

Fall 2023 English Master's Courses

Courses listed by day and time, not including MFA workshops. Unless otherwise noted, all fall English grad seminars will be on ground.



ENG 566 20th Century American Poets

Prof. Scott Ellis | M 5-7:30 PM

A study of the multiplicities of 20th c. poetry, from “high” and “low” modernists to more recent “schools” of poetry and thought, from the Black Mountain School of poets to the New York School to the Black Arts Movement. We will focus our attention on how poets use the form of their artistic expressions to engage (or not) with their world. If poetry is, in Robert Frost’s words, a “momentary stay against confusion,” then we must recognize how this “stay” is constructed – social, politically, artistically – and we will examine how different poets of the 20th and early 21st centuries put their form into practice and for effect.

Fulfills: American literature requirements, or free elective



ENG 522 Wright, Ellison, and Baldwin

Prof. Brandon Hutchinson | M 7:40-10 PM ONLINE SYNC

A sustained study of the fiction and non-fictional works of the 20th century Black authors Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, and James Baldwin from a 21st century perspective. The seminar will include an inquiry into the nature of race relations in contemporary American society and will explore the legacy of these canonical male writers from a Black feminist approach.

*Fulfills: American literature requirements or free elective,
plus African-American Literature specialization*



ENG 584 Milton

Prof. Steven Larocco | T 7:40-10 PM

John Milton’s *Paradise Lost* is perhaps the greatest epic poem in the English language. At once philosophical and cinematic, the poem wrestles not only with the nature of God and humanity, but also with narcissism as an endemic problem of human existence and love itself, with social and divine economies, with the dynamics of recognition, with the problem of lack in human life, and the fantasy, as Milton’s Eve says just before she eats the fatal fruit, of a “cure of all.” This class is a deep dive into the poem’s strange and unintended contradictions.

*Fulfills: Early English and Global Literatures (Pre-1700)
and British Literature requirements, or free elective*



ENG 517 Research Methods

Prof. Andrew Smyth | W 7:40-10 PM

A graduate-level introduction to English research, including how to read and explore literary criticism, how to perform advanced research in English studies, and how to propose and develop a longer academic writing project. (Note: students beginning the English MA or MS in the spring semester should plan to take the fall section of ENG 517.)

*Fulfills: Required course for all English MA/MS students
(offered each fall)*



ENG 586 Seminar in American Literature – Graphic Narratives: Word, Image, Page

Prof. Charles Baraw | Th 5-7:30 PM

Since Art Spiegelman’s Holocaust memoir, *Maus*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993, formally and thematically ambitious “graphic novels” or literary comics have entered the cultural mainstream and inspired increasingly sophisticated academic analysis. This course considers some of the most influential writer/artists in the dynamic field of contemporary graphic narratives, including the “underground comix” movement led by Spiegelman in the 1960s and 70; the “grammar of comics” of Scott McCloud’s *Understanding Comics*; and the recent, experimental graphic novels by Alison Bechdel, Chris Ware, Emil Ferris, and others.

Fulfills: American Literature requirements or free elective