

English and World Literatures Courses – Spring 2018

LITERATURE COURSES

EWL 120: Themes in World Literature, Drs. Colvin and Huntington

M/W 10:00-11:21am and 2:30-3:51pm

One unique feature of literature is its ability to express universal themes while simultaneously recording the experiences and perspectives of particular societies at specific historical and cultural moments. In this course, students explore these different but complementary roles by studying how a selected theme has been adapted by authors across various geographic regions. In doing so, they come to understanding the value of literature as a vehicle for drawing common connections between peoples across historical and cultural boundaries. At the same time, students strengthen the essential skills of reading, analyzing, interpreting, and writing about literature that they will utilize throughout the English & World Literatures major. All works will be read in English.

Corequisite: WRIT 101 or 201

EWL 210: History of English Language, Dr. Jennifer Brown

T/TH 11:30am-12:51pm

This course will cover the history of the English language from its Indo-European roots (find out why birch trees are important to some linguists), through to the Anglo-Saxon era (discover how “hwat” became “what” and why our butterflies are no longer flutterbys), past the Norman invasion and Middle English (see why “quaint” is a really, really dirty word), through Shakespeare’s English (realize why his use of “thou” and “you” at different points is very telling), and finally end in Present Day English with its multiplicity of nationalities and speakers (is the English spoken in India, Australia, and England the same?).

EWL 221: US Literature: 1865-1914, Dr. Martha Sledge

T/TH 10:00am-11:21am

Industrialism. Class warfare. Native American rights. The role of women. Interracial marriage. New media. Serialized fiction. Journalistic ethics. Following the Civil War, the literature of the United States takes up these issues – and more. This course will explore how the literature of the US between 1865 and 1914 confronts these cultural issues, engaging how the history and culture intersects with the literature. Works to be studied include *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, *Iola Leroy*, and “Impressions of an Indian Childhood.”

EWL 302: Literary Research and Theory, Dr. Michael Colvin

M 2:30-5:21pm

This course builds on the foundational knowledge of literary theory acquired in the Literary Analysis course, and on the writing and research skills acquired in the first-year Writing Seminars, in order to introduce EWL majors to advanced literary study. During the semester, students will explore two different theoretical approaches in depth, and apply them to literary texts. Different theoretical methodologies and topics will be offered in any particular semester. The seminar format of the course will provide an opportunity for hands-on work with primary and secondary texts, culminating in the development of a substantive and theoretically-informed academic research project. This year the seminar will focus on Reader Response Theory and Structuralism/ Formalism. During the first half of the course, as a group we shall apply these theories to lyrical texts from three popular concept music albums of the 1970s: The Eagles’ *Hotel California* (1976), Fleetwood Mac’s *Rumours* (1977), and Donna Summer’s *Bad Girls* (1979). During the second half of the semester, students will work individually on projects in which they apply theory to a literary text or texts of their choosing.

Prerequisite: WRIT 102 or 201 & EWL 207

EWL 331: Literature and Revolution, Dr. Cecilia Feilla

T 10:00am-12:51pm

This course explores the way that the great political revolutions of the modern era—French, Soviet, Chinese, and Iranian—have been represented in literature. Through a selection of classic and contemporary novels, plays, and films, we will consider the relationship between aesthetics and politics as well as between literature and history. Readings will include works by Hugo, Zamyatin, and Mo Yan, among others, as well as revolutionary writings on literature by Lenin, Trotsky, and Mao.

Pre-requisites: WRIT 102 or 201

EWL 335: Slavery in the American Imaginary, Dr. M. Sledge

TH 1:00-3:51pm

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of how people in the United States have imagined the institution of slavery in the nation’s history. Despite the fact that the “peculiar institution” legally ended over 150 years ago, Americans still struggle to make sense of it. In this course we will explore how slavery has been imagined and reimagined by artists, writers, and filmmakers at various points in the history of the US. As part of the College Honors Program, this class will require you to read advanced secondary sources and to produce honors-level work in class discussion, presentations, and written work. In addition, students will collectively decide on a Digital Humanities project that all students will contribute to. (You should also know that there will be texts and discussions that may elicit strong reactions from you; we will work through these difficult texts by engaging them intellectually in order to understand how they work with such power.)

Prerequisites: WRIT 102 or 201, one EWL course

AIP-US or CP

EWL 350: Special Topics in Film and Literature: Narrating Climate Change, Dr. M. Maczynska **W 10:00am-12:51pm**

Manhattan under water? A new ice age? Zombie apocalypse? In this class, we will consider how contemporary novelists and filmmakers attempt to narrate one of the most pressing problems of our time—climate change. Representing climate change accurately and powerfully poses serious challenges: rather than being a single, Hollywood-ready, catastrophic event (think *The Day After Tomorrow*), it comes in the form of many events distributed across diverse geographies and divergent timelines. We will study creative responses to this challenge in the emergent genres of climate fiction (cli-fi) and climate film. We will also engage in several role-playing games to better understand the politics and poetics of climate change representation. Finally, we will develop our own creative mini-narratives in an attempt to communicate climate change to the MMC community and beyond.

Prerequisites: WRIT 102 or 201, one EWL course, COMM 131 (COMM prerequisite may be waived after consultation with professor).

AIP-IP or CP

EWL 365/FREN 365: Reading Contemporary Africa, Dr. Julie Huntington **M 5:50-8:41pm**

This course will introduce you to a variety of 21st Century Francophone and Anglophone African narratives as expressed in poetry, prose, art, films, and new media by contemporary Africa-based and Diasporic authors. Our discussions of the texts themselves will focus on a series of key themes connected to questions of identity as voiced, (re)negotiated, and (re)configured in local and global contexts. The importance of elements including but not limited to languages, migrations, histories, politics, economies, religions, aesthetics, genres, philosophies, genders, sexualities, (sub)cultures, and contemporary social issues will be considered in our analyses. In following with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's warnings of "Danger of the Single Story," this course will examine the specificities of the realities and imaginaries communicated by writers and artists working under the homogenizing and oversimplifying label "African." All texts for this course will be available in English. Students wishing to read Francophone texts in French have the option to do so. Written assignments may be completed in French or in English.

Prerequisite: WRIT 102 or 201 and one previous EWL course

AIP-IP or REP

EWL 370: Professional Practices Course, Dr. C. Feilla **TH 2:30-5:21pm**

Students in this class will study and learn about many of the different careers available to EWL and CRW majors. Students will visit rare book archives, literary clubs, poetry readings, storytelling competitions, conservation studios, book exhibitions, and art museums, and will practice book making and printing. Students will investigate the relationship between literary history and the history of the book, examine new technologies of storytelling (blogs, podcasts, ebooks, etc.), ask where new technologies might be taking literature in the future, and to explore where literature lives today. Students will integrate academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences, utilizing NY City and its vast array of opportunities to chart individualized pathways to identify and fulfill career goals. The course will include guest lectures from professionals in various professions (copywriters, editors, journalists, etc.) who are grounded in Literature and Writing degrees.

Prerequisites: WRIT 102 or 201; EWL 207

EWL 390: Special Topics in English: Rebels, Rogues, & Outside, Prof. S. Romagnoli **TH 10:00am-12:51pm**

Focusing on racial and ethnic perspectives, the course would apply an ethical lens to discuss power systems embedded in society using theatre, film and literary texts.

Prerequisites: WRIT 102 or 201, one EWL course

AIP-REP, or AIP-EP with substitution

EWL 410: Shakespeare Seminar, Drs. Maczynska and Brown **M 10:00am-12:51pm**

This co-taught course will be reading some of Shakespeare's plays (*King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *a Winter's Tale*, and others) and then reading modern adaptations of these plays. After working through the original, we will see how contemporary authors continue to be inspired by and respond to Shakespeare's plays, while addressing both his original context and that of the modern world. In this class we will read a selection of Shakespeare plays and modern re-writing of these plays in literary adaptations. Plays/novels may include *King Lear* and Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres*; *Hamlet* and Ian McEwan's *Nutshell*; and *The Tempest* and Margaret Atwood's *Hag-Seed*.

Prerequisites: WRIT 102 or 201, one EWL course

AIP-CP with substitution

EWL 424: Studies in a Single Author: Louise Erdrich, Dr. Martha Sledge **T 1:00-3:51pm**

"There was only time. For what is man, what are we all, but bits of time caught for a moment in a tangle of blood, bones, skin, and brain?" (Louise Erdrich, *Four Souls*) Louise Erdrich, a registered member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (Ojibwe) Indians, writes about the contact zones between Native Americans and European Americans. In her interconnected novels, she creates an extensive world that stretches back to the 19th century and into the present; in this imagined world, she explores how Native American and European-American identities are constructed and illustrates how the past impinges on the present, both personally through family feuds and nationally through colonialism and indigenous sovereignty. Her novels also engage Native and European stories, from Ojibwe tales to Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, and therefore raises questions about their relationship to western literary theories. Works to be studied include *Love Medicine*, *Tracks*, and *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*.

Prerequisites: WRIT 102 or 201, one EWL course

AIP-US or CP with substitution

LANGUAGE COURSES – Spring 2018

ARAB 101 Elementary Arabic I, Prof. Iman Maiki

T/TH 5:50-7:11pm

A direct and immediate involvement with the living language is the fundamental aim of the course. In conjunction with speaking and listening skills, reading and writing will be introduced in order to develop a basic knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic, the form of Arabic shared by all Arab countries. Student participation is vital since this course involves much oral work carried out through interaction among students. Not open to native speakers.

General Education: DS2

ARAB 102 Elementary Arabic II, Prof. Iman Maiki

TH 7:20-10:01pm

This course is a continuation of Elementary Arabic I.

Prerequisite: ARAB I or permission of the department.

General Education: DS2

Eligible for further General Education credit within the Language Path

CHIN 102 Elementary Chinese II (formerly MAND 102), Prof. Julie Wan

T/TH 8:30-9:51 am

This course is a continuation of Elementary Chinese I.

Prerequisite: CHIN 101 (formerly MAND 101)

General Education: DS2

Eligible for further General Education credit within the Language Path

FREN 101 Elementary French I, Prof. Daisy Bow

M/W 8:30-9:51am, 1:00-2:21pm

Emphasis is placed on understanding and speaking in order to develop a basic knowledge of French. Grammatical principles will be introduced through texts relating various aspects of French life. Poems and current events from magazines will be used along with topical readings to help develop a feeling for French.

General Education: DS2

FREN 201 Elementary French II, Faculty TBA

T/TH 8:30-9:51am

The purpose of this course is to strengthen and expand the student's familiarity with the language as an oral and written instrument of communication. Contemporary stories, grammar, and short poems will emphasize modern idiomatic expressions. Students may begin their study of French at the intermediate level only with permission of the Instructor. Not open to students who have completed FREN 213.

Prerequisite: FREN 101-102 or permission of department

General Education: DS2

Eligible for further General Education credit within the Language Path

FREN 202 Intermediate French II, Dr. Julie Huntington

M/W 4:00-5:21pm

French 202 is a second semester intermediate language course. In this course, students develop intermediate speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in preparation for advanced coursework in French. In addition, they continue to familiarize themselves with the diverse peoples and cultures of the Francophone world through an engagement with films, TV clips, multimedia websites, and literary texts. Course will be taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 201 or professor's permission.

Prerequisite: FREN 201 or professor's permission

General Education: DS2

Eligible for further General Education credit within the Language Path

FREN 365/EWL 365 Reading Contemporary Africa, Dr. Julie Huntington

M 5:50-8:41pm

See description above for EWL 365.

SPAN 315/AIP 315 Hispanic Civilization, Dr. Michael Colvin

M/W 11:30am-12:51pm

This course explores the multicultural civilization of the Hispanic world from its beginnings on the Iberian Peninsula to present-day Spain, Latin America and the United States. The course will employ literary texts, historical materials and films to explore the diverse ethnic and religious heritages of the Spanish-speaking peoples.

Prerequisite: WRIT 102 or 201

AIP-CP or IP

CREATIVE WRITING COURSES – Spring 2018

CRW 201 Introduction to Creative Writing I

Section 01 – Prof. Danielle Elizabeth Chin

Section 02 – Prof. Alexander Dmitrov

Section 03 – Prof. Amy Lawless

M/W 1:00-2:21pm

T 5:50-8:41 pm

T/TH 4:00-5:21pm

The purpose of this course is to explore—through critical reading, inventive writing, and in-depth conversation—the craft elements essential to the composition of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction (or memoir). This course is designed to enhance your skills in analyzing and writing about literature. In the process, we will develop a specialized language to discuss how writers use technique to make meaning. Special emphasis will be placed on cultivating the power of the imagination through vocational interpretation. In other words, you will begin the long apprenticeship towards learning to *see* as poets, novelists, and memoirists. Perhaps writing cannot be taught, but native talent and a love of words can be nurtured—like a rhododendron or a pit bull. We will start out small, identifying and practicing each artistic ingredient. By the end of the semester, you will be well on your way to passionately and skillfully producing your own poems, stories, and memoiristic essays.

Co-requisite: WRIT 101 or WRIT 201

General Education: DS2

CRW 205 Introduction to Creative Writing II, Dr. Danielle Elizabeth Chin

T 2:30-5:21pm

The purpose of this course is to further explore—through critical reading, imaginative writing, and in-depth conversation—the craft elements essential to the composition of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction (or memoir).

Prerequisite: CRW 201 or ENG 201

CRW 346 Intermediate Creative Writing, Dr. Alexander Dimitrov

M 5:50-8:41pm

Students begin looking at the formal craft elements of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction while reading literary texts with a more critical writer's eye. In addition, students will be encouraged to reflect both on their own literary practice and the literary practice of their classmates through continued presentation and discussion of various writing assignments.

Prerequisite: ENG 205 or CRW 205

CRW 391 Special Topics in Creative Writing: Memoir, Dr. Michael Colvin

W 2:30-5:21pm

This course gives students an opportunity to study, in greater depth, more specific aspects of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction for the purpose of applying this knowledge to their own writing. Topics will vary from semester to semester and may include such subject areas as Developing a Character in Fiction, New Formalism in Poetry, Literature of the Vietnam War, Literature of the Beat Generation, and Gender and Ethnicity in Contemporary Nonfiction. This Special Topics seminar will focus on writing memoir about traumatic experiences or traumatizing realities. We shall read memoirs and study theories of memoir and autobiography in relation to literary trauma theory. We shall consider the problems of voyeurism and exhibitionism; the politics of writing about personal trauma; what constitutes trauma in different contexts and societies; and linguistic encoding of traumatic realities. This course has a workshop component during which students will present their own writing and critique each other's writing. (May be taken twice for a total of 6 credits, but the topic may not be repeated.)

Prerequisite: CRW 205

CRW 442 Workshop in Writing Fiction, Dr. Julie Buntin

F 2:30-5:21pm

This course has the goal of providing students with the opportunity to seriously sharpen their own writing skills in fiction, in a group setting, with the guidance of an experienced professional. Special emphasis will be placed on the process of revision. Students also read and discuss literary works along with the criticism and commentary of distinguished practitioners of the discipline.

Prerequisite: CRW 346 or ENG 346