends the page to involve both author and reader, with deep political implications. In this course, we will read treatments of this question by white authors, such as Charles Brockden Brown’s *Edgar Huntly* (1799) and Edgar Rice Borrough’s *Tarzan of the Apes* (1914), as well as works by Native- and African American authors, such as Zitkala Ša’s *American Indian Stories* (1921) and Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative* (1845). This is an online course, and will involve a considerable amount of writing, both in discussions and in formal papers. Several of the assigned books are available in free, online formats, and supplemental readings will be available online.

SEC 30

ONLINE

Andrew Newman

EGL 592.S01/WRT 592.S01 (84497) Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition

Advanced study of theories and approaches to the teaching of writing. Building on the understanding that writing is a recursive process (a cycle of planning, drafting, revising, and editing), students learn to analyze and problem-solve issues that become barriers for effective writing and communication. Students learn to understand and differentiate rhetorical, ethical, social justice, and political issues surrounding the mentoring of writers. There is extensive analysis of the differences among various approaches, debates, and ethical issues in a variety of rhetorical contexts and courses that involve writing. (EGL/WRT 592.S01 xlist)

TU 4:00 PM - 6:50 PM

HUMANITIES 2047

Patricia Dunn

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 600.S01 (94262) Pro-seminar: The Discipline of Literary Studies

This course surveys various approaches to literary study, in sections concerned with textual criticism, the history of the book, genetic criticism, reader-response theory, new criticism, structuralism, poststructuralism, feminism, critical race theory, psychoanalysis, and more. Students will select one literary text to use as a case study upon which to apply the methodologies and theories we'll be studying over the course of the semester. Regular participation and in-class presentations, four short papers, and one panel presentation are required.

M 5:30 PM – 8:20 PM HUMANITIES 2094 Michael Rubenstein

EGL 603.S01 (94263) Problems in Lit Theory and Crit. #THE PASSIONS

This class investigates theories of passion and sentiment in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, across a series of discourses: medicine; neuroanatomy; philosophy. We will study psychology before the constitution of a separate discipline of psychology, when questions about the constitution of the mind, the brain, and the soul were seen to be crucial to a variety of spheres of human life and action. Primary readings will include Descartes's *Passions of the Soul*, Thomas Willis's book on the souls of animals, Spinoza's *Ethics*, Hume's *Treatise*, Adam Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, and Burke's theory of the sublime and the beautiful. Secondary readings will be drawn from histories of sensibility and from a variety of contemporary theoretical standpoints, affect theory and animal studies perhaps above all. The passions were long seen to open up the passivity of the human subject, its vulnerability to the impingements of the world: in passion, Aquinas wrote, it is the object of our passion that acts on us, the object that is the agent. Already with the scholastics, the passions were seen as part of a responsive system broadly shared by humans and animals, a key part of the way we navigate the world and respond to the world. They constitute a kind of animal thinking, thinking beyond logic. As such they seen as an issue urgently to be reckoned with, as part of an account of the embodied mind in its everyday operations that is itself essential to a series of other enterprises, from ethics to politics to aesthetics.

TH 1:00PM – 3:50 PM HUMANITIES 2094 Benedict Robinson

EGL 605.S01 (94264) Problems in Convention

This seminar is an intensive consideration, via the survey method, of 20th century American poetry. Our primary objective will be to study the major poets both for their own sake and in order to illuminate the key movements, themes and political transformations of the century's sense of poetics, politics and religion. We will also explore key controversies that circumscribed and at times defined certain eras: for now we will describe them in general terms such as form, race, gender, elitism, aestheticism, difficulty, public discourse, technology and meaning itself. You do not need to be focusing on poetry in your graduate studies to take this course. However, if you do not have a basic working familiarity with poetry and poetic terms it is recommended that you refresh yourself on this topic over the summer. Finally, we will consider the end of the century to be a porous boundary that allows us entry, eventually, into the 21st Century as well.

TU 1:00PM – 3:50PM

HUMANITIES 2094

Rowan Phillips

EGL 606.S01 (91236) Period and Tradition: #POSTCOLONIAL ENVIRONMENTALISMS: LITERATURE, ECOCRITICISM, AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

This course explores the literary and cultural representations of what Elizabeth DeLoughrey has called “the postcolonial turn in the dominant fields of American and British ecocriticism” and what the environmental historians Alfred Crosby and Richard Grove have termed “ecological imperialism”—namely, the historical embedment of ecology and the natural world in the Western imperial enterprise. By examining fiction, nonfiction, film, and comics (graphic narratives) from regions and countries of North America and the global south (Anglophone Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands, including Hawaii), we will explore how contemporary writers and artists from these regions represent environmental experience and depict place (home and origins) as fundamentally linked to the natural world in the contexts of colonialism and imperialism, postcolonialism (the aftermaths of colonization), and diaspora (the global movement and refugeeism of people from the global south who are called “environmental migrants”). We will examine how these writers and artists critique current environmental crises, and their models of postcolonial environmentalisms and sustainability. We will investigate these concerns in relation to questions at the intersections of gender, sexuality, and race as they apply to discourses in eco-politics, environmental activism, and the social remembering of violence and human casualties that have occurred under colonialism, empire, and the aftermaths of imperial enterprise. Some topics to be explored include epistemologies of nature, land and identity in the wake of forced relocation and displacement, theorizing human/non-human relations, the militarized physical environment, plantation monoculture, and the Anthropocene (our current epoch when human activities started to have a significant global impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems). Authors may include Jamaica Kincaid, Edwidge Danticat, Nadine Gordimer, Jhumpa Lahiri, Han Ong, Milton Murayama, Kiana Davenport, Chang-rae Lee, Shani Mootoo, Cynthia Kadohata, Shaun Tan (comics artist), and GB Tran (comics artist). Films may include *The Host*, *The Mirror Never Lies*, and *Rabbit-Proof Fence*.

M 2:30 PM – 5:20 PM

HUMANITIES 2094

Jeffery Santa Ana

EGL 614.S01/WRT 614 (94298) Topics of Comp and Writing

What do we mean by the word "rhetoric"? This class will give you a few answers in order to orient you to the increasing impact of rhetorical theory in English and literary studies. We will examine a series of historical discussions of the term "rhetoric" and, moving chronologically, we will trace a history of ideas that continues to influence not just English and writing, but teaching, politics, philosophy, theory, law, and ethics. We will confront some of the grand questions in rhetorical theory, such as "what is the relationship between language and truth?" "What is the relationship between literary and rhetorical study?" "What ethical obligations do we have when persuading an audience to act in a certain way?" "Who should have a rhetorical education?" "What is the relationship between power and language?" The course will require a seminar paper, as well as an oral presentation of a shorter paper. We will read mostly from primary texts.

TU 4:00PM - 7:00PM HUMANITIES 2113 Roger Thompson

EGL 615 (Doctoral) 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.