

## **UPPER-LEVEL ENGLISH COURSES: SPRING 2021**

NOTE: For dual-level 500/700 courses, the 500-level courses are appropriate for upper-division undergraduates and 700-level courses are appropriate for graduate students and undergraduate seniors. Consult your undergraduate advisor or the Graduate Director regarding the best level at which to enroll.

### **ENGL 301: Technical/Professional Writing**

**Dr. Hermansson or Dr. Jorgenson Borchert or Ms. Larsen**

English 301 Technical/Professional Writing is designed for those students who will be writing in the professional, business, and technical professions. In addition to reading professional writing case studies in order to learn rhetorical strategies used in common business writing situations, you will also learn how to create correspondence, descriptions, instructions, reports, and electronic presentations; how to design documents; and how to incorporate graphics into your documents.

### **ENGL 302: Advanced Composition**

**Dr. Zepernick**

Advanced Composition is designed to help you become conversant with Classical and contemporary rhetorical theory, learn to assess the quality of a piece of writing, and hone your writing skills through application of writing techniques in specific writing assignments.

### **ENGL 308: English Linguistics**

**Dr. Rudd**

This course is an introduction to the study of language and to the principles and methods of linguistics, the scientific study of language. We will spend some time early on discussing foundational questions about the nature of language and its relation to the mind and the world. The course develops and strengthens skills in logical reasoning and problem solving, which are invaluable in any field. This course is designed to be a first course in linguistics, and, thus, no prior knowledge of linguistics is assumed. The goals of the class are, first and foremost, to explain the basic linguistic components of language. Thus, we will examine how words in English are formed, determine what the sounds of the language are, and identify how they behave in everyday speech. Over the course of the semester, we will also discuss the major areas of the field, including, but not limited to, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics.

### **ENGL 315: Mythology**

**Dr. Judd**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to Classical (Greek and Roman) and Norse mythology. Because mythic archetypes are commonly used in literature and film for thematic purposes and because the narrative structures of myths and folklore stories are common to many modern plot structures, mythology can be useful for understanding both modern literature and film. Through the course of this study, students should be able to

identify and explain the various myth elements, from characters and stories to archetypes and narrative structures.

### **ENGL 320: Literature and Film**

#### **Dr. Hermansson**

This course introduces students to literary analysis and the basics of film "grammar" used in storytelling in order to make sense of the complex processes of adapting a work of literature into film. Students study a range of literature from at least two genres (for example: a number of short stories and a section of a Shakespearean play studied across multiple film adaptations) and methods of analyzing their adaptations in an informed way. The issues with fidelity (how "faithful" or "true" a film adaptation is) are contextualized in order to understand the limits of fidelity as an evaluative tool and a more neutral, descriptive language for adaptation is implemented. The course studies early, historical examples of film adaptation as well as up to date examples and introduces students to the many reasons why film has turned to literature for material. Students learn also to implement many of these techniques themselves in other media by way of storyboards, short screenplays, film pitches including casting and locations work, and even short film. This course does not require previous knowledge of literature or film. It can be taken for General Education credit. It can be taken by English majors even after having taken ENGL 304. It has obvious benefits for BSE students as well, who will be teaching in English classrooms using film as a resource.

### **ENGL 451: Fiction Writing and Editing II**

#### **Professor Martin**

This class includes work in drafting, revising, and editing fiction, and introduces best practice approaches to submitting publishable work. Students will also learn how to use literary conventions to read and critique published work, as well as peer work in a workshop situation. Fiction writing prompts throughout the semester will advance student writing by practice, focus, and creative risk-taking. Additionally, students will read and discuss essays on craft and theory. Finally, using the "Writer's Website" instructions, students will create an online writing presence.

### **ENGL 478: Literature for Middle and Secondary Schools**

#### **Dr. Franklin**

Criteria and methods for selection, evaluation, analysis, and presentation of adolescent literature. Themes and trends in children's literature; history, tradition, and current themes and trends in adolescent literature.

### **ENGL 480: Internship**

#### **Dr. Franklin, supervisor**

Experience for students planning to become teachers. Field experience in the secondary classroom to complement competencies addressed in departmental methods courses. Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in ENGL 478 Literature for Middle and Secondary Schools or ENGL 479 Techniques for Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools is required. Must be taken immediately prior to ENGL 579 Supervised Student Teaching and Follow-Up of Teachers.

**ENGL 526: Writing in Electronic Environments****Dr. Jorgensen Borchert**

Writing in Electronic Environments is a course examining the development of digital literacies by examining and practicing digital writing. This course will focus on user experience. User experience is a person's emotions, attitudes, and use around a product, system, or service. To help us understand user experience, we will discuss core concepts related to usability and user experience in web and mobile platforms. Assignments will ask us to reflect on and analyze the user experience design of web, gaming, and other digital platforms. A final project will focus on creating a usability test over an app, product, or web platform. ENGL 526 meets concurrently with ENGL 726.

**ENGL 566: American Theme—American Witches****Dr. Dearing**

This course examines the role of the witch throughout the history of American literature. Beginning with the Puritans, we will examine how the role of the character of the witch shaped early American identity. We will examine the historical context of the Salem witch trials and the literature surrounding them. Beyond Salem, we will look at drama, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry throughout American history through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The course will exam the many themes and ideas associated with witches, including paradigms of power, domesticity, and gender roles.

**ENGL 579: Supervised Student Teaching and Follow-Up of Teachers****Dr. Franklin, supervisor**

Available only to students enrolled in the professional semester. A supervising professor will visit each student teacher. Additional mentoring, outreach, and support are available to first-year teachers who maintain contact with the department. Concurrent enrollment in the professional semester is required.

**ENGL 699: Senior Seminar****Dr. Carlson**

A capstone course for senior English majors. B.S.Ed. English students should take this course in the semester right before their professional semesters, and B.A. English majors should take this course in their last semesters at PSU. The course assesses the student's abilities in a major portfolio, and allows the student to assess the English Department. Students also write resumes and cover letters or statement of intents for graduate school, are trained in interviewing techniques, develop networking skills, and spend time speaking to professionals in their chosen fields. The course is one credit and required for all English majors.

**ENGL 726: Writing in Electronic Environments****Dr. Jorgensen Borchert**

See listing for ENGL 526.

**ENGL 771 (Major Authors): Milton****Dr. McCallum**

The method and aim of almost any major authors course is prolonged immersion into the life and works of its subject. And in this course our main focus will be the prose and poetry

of John Milton. Milton was one of the best educated and most widely read men of his century; he participated in the great social, political, and religious debates of his time, and composed works of theology, philosophy, pedagogy, and history in addition to writing in nearly every literary genre and mode. Needless to say, by semester's end, you will be very familiar with the trajectory of Milton's career, as well as with the topics, themes, and controversies that inform his works. However, Milton's works will also serve us as a convenient platform from which to launch inquiries into the historical, intellectual, and aesthetic contexts of his world and worldview. And by surveying contemporary and recent critical scholarship on Milton, we'll come to a better understanding of how a man so accomplished yet so obscure in his lifetime came to be recognized as one of the greats of English literature.

### **ENGL 845: Problems in Teaching Composition**

#### **Dr. Judd**

This course is open *only* to Graduate Teaching Assistants in the Department of English and Modern Languages. A two-semester enrollment is required in the first year of the teaching assistantship. English 845 provides new Graduate Teaching Assistants a basic understanding of key strategies and techniques for teaching writing and provides applied and practical guidance on such matters as planning instruction, responding to and evaluating writing, creating writing assignments, conferencing with students, creating and guiding an effective classroom teaching and learning environment, and attending to the "nuts and bolts" issues of classroom practice. Students will conduct both individual and collaborative presentations based on required readings in the textbook and ancillary materials. Content varies by semester.

### **ENGL 850: Creative Writing Workshop—Poetry**

#### **Professor Washburn**

Students write, share, and critique student work while reading contemporary poets.

### **ENGL 875: Seminar—Black American Lives 1920–2020**

#### **Dr. Anderson**

How Black Americans experience life in the United States has been one of this nation's most important topics of conversation and political debate over the past several years. Rather than offering a comprehensive survey of African-American literature, this course will focus on texts that directly or indirectly address these questions: What is a Black American life? and How do Black lives matter in American literature? Readings will come from multiple genres (fiction, poetry, nonfiction, drama) of the past 100 years, and will include both well-known authors and a few who have rarely or never been taught at Pitt State. Attention will be given both to classic texts and to lesser-known works, including contemporary literature published since 2010 and samples of African-American science fiction. This is a new course, so specific authors and texts are still to be determined, but those being considered include writers such as Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Alice Walker, Octavia Butler, and Walter Mosley.