

**TAMIU Course Offerings in English
Humanities Department
Winter & Spring 2017**

Wintermester 2017

English

English 3331: Late 19th C. American Literature: "Melville's Novellas"

Dr. Jonathan Murphy

MTWRF 1-5:30pm

This Wintermester course will focus on Herman Melville's short novels. The main texts we will study are: "Bartleby," "Benito Cereno," and "Billy Budd" (all which are printed in the Norton Critical edition of *Melville's Short Novels*, which is the sole required textbook for our class). A number of secondary sources will be utilized to help situate our reading of these texts within the wider critical conversations they have instigated. The aim of the course will be to interrogate how Melville's later prose works evidence his complex positions on metaphysics, politics, race, ethnicity, class, gender, religion, and aesthetics. Special attention will be paid to the author's preoccupations with America and what constitutes American identity.

ENGL 3371: Film Literature: American Thrillers

Dr. Manuel Broncano

MTWRF 5:30-10pm

"From the Wild West to the Wild City"

A study of the literary and dramaturgical components of film production and interpretation. Subjects, genres, or themes may vary. Screening lab required. Prerequisite: Three hours sophomore literature or consent of instructor.

This seminar explores some of the major movies of the so-called "Film Noir" tradition, a genuinely American genre that originated in the 1940s. The guiding hypothesis of the course is that the protagonist of these "noir" films is the transposition of the archetypal Western hero, or "lonely ranger," to the modern city. These films have an important sociological component, delving into the contradictions of a legal and political system that fails in its duty to administer justice. The city is projected as a jungle of corruption and greed in which only individuals willing to go beyond the institutions of law and order can effectively right the wrongs of a society guided by money and ambition. In each class period we will watch a film, preceded by an introduction by the instructor and followed by a general discussion. The films include:

The Big Sleep (1946, Dir. Howard Hawks)

The Postman Always Rings Twice (1946, Dir. Ray Garnett)

The Lady from Shanghai (1947, Dir. Orson Wells)

Chinatown (1974, Dir. Roman Polanski)

Taxi Driver (1976, Dir. Martin Scorsese)

Blade Runner (1982, Dir. Ridley Scott)

Mississippi Burning (1988, Dir. Alan Parker)

Fargo (1996, Dirs. Joel and Ethan Cohen)

L. A. Confidential (1997, Dir. Curtis Hanson)
Mulholland (2001, Dir. David Lynch)

Spring 2017

English

ENGL 3321: The Sixteenth Century

Dr. Robert Haynes

TR 12:30-1:45pm

A study of the literature from Henry VII's ascension to the throne up through Elizabeth I's reign. The course examines cultural, social, and political developments influencing the writers under study. Prerequisite: Three hours sophomore literature or consent of instructor.

ENGL 3327-201: British Literature from World War II to the Present

Dr. Paul Niemeyer

MWF 11:30am-12:20pm

A study of the trajectory of British literature from the outbreak of World War II to today, including the end of the British Empire and the increased expansion and diversification of the literary canon. Authors may include Beckett, the Amises, Lessing, Achebe, Dylan Thomas, Larkin, Ishiguro, and Zadie Smith. Prerequisite: Three hours of sophomore literature or instructor's consent.

Watch as the British Empire falls and a more equitable, more multicultural Great Britain comes up in its place! This course will follow that movement from 1945, starting with Elizabeth Bowen's Blitz-era spy novel *The Heat of the Day*; going into the period of the "Angry Young Man" in the 1950s with the hilarious *Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis and the stark play *Look Back in Anger* by John Osborne; and examining hippies and anarchists of the 1960s and '70s through Doris Lessing's *The Good Terrorist*. We'll even look back on World War II with a modern classic—Ian McEwan's *Atonement*—and look into the future with Kazuo Ishiguro's novel about cloning, *Never Let Me Go*. Through it all we will address how Britain sees itself as a people and how those people see their literature in the modern world. *Requirements*: one major paper, one research report, various assignments and quizzes, midterm and final exams.

English 3331: Late 19th C. American Literature

Dr. John Dean

TR 2-3:15pm

A study of American literature from the Civil War to the beginning of World War I, featuring the emergence of American humor and realism. Authors may include Whitman, Dickinson, Twain, James, Howells, Crane, Chopin, Wharton, and Robinson. Prerequisite: Three hours sophomore literature or consent of instructor.

The purpose of this course is to enable you to understand and appreciate some major American literary trends in the late 19th century. We will explore America's political, cultural, and literary heritage by engaging with many different (and often competing) voices that have helped shaped

American culture and identity. This course aims to help improve your writing and your critical reading skills through engaging literary texts in both writing and in-class discussion. Our course texts include works written by Stephen Crane, Mark Twain, Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, Theodore Dreiser, Frank Norris and Maria A. Ruiz de Burton.

**ENGL/HIST/PHIL 3342 Great Books of the Western Tradition - Renaissance to Present:
Dystopian Descendants**

Prof. Will Nolen

MWF 11:30am-12:20pm

An intensive study of a series of readings selected from the classics of Western tradition since the Renaissance, from Cervantes to the present. Classics such as de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, Nietzsche's *The Uses and Abuses of History*, Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" may be read. Prerequisite: Three hours of sophomore literature or consent of instructor. Cross-listed with HIST 3342, and ENGL 3342, and PHIL 3342. This course may count towards the Minor in Philosophy, an Upper Division Elective in any Degree Plan, and as a WIN credit.

Picking up where ENGL/HIST/PHIL 3341 on the Western Utopian project left off in the Fall, this course examines a number of classic works from the 20th and 21st Centuries as well as current American domestic and foreign policy in order to expose the underlying drives behind a seeming dissatisfaction with the Utopian project in literary and popular culture and further identify the basic assumptions about human nature in Western politics. Readings include: *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, *1984* by George Orwell, *Player Piano* by Kurt Vonnegut, *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, *The Rebel* by Albert Camus, and various short stories and news media articles.

ENGL 3361: Multicultural Children's Literature

Dr. Frances Rhodes

TR 7:30-8:45pm

Advanced study of the Multicultural Children's Literature genre. Special emphasis will be placed on Hispanic literature. Literature will be studied in translation and/or in the original language. Prerequisite: Three hours of sophomore literature or consent of instructor.

ENGL 3380 – History of Literary Thought

Dr. Ula Klein

MW(F) 9:30-10:20am (Hybrid)

Why do we study literature? What is the function of literature? How do we understand its many critical resonances? This course focuses precisely on the many different philosophical and theoretical approaches to literature that are critical to understanding literary works and the world around us more generally. A study of the major philosophers and theorists of literature, from the ancients to the moderns, this course provides a solid foundation in many of the major schools of thought on the topic of literature.

Students will read primary and secondary texts that introduce them to different approaches to studying literature, including but not limited to, pre-twentieth century concepts of literary aesthetics and the didactic function of literature, as well as foundational twentieth-century theoretical movements, such as Marxist literary theory, psychoanalysis, feminist literary theory,

queer studies, postcolonial theory, and many others. The course will use several primary texts, including Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* and various poems and short stories, in order to illustrate how these theories apply to the study of literature.

Prerequisite: Three hours sophomore literature or consent of instructor.

Degree plan: Advanced ENGL elective or Advanced General Elective

ENGL 3390: History of the English Language

Dr. Frances Rhodes

TR 6-7:15pm

The study of the English language from Anglo-Saxon times to present day. Prerequisite: Three hours of sophomore literature or consent of instructor. **Required** course for all English majors.

ENGL 4301: The Teaching of Composition

Three semester hours.

Dr. Charlene Summers

This course provides an overview of modern composition theory that informs the teaching of writing in secondary and post-secondary education, including state and national standards and trends. The course offers pedagogical theory that allows teachers a method for understanding their personal educational persona. The course emphasizes reading and application of composition theory, including overarching course goals and activities to reach those goals.

Required for 7-12 Certification. Prerequisite: Three hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a "C" or better or consent of instructor.

ENGL 4307-201, Creative Writing: Poetry

Prof. Suzette Bishop

Three semester hours

An exploration of current theory and creative writing techniques through the study of required readings and the application of techniques in students' own work. Genres covered will regularly include poetry, fiction, non-fiction and other genres offered occasionally. May be repeated for credit up to four times but not more than twice in the same genre. Prerequisite: Three hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a "C" or better or consent of instructor.

As an upper-level writing workshop, students progress and learn to revise by practicing giving and receiving constructive feedback on poems; completing in-class exercises focusing on technique, form, and literary devices; and reading sample poems using critical and creative methods.

ENGL 4307 is **required** for the Creative Writing Minor and may be taken for the Writing and Rhetoric Minor. In addition, it fulfills an advanced English elective for English Majors and a general elective for students who are not declaring a minor.

ENGL 4313: Advanced English Grammar

Dr. Frances Rhodes

TR 3:30-4:45pm

Designed to produce competencies in understanding the English language in its theory, sound, words, grammar (both traditional and modern grammars), and its spelling. Prerequisite: Three

hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a “C” or better or consent of instructor. Satisfies the **Language Studies requirement** for the English major.

ENGL 4324: Women in Shakespeare

Dr. Robert Haynes

M 6-8:30pm

An examination of Shakespeare’s dramatic and poetic technique in the context of his focus on women’s issues and roles in society. Readings of selected plays and non-dramatic poems will relate Shakespeare’s interpretations of feminine power and potential in his own time to contemporary perspectives. Prerequisite: Three hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a “C” or better or consent of instructor. Satisfies the **Shakespeare requirement** for the English major.

ENGL 4331: Major American Authors: William Faulkner

Dr. Manuel Broncano

TR 11am-12:15pm (Hybrid)

An intensive study of the works of one or two major American authors. May not duplicate existing major author courses. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Three hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a “C” or better or consent of instructor.

The seminar explores William Faulkner’s major works in the context of the “Southern Renaissance” and the American literary tradition. The guiding hypothesis of the course is that Faulkner sees the US South as an integral part of the greater Caribbean region, as represented for example by the Spanish gold doubloon in *Absalom, Absalom!*, which Thomas Sutpen brings from Haiti and uses to buy land from the Chickasaw Indians in Mississippi. Other readings will be *As I Lay Dying*, *Light in August*, *Go down Moses*, *The Sound and the Fury*, and a selection of short stories.

ENGL 4335: Minority Voices: Writing Jim Crow

MWF 2:30-3:20pm

A study of United States culture as one of many peoples and ways of life and literature itself as a device for securing equality among them. Prerequisite: Three hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a “C” or better or consent of instructor.

ENGL 4347: Movements and Eras: "Postmodernism"

Dr. Jonathan Murphy

MWF 10:30-11:20am

This course will focus on the Postmodern Novel in America. The novels we will study are: *Breakfast of Champions* (Vonnegut), *White Noise* (DeLillo), *On Beauty* (Smith), *The Human Stain* (Roth), *Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* (Eggers), *Pym* (Johnson), and *The Bleeding Edge* (Pynchon). As opposed to the modernists, who thought that they could replace the meta-narratives of old by elaborating aesthetic and philosophical foundations for new social forms and imagined communities, postmodernism plays in the aftermath of the collapse of both premodern and modern ideologies. In America, postmodernism may be dated as starting with the advent of the Cold War Era and continuing into our 21st century present. The novels we will study tackle the problems of continuity and discontinuity with the traditions of the past, and contribute to our present day understanding of what constitutes American identity in a postmodern world.

ENGL 4385: Literature and Gender: Women and Science Fiction

Dr. Kathryn Klein

MW 3:30-4:45pm

An introduction to literature that explores issues of gender and sexuality. The course examines questions of canonicity, difference, equality, and sexuality, and how these issues are represented in literary and other cultural contexts. Special attention will be paid to the intersections of gender with sexuality, race, class, ability, and nationality. Sample topics include women's literature, queer literature, literature and masculinity, or desire in literature. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Three hours of one 3000-level ENGL course with a "C" or better or consent of instructor.

This course will trace the development of women in science fiction and fantasy throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Our exploration will explore women in both science fiction film and literature and include topics like robots, dystopias, superheroes, fairy tales, and videogames.

English MA Courses for Spring 2017 (5000-level)

ENGL 5301: Teaching Rhetoric and Composition.

Dr. Deborah Scaggs

W 6-8:30pm

Catalog Description: An intensive review and evaluation of traditional, modern, and innovative theories of rhetoric and the teaching of composition. Participants will explore and apply methods for teaching composition that will prepare them to teach in higher education settings. Topics include composition pedagogy, rhetorical strategies, curriculum design, grammar instruction, and assessment practices for freshman composition courses. All Master of Arts candidates who will be teaching freshman composition must register for this course prior to taking a teaching assignment.

Course description: This course will introduce students to the various approaches to teaching writing and why there are competing approaches. Students will analyze composition theorists who address issues ranging from how language is acquired to the political ideologies imbedded in language use. Students will engage in a practicum with undergraduate freshmen writers and assist them with their writing process. Assignments will include annotated bibliographies, an ethnographic study of student writing, a teaching philosophy, a lesson plan, and a teacher-researcher journal.

Textbooks:

Cross-Talk in Composition Theory: A Reader (Villanueva and Arola, eds)

A Rhetoric for Writing Teachers (Lindemann)

MLA Handbook (Updated)

The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors

ENGL 5324-261: Major Themes in British Literature: 18th Century to the Present: The Revolutionary Romantics

Dr. Paul Niemeyer

M 6-8:30pm

Catalog description: An exploration of diverse themes in British and/or British colonial literature from the dawn of the Enlightenment (eighteenth century) to the present day—effectively, the period of Britain’s emergence as a world power and of its literary products’ status as world literature. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Course description: Ah, the Romantics! Dreamy-eyed poets lounging beneath the boughs of trees, languidly penning odes to urns and birds. Yeah, right. Wordsworth and Coleridge thought their poetry would help usher in a new world—one foretold by Biblical prophecy. Blake satirized religion. Shelley hoped the working class would start an armed revolt. Mary Wollstonecraft championed the bizarre idea that women should be treated like human beings. This course looks not just at nice poetry and prose, but at the political works that inspired these poets—and the political works they themselves wrote. We’ll consider how the writers changed not just their time, but our own. Readings are from Broadview’s *Revolutions in Romantic Literature* and the fourth volume of its *Anthology of British Literature*; and we’ll also read James Hogg’s Calvinism-challenging novel, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*. *Requirements*: one long paper, one annotated bibliography, final examination.

ENGL 5332: Studies in 19th-Century American Lit: TBA**R 6-8:30pm**

Catalog description: An in-depth investigation of American literary milieu, focusing on theme, author, genre, or literary movement of the nineteenth century. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ENGL 5350: Problems in Comparative Literature: Waterways**Dr. Manuel Broncano****T 6-8:30pm**

Catalog Description: An in-depth study of an area of literature or filmography from a comparative perspective. The literary works and/or films under consideration may or may not have been originally written or produced in English. The course may deal with a period, an area, a theme, or a literary type. Readings and/or films are in English. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Seminar Description: The first part of this seminar explores the various roles that water has played in American literature, from the colonial period to the present. The second part focuses on literary representations of the Río Grande and the water wars that have taken, and are taking place, in its basin. Besides reading various primary sources and watching some films and documentaries, the seminar includes one or more field trips to the river and to different facilities, such as the Laredo water treatment plant or one of the wastewater treatment facilities in the area. Besides, during the semester one or more experts on the ecosystem of the river will be invited to the seminar. The readings include:

Rudolfo Anaya, *Albuquerque*, John Nichols, *The Milagro Beanfield War*, Jean Reid (ed.), *Río Grande*, Paul Horgan. *Great River: The Río Grande in North American History*. Other primary and secondary sources will be available in Blackboard.