

English Course Descriptions – Fall 2016

English 220: Introduction to Literature (3 Cr.) TR, 12:30-1:45, Dr. Brister - What reason is there to study literature? To be entertained by a good story? To gain some degree of “culture?” To get a sense of history? Certainly. But more importantly, literature provides us with the opportunity to develop multiple strategies of reading and interpretation—and to employ these strategies of interpretation in our everyday lives. This course is premised on the belief that literary study should not be devoted solely to the “appreciation” of great works or authors; rather, that literary study should serve as a means to a more critical understanding of the world. We will read and discuss a variety of literary texts in multiple genres (poetry, short fiction, the novel, and drama), and students will be invited to work together to film a video adaptation of one of the works we will have read during the semester. *This course fulfills a Humanities General Education requirement.*

ENGL 241: World Literature I (3 Cr.) TR 9:30-10:45, Kruger – Stretching back to antiquity, World Lit I starts with the oldest epic known to humankind—the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the story of how an arrogant king in the land we now know as Iraq learned humility through the lessons of mortality—and ends with Dante’s *Inferno*, and Boccaccio’s *The Decameron*, the former an account of the quintessential quest for individual salvation on a journey through hell, and the latter a masterpiece intended to help heal a whole country after the ravages of the Black Death. In between, we’ll read the ultimate story of undeserved suffering (*The Book of Job*), a play about a sex strike orchestrated by women to end a war in classical Greece (Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*), some rather bawdy Roman poetry, a bit of both Confucius and Christ, and some not-for-kids excerpts from the Persian masterpiece, *1001 Nights*. It’s going to be a heck of a ride as we range far and dig deep over and into the best literature in the pre-Renaissance world. *World Lit I counts as a Literature elective in the English and English Ed majors and English minor.*

ENGL 305: Writing Workshop (1 Cr.) R 2-2:50, Kruger – This one-credit workshop focusing on poetry will initially center on the study of poetry as a craft, using primarily modern and contemporary examples from some of the best poets the world has known to evidence the sort of sounds, structures, and sense all strong poetry relies upon, before transitioning to being a full-on workshop dedicated to the original student work created as a result of that study. In the end, students will compile a small portfolio of 4-5 poems of their best work for possible publication in *The Forge*, and hopefully beyond. *Writing Workshop counts as a Writing elective in both English majors and the English minor.*

English 330: Creative Writing (3 Cr.) MWF, 1:00-1:50, Dr. Brister - This course, for beginning writers, will explore the art and craft of poetry and short-story writing. To this end, we will read like writers to better understand the conventions that inform literary texts, we will use the workshop method to gain and give insight to what makes good writing, and we will work under the assumption that anything we write can be improved through the revision process. While the production of quality creative writing is undoubtedly the primary goal of the course, we will also be concerned with contemporary literature and its historical development, with writing critiques of the writing of other class members, and with the definitions and expectations of “Literature” itself. What makes a poem or story “work”? What are the basic expectations and conventions of each genre? How do the elements of fiction (point-of-view, plot, setting, character, etc.) inform the writing process? How does poetry inform fiction? When is a piece of writing ready to be submitted for publication? We will consider and discuss these kinds of questions as we read emerging and established writers. This course will benefit not only those who want to develop their creative writing skills, but also those interested in teaching and publishing.

ENGL 409: Language and Culture (3 Cr.) Online, Dr. Chao - ENGL 409 examines the relationship between language and culture. We will especially consider the significance of culture and socioeconomic factors in communication; dialect, gender, and cross cultural studies of linguistic preference; acquisition of communicative competence, and bilingual/multilingual issues. In simple words, students will learn, through reading and practical research, how people use language (i.e. their choice of different forms or language varieties), what they use it for (situations or factors affecting such choice), and the kind of social information that sociolinguists ascribe to different forms in a language or different varieties. The 2016-18 VCSU catalog describes this course as “An examination of the basic sociocultural variables in the acquisition of first and second languages. Theories in language use, language learning, types of bilingual and multilingual education situations, and social determinants of dialect and style will also be discussed. Pre-Req. ENGL 309.” *ENGL 409 is a required course for the Teaching English Language Learners endorsement and minor, and is only taught face-to-face once every two years.*

ENGL 420: Online Communication and Documentation (3 Cr.) MWF 11:00-11:50, Shorma - This course examines the types and rhetorical demands of online communication, focusing especially on writing help documentation, FAQs, directions, manuals, video tutorials, software documentation, etc. Through team projects, students will analyze audience needs and determine the appropriate medium and format for support and then design, develop, test and implement the help documentation. [This link](#) provides a “real-life” example of a team project from fall 2014. *ENGL 420 counts as either a requirement for the Technical Writing minor or concentration in the English major, or as a writing elective in either English major and the minor.*

ENG 450: Studies in British Literature, (3 Cr.) TR 12:30-1:45, Dr. Chao - A course on twentieth-century British literature from literary modernism and beyond. It will examine major literary trends and works in the context of respective historical events and social concerns such as the post WWI era, the rise of fascism, war in the 1930s-1940s, colonialism, government and individualism, human nature, and modern technology. It will study some of the best known authors and ever-lasting classics of the twentieth century, including: Virginia Woolf (essays), James Joyce (“Araby”), George Orwell (1984, essays), Aldous Huxley (*Brave New World*), Theodore Francis Powys (short stories), Christopher Isherwood (*Goodbye to Berlin*), Evelyn Waugh (*The Loved One*), Graham Greene (*The Quiet American*), Amy Kingsley (*Lucky Jim*), William Golding (*Lord of the Flies*), and Muriel Spark (tentative: *Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*). *As part of our new Outcomes assessment model, this course provide a project to fulfill the Cultural Fluency Learning Outcome.*

ENG 480: Shakespeare (3 Cr.) TR 8-9:15, Dr. Dahlberg - A study of Shakespeare's life, times, and writings, emphasizing major plays. This course is required for both English and English Ed majors and minors, offered only once every two years (in the Fall—so all potential Juniors/Seniors this Fall need to take it, as well as any Sophomores who plan n student teaching Fall of '18), and bedrock stuff for anyone in our profession. Dr. Dahlberg, who is unable to join us today, asked me to pass along the following: “Tell them it will be fun. And all internet texts—I'm committing to developing my own exercises, using library and online resources, etc. So nothing to buy unless they decide they want something in paper/print.” *Additionally, the course provides the project for the Competent Research Learning Outcome in our new assessment model.*