

Spring 2018 - English Course Descriptions

ENGL 210: Composition III (3 Cr.) MWF 1-1:50, Kruger – Recently designed as the second half of the Gen Ed sequence for those coming in with ACT Writing scores of 23 or above, Composition III offers an “Advanced development of writing skills which emphasizes increasingly sophisticated and effective rhetoric and style.” Furthermore (I don’t get to write that very often anymore), some of the topics under consideration will “include the study of classic and contemporary rhetorical strategies through the analysis of both written and visual media, and the application of that study in original student works, including memoir/narrative, critical analysis, and research” (VCSU Catalog, 2016-18). As such, Comp III offers majors and minors a more nuanced and complex approach in developing foundational skills key to the degree, with a focus on developing individual writing styles informed by the study of classic and contemporary rhetorical techniques. *Advanced Comp counts as a Writing elective in both English majors and the English minor if not used towards Gen Ed requirements.*

ENGL 213: Literary Publications. (Dr. Brister) (1 cr.) R 2:00-2:50 This course is an introduction to creative and academic magazine publishing. Students will produce *The Forge*, the campus literary, essay, and arts journal. After learning about the current literary marketplace through a review of contemporary literary journals, students will learn how to solicit manuscript and visual art entries, and then edit, design, layout and publish the journal. Students will also take part in organizing an open mic event and promoting and distributing the finished product. (This class may be taken for repeatable credit.)

ENGL 225: Introduction to Film. (Dr. Brister) (3 cr.) TR 12:30-1:45 In this course, we will study movies as more than simply a form of entertainment; we will “read” and interpret film as a form of literature. In addition to considering the historical contexts of film history and production, we will learn the basic skills and vocabulary necessary for viewing films critically. Additionally, we will discuss and write about conventions of film genres, how films reflect or conceal political, social, and ethical assumptions, how formal or stylistic elements inform a film’s content, and how different theoretical approaches might be used to approach a fuller understanding of the exciting literature that is film. In recent semesters, we have viewed ground-breaking horror films like *Nosferatu*, the comedies of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, classics like *Citizen Kane* and *Singin’ in the Rain*, and notable contemporary box-office favorites. We’ll conclude the semester with a student-directed short film festival.

ENGL 262: American Literature II. (Dr. Brister) (3cr.) MWF 11:00-11:50 This course will focus on the radical changes that occurred in American literature after the Civil War to the beginning of the twenty-first century. While this is a survey course, we will not necessarily adhere to a chronological reading of texts since 1865; instead, we will consider movements and *disruptions* in literary history. In what ways did America construct a sense of national identity through its literature? Why did the imagists and other modernists revolt against the kinds of writing favored in the nineteenth century? What influence did the emergence of movies have on literature? What is the future of American writing? We will explore and discuss these kinds of questions as we read the fiction of writers like Edith Wharton, Theodore Dreiser, Henry James, William Faulkner,

Ernest Hemingway, and Toni Morrison. We will also consider the major movements in poetry from the time of Whitman and Dickinson to the experimental poems of the modernists and the “confessional” poetry of writers like Sylvia Plath and John Berryman. We will approach these texts not only as “great works” to be appreciated and enjoyed, but also as historical documents that coincided with and commented on the pressing social and philosophical issues of their time (and ours): racism, equal rights for women, economic inequalities, and the meaning of individual subjectivity.

ENGL 305: Writing Workshop (1 Cr.) T 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 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 majors and the minor.*

ENGL 309: Linguistics and Language Acquisition (3 Cr.) TR 12:30-1:45, Dr. Chao – ENGL 309 is an introduction to general linguistics. It focuses on two areas: language structure and language use. Language structure studies morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology. Language use exposes students to pragmatics, speech acts, language variation, language change, and language acquisition. As a supplement to the unit of language change, students will also study the history of the English language. Each area will provide future teachers with an insight into the linguistic competence and communicative competence that students must have in daily communication and language acquisition. The course will be taught face to face, consisting of lectures, discussions, hands-on work, and research. This course is required for English Ed and Elementary Ed in ELL; it is also one of the writing electives for English majors. The course is prerequisite for ENGL 409.

ENGL 350: Young Adult Literature (3 Cr.) Online, Dr. Russell - This course is required for English education majors and counts for as an elective for the LMIS and ELL minors, but it's fun for others too. Here we look at the history and scholarship related to some of the best young adult reading options. We will look at characters, themes, style, and characteristics of YA literature. In addition, we'll read and discuss several young adult novels including *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson. Imagine your favorite characters texting with each other. Imagine having wings that fold tightly to your back and no one can see them until you take off. Young adult literature takes us places that we cannot go without it. Join the journey.

ENGL 371: Critical Theory (3 Cr.) MWF 9-9:50, Kruger – “A formal introduction to traditional and contemporary critical approaches which build upon discipline-specific methods of literary analysis” (VCSU Catalog, 2016-18), Critical Theory serves as a gateway course into the English major and minor by introducing students to the ‘tools of the trade’ scholars in our field use in approaching texts. We’ll then use those tools to explore canonical texts through a variety of traditional and contemporary schools of thought (including New Criticism, biographical and historical criticism, reader-response criticism, and psychological, feminist, and Marxist criticism) to measure how those various readings enrich our understanding. That may sound daunting, but you wouldn’t be an English major/minor if you couldn’t handle it, and in the end, our approach will both enlighten and enliven all of our lives. As an additional treat, we’ll read North Dakota native Louise Erdrich’s 2012 National Book Award winning novel, *The Round House*, as a central text for the course. *Critical Theory is a required course for both majors and the minor.*

ENGL 371: Critical Theory (Dr. Brister) (3 cr.) Online. 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 also serve as a means to a more critical understanding of the world. To this end, students will be introduced to several critical approaches (psychoanalytic, feminist, Marxist, and race criticism to name a few) which they will employ to better read literature *and* culture.

ENGL 410: Technical and Scientific Writing (3 Cr.) MWF 1:00-1:50, Shorma - An advanced writing course which focuses on formal written work required in technical and scientific fields to include the informal report, the annotated bibliography, the literature review, the formal research report, and the research proposal. Students explore writing requirements/expectations for "real life" research proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation--the funding agency that issues dollars to research entities. ENGL 410 counts as a writing elective in the English education major and the English major and minor. ENGL 410 is a required course in the Technical Writing minor. Prerequisite: ENGL 125.