

Spring 2025 English Master's Courses



ENG 509 Contemporary Poetic Theory

Prof. Brian Johnson | M 5-7:30 PM

Why is contemporary poetry different from the poetry of earlier eras? Why is it so obscure, so difficult, so beautiful, so radical? What kind of affairs does it have with other media? Explore the questions and discover your answers in Contemporary Poetic Theory.

Fulfills: Theory requirement or elective

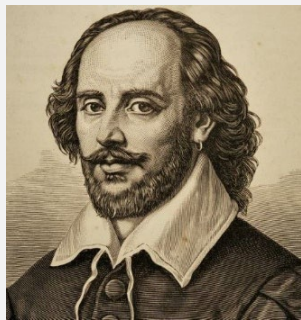


ENG 587 Seminar in British Literature: The Politics of Reading and Literature

Prof. Meredith N. Sinclair | T 7:40-10:10 PM

This course asks us to consider how our understandings of “what reading is” and “what literature does” shape meanings we make with texts – and the meaning we make of our world. We’ll unpack the ways in which literature reading are “political” through topics including banned books, literacy “wars” in education, and transformational works (fanfictions).

Fulfills: British Literature requirement or elective



ENG 542 Shakespeare

Prof. Michael H. Shea | W 5-7:30 PM

This class will examine ten Shakespeare plays through the lens(es) provided by critic Harry Berger, the most idiosyncratic and careful reader of Shakespearean texts in the last 75 years. He draws from many approaches—New Criticism, deconstruction, cultural studies, performance criticism, post-structuralism, gender studies, New Historicism, and psychoanalytic criticism—to choose various threads for weaving singularly original essays. In the spirit of Berger’s own pedagogy, this course employs a student-driven and discussion-based approach.

Fulfills: Pre-1700 Literature requirements or elective



ENG 524 The Harlem Renaissance

Prof. Brandon Hutchinson | W 7:40-10:10 PM

This semester, we will focus on “The art of black folk” and explore various artists and their similar and sometimes different ways of portraying, claiming, or reclaiming black humanity through art. We will examine a variety of genres—essays, poetry, short and long fiction—to consider the implicit and explicit suggestions black artists were making about black identity, its acceptance, and the (im)possibility of being seen as human.

Fulfills: American Literature or Non-Dominant Literature requirements, or elective



ENG 588 Seminar In Comparative Literature: Transatlantic Queer Literature

Prof. Corinne E. Blackmer | Th 5-7:30 PM

This seminar focuses on contemporary LGBTQ novels and drama that explore issues of minority sexual orientations and gender identities within American, British, and French (in translation) traditions. Reading authors such as Jeanette Winterson, Edouard Louis, Dominique Wittig, Hilton Als, Audre Lorde, Tony Kushner, and Alison Bechdel, we will explore the many meanings, discourses, and representations of post-coming out literature. The seminar will also include shorter works by relevant queer theorists, such as Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.

Fulfills: Post-1800 Literature requirement or elective