

Spring 2024 English Master's Courses

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



ENG 508 Contemporary Critical Theory

Prof. Steven Larocco | T 5-7:30 PM

An introduction to contemporary theory as a means to interpreting literature, this class explores – through a close study of novels alongside theoretical texts – critical issues from the structures and mechanisms of power to the complex problems posed by gender, race and efforts to weaponize human differences. In particular, we will consider the “posthuman” in theory: what the world looks like if the category of the human itself loses much of its conceptual privilege.

Fulfills: Contemporary Critical and Theoretical Approaches requirement, or elective



ENG 580 Chaucer

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

This course examines the oeuvre of Geoffrey Chaucer (d. 1400) through various theoretical lenses. Together, we will chart the beguiling experiments with literary form, genre, and narrative that culminated in his enduring magnum opus, *The Canterbury Tales*, and consider how Chaucer's writing critiques his historical moment while also speaking, in productive and disquieting ways, to our own.

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



ENG 548 Modern and Contemporary Drama

Prof. Mike Shea | W 7:40-10:10 PM

In this course on contemporary drama, we will explore two basic questions. What do we mean by “contemporary” and what do we mean by “drama”? For example, is a 2023 production of Sophocles' *Antigone* considered contemporary? Or are Kevin McCarthy's press conferences regarding his attempts to retain/regain his speakership in the House of Representatives an example of drama? In our quest to answer the first two questions, we will engage with many plays, as well as performance theory and adaptation theory.

Fulfills: American and British Literature requirements, or elective



ENG 587 Seminar in British Literature: Reconsidering the Victorians

Prof. Nicole Fluhr | Th 7:40-10:10 PM

This class seeks to unsettle and expand traditional understandings of Victorian Studies by examining nineteenth-century conversations and silences about race, slavery, empire, policing, gender, and sexuality in relation to the question, “What did it mean to be British?”—and how do Victorian answers to that question reverberate today? We'll read a mix of familiar and less familiar works, potentially including: Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, Mary Prince's *The History of Mary Prince*, Charles Dickens's *Bleak House*, Mary Seacole's *Wonderful Adventures*, George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, Vernon Lee's *Oke of Okehurst*, and Oscar Wilde's “The Portrait of Mr. W.H.”

Fulfills: British Literature requirement, or elective