

Spring 2020 English Master's Courses



ENG 587 Seminar in British Literature: Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury

Prof. Vara Neverow | M 5-7:30 PM

The Bloomsbury Group, a modernist 20th century community, is known for its literary and artistic work, queer culture, and political views. This course will feature selected texts by Virginia Woolf and other members and friends of the Bloomsbury Group including Leonard Woolf, E. M. Forster, Lytton Strachey, and Katherine Mansfield, along with cinematic interpretations and visual art.

Fulfills: British Literature requirement or elective



ENG 588 Seminar in Comparative Literature: Transatlantic Speculative Fiction

Prof. Scott Ellis | M 7:35-10 PM

What if our future is defined by constant surveillance, environmental catastrophe, or human augmentation? In this course, we will explore the "speculative fiction" (science fiction, fantasy, etc.) of contemporary British, Canadian, and American writers – Kazuo Ishiguro, Margaret Atwood, Colson Whitehead, and others – to explore how they chart and imagine possible futures.

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



ENG 586 Seminar in American Literature: Politics of Reading and Literature

Prof. Meredith Sinclair | T 5-7:30 PM

Burned, banned, and balderdashed. This course will explore the politics of literacy and literature in contemporary American society and education through books that have been banned or challenged. We will focus particularly on the way institutional spaces – especially schools – have shaped the way we encounter texts and the sort of readings we are able to produce.

Fulfills: American Literature requirement or elective



ENG 587 Seminar in British Literature: Sagas

Prof. Andrew Richmond | W 5-7:30 PM

This course explores medieval literature from the island cultures of the north Atlantic, reading Icelandic sagas of figures like Egill Skallagrímsson alongside travel writing, epics, and outlaw stories of Robin Hood from the British archipelago. Adopting an ecocritical lens, we will discuss how the diverse concerns of these texts chart the artistic, ideological, and practical relationships between human beings and their evolving ecological contexts.

Fulfills: Early English / Pre-1500 or British Literature requirements, or elective



ENG 508 Contemporary Critical Theory

Prof. Joel Dodson W 7:35-10 PM

A graduate-level introduction to contemporary theory. This semester, we will survey 20th and 21st century approaches to the study of language, history, and aesthetics by focusing on one of the most difficult puzzles in literary studies – the role of *poverty* in literature. Together, we will ask what the varieties of poststructuralism, Marxist thought, and new ideas in race, gender, and postcolonial studies can tell us about human need, from Kafka's "The Hunger Artist" to contemporary fiction of the developing world.

Fulfills: Required course for English MA/MS degree (offered each spring)