Department of English Language and Literature

Chair
- Deborah Nelson

Faculty
- Lauren G. Berlant
- Bill Brown
- James K. Chandler
- Maud Ellmann
- Frances Ferguson
- Elaine Hadley
- Loren A. Kruger
- Josephine McDonagh
- William J. T. Mitchell
- Sianne Ngai
- Joshua Keith Scodel
- Kenneth W. Warren
- John Wilkinson
- Adrienne Brown
- Timothy Campbell
- Patrick Jagoda
- Heather Keenleyside
- Ellen MacKay
- John Mark Miller
- Benjamin Morgan
- John H. Muse
- Srikanth Reddy
- Lawrence Rothfield
- Lisa C. Ruddick
- Jennifer Scappettone
- Eric Slauter
- Rachel Galvin
- Edgar Garcia
- Timothy Harrison
- Julie Orlmanski
- Benjamin Saltzman
- Zachary Samalin
- C. Riley Snorton
- Christopher Taylor
- Sonali Thakkar

Emeritus Faculty
- David Bevington
- Elizabeth Helsinger
- Richard Allen Strier
- William Veeder
- Christina von Nolcken

Postdoctoral Fellows
- Lucy Alford
- Sophia Azeb
Department of English Language and Literature

- Kaneesha Parsard
- Tina Post
- Sarah Johnson

Graduate students in English work with a distinguished faculty of critics and scholars to develop their own interests over a broad range of traditional and innovative fields of research. The program aims to help students attain a wide substantive command of British, American, and other English language literatures. In addition to specializations in the full range of chronologically defined fields, the program includes generous offerings in African American studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Novel, and Media Studies. Students are also trained in textual studies, editing, literary and cultural history, and a variety of critical theories and methodologies. The interests of both faculty and students often carry through to neighboring disciplines like anthropology, sociology, history, art history, linguistics, and philosophy. The University provides a supportive environment for advanced studies of this kind.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The program leading to the Ph.D. degree aims primarily to prepare students for independent work as teachers, scholars, and critics by developing their abilities to pose and investigate problems in the advanced study of literatures in English and in film. Departmental requirements are designed to lead to the doctorate in five to six years. Course work, the preparation of oral fields examinations, workshops, teaching, and the dissertation introduce students to a variety of textual modes, critical methodologies, and historical/cultural problems; provide extensive practice in research, discussion, argument, and writing; and develop pedagogical skills through supervised teaching. While a student's progress will be carefully monitored and periodically evaluated by individual advisors and the department, all students will be accepted into the program on the assumption that they will proceed to the Ph.D.

In the first two years of the Ph.D. program, students are required to enroll in six graduate courses each year. All first-year students also participate in a one-quarter colloquium designed to introduce theoretical and practical questions posed by the study of literature (through readings in a range of theoretical and literary texts). In their third year, students will also take a one quarter course in various approaches to the teaching of literature and composition and a one quarter Advanced Writing Workshop.

Note: Students entering with an M.A. degree in English will be asked to complete at least one year of coursework (six courses) plus two additional courses in their second year, participate in the Autumn Quarter colloquium, and take the one quarter course on teaching in either their second or third years.

Students in their third and fourth years will normally teach at least one quarter-long course each year, initially as course assistants in departmental courses for undergraduates, then as instructors in courses of their own design. Students may also be employed as writing tutors, assistants in introductory humanities and social sciences core courses, instructors in the College Writing Program course in expository writing (which provides its own training in the teaching of composition), or as teachers at other area colleges and universities. The department believes that both training and experience in teaching is an important part of the graduate program.

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

Students seeking a master's degree should apply to the Master of Arts Program in the Humanities (MAPH), a three-quarter program of interdisciplinary study in a number of areas of interest to students, including literature and film. MAPH permits students to take almost all of their courses in the English Department, sharing classes with students in the Ph.D. program. The resulting degree is equivalent to an M.A. in English. Further details about the MAPH program are available at http://maph.uchicago.edu.

INQUIRIES

For more information on the department's programs and requirements, please see the Department of English website at http://english.uchicago.edu or contact the departmental staff at englishsupport@uchicago.edu.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in the Humanities is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. Please visit http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions (http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions/) for further information and instructions on how to apply.

Questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-1552.

International students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). (Current minimum scores, etc., are provided with the application.) For more information, please see the Office of International Affairs website at https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu (https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/), or call them at (773) 702-7752.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE COURSES

ENGL 30100. Introduction to Religion and Literature. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): R. Rosengarten, S. Hammerschlag Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): RLIT 30000, RLST 28210

ENGL 30228. William Blake: Poet, Painter, and Prophet. 100 Units.
A survey of the major poetic and pictorial works of William Blake, centrally focused on his illuminated books, from the early Songs of Innocence and Experience to The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, and the books of the revolutionary period of the 1790s: Europe, America, Visions of the Daughters of Albion, and The Book of Urizen. We will also consider the later prophecies, Milton: A Poem and Jerusalem, along with Blake's work as an illustrator of Milton, Chaucer, and the Bible. Blake's engagement with the political and religious controversies of his time will provide context, along with his pioneering exploration of dialectical modes of thought and radical forms of humanism (Poetry, 1650-1830, Theory; 18th/19th)
Instructor(s): W. J. T. Mitchell Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): FNHL 20228, ARTH 20228, ARTH 30228, ENGL 20228

ENGL 30230. Iconology East and West. 100 Units.
Iconology is the study of images across media and cultures. It is also associated with philosophical reflections on the nature of images and their relation to language-the interplay between the "icon" and the "logos." A plausible translation of this compound word into Chinese would describe it as "Words in Pictures, Pictures in Words": ## #######. This seminar will explore the relations of word and image in poetics, semiotics, and aesthetics with a particular emphasis on how texts and pictures have been understood in the Anglo-European-American and Chinese theoretical traditions. The interplay of painting and poetry, speech and spectacle, audition and vision will be considered across a variety of media, particularly the textual and graphic arts. The aims of the course will be 1) to critique the simplistic oppositions between "East" and "West" that have bedevilled intercultural and intermedial comparative studies; 2) to identify common principles, zones of interaction and translation that make this a vital area of study. (Theory; 20th/21st)
Instructor(s): WJT Mitchell, Martin Powers Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course will be coordinated with a parallel seminar at Beijing University.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 20230

ENGL 30250. The Means of Production: Contemporary Poetry and Literary Publishing. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to the editorial principles, material and institutional infrastructure, and collaborative practices of literary evaluation in the making of contemporary American poetry. How does a poem 'make it' into the pages of Chicago Review ... or The Paris Review? How do individual readers and editorial collectives imagine the work of literary assessment and aesthetic judgment in our time? We will begin the course with a survey of new directions in Anglophone poetry as a preparation for an intensive editorial practicum in the evaluation and assessment of literary manuscripts in the second half of the term. Course work will include reviewing and evaluating manuscript submissions to the Phoenix Poets book series at the University of Chicago Press. (Poetry)
Instructor(s): Srikanth (Chicu) Reddy Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 20250

ENGL 30430. American Fiction of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. 100 Units.
This course offers an introduction to fiction from the Gilded Age and Progressive Era in the US. We'll ask how short stories and novels intervene in the period's debates about US imperialism, immigration, corporate capitalism, eugenics, racism, and democracy; we'll also examine fiction's role in writing the history of the Civil War, sectional reconciliation, and the racial violence attending Reconstruction and its aftermath. Paying close attention to how and where our texts were first published and read, we'll consider the usefulness of the categories that have described them (such as regionalism, realism, and naturalism). Authors may include: Charles Chesnutt, Kate Chopin, Stephen Crane, Pauline Hopkins, Upton Sinclair, Mark Twain, and Edith Wharton. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Emily Coit Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 31101. Romantic Poetry. 100 Units.
In the wake of the American and French Revolutions, and still in the early days of the worlds first Industrial Revolution, two British poets-William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge—set out to produce another kind of revolution that they hoped could save their readers from a harsh new world of culture and sensibility brought on by "causes unknown to former times." Their experiments in poetry were informed by a likewise unprecedented analysis of the problems that they saw besetting their own moment. It was an extraordinary exercise in critical media theory very much avant la lettre. Both the experiments and the analysis had far-reaching on poets of their moment—especially Shelley and Keats—and poets beyond it, and have mattered much to the modern understanding of literature and criticism well into the twentieth century and into our own time. This course will take up the challenge of coming to terms with the Romantic 'revolution in taste' in close engagements with both familiar and unfamiliar works. We will read other poets of the period, including Blake, Byron, Charlotte Smith, and Anna Laetitia Barbauld—and also come to terms with the massive legacy of Romantic poetry and poetics ever since, not least in the formation of modern practical criticism. There will be a short paper (3-4 pp.) and a longer one (15 pp.). (18th/19th)
ENGL 32104. Hymns. 100 Units.
The course will track hymns from the early modern period through the late eighteenth century. We'll examine the evolution of the hymn as a literary form, focusing on obsolescence and adaptation in literary transmission. We'll start with the Psalms of the Hebrew Bible, and analyze psalters (such as the one produced by Mary Herbert, Countess of Pembroke, and her brother, Sir Philip Sidney) and the metrical psalms of Sternhold and Hopkins that were used in Anglican services. We'll then take up the development of congregational hymns, hymns sung by everyone in a congregation, to track the way that literary adaptation among Dissenters became both common and controversial. We'll look at Isaac Watts's multiple hymns for each of the Psalms, his later Hymns and Spiritual Songs, and his Divine Songs for children to get at the importance he and other Dissenters (such as Anna Letitia Barbauld) attached to supplying words to all who could sing or say them. We'll end with a discussion of 'Amazing Grace' and its use in the British abolition movement, and with a discussion of the movement of the literary hymn away from religion altogether in literary hymns, Shelley's and Keats's odes. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Frances Ferguson Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 32104

ENGL 32123. Ecopoetics: Literature and Ecology. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to recent debates in the environmental humanities and simultaneously to a range of creative responses across fiction, documentary, poetry, and the visual arts spurred by the effects of what has come to be called the Anthropocene epoch (despite substantive challenges to the term that we will address) - in a period of perceived grave environmental crisis. Students will be asked to respond critically to the works at hand, but also to conduct their own research and on-site fieldwork in Chicago on an environmental issue of their choosing. Students must be available for several field trips. (20th/21st) Undergraduates must email Prof. Jennifer Scappettone for consent.
Instructor(s): Jennifer Scappettone Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 22123, ARCH 22123, ARTH 32123

ENGL 32270. The Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds. 100 Units.
It has been nearly fifteen years since Isabel Hofmeyr urged thinking across geographies in her essay "The Black Atlantic Meets the Indian Ocean." The Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean are not newly connected, but rather have been connected through the circulation of labor and goods since antiquity. How does our understanding of regimes like slavery and contract labor, and concepts like diaspora and migration, change when we think betwixt and between? This interdisciplinary seminar takes up this mantle, looking to literature, art, theory, and history that provide new accounts and imaginaries of the Caribbean, Southern and East Africa, and the Indian subcontinent - and the waters that reach their shores. Readings may include Andrew Liu and Anna Arabindan-Kesson on goods like tea and cotton, Jazmin Graves on the African Indian Sidi community, Neelofer Qadir on narratives of South Asian labor migration to East Africa, among others. Writers and artists may include Gaiutra Bahadur, Amitav Ghosh, Andil Gosine, and Sharlene Khan. In addition, we may look to scholarship that conceptually crosses these ocean worlds, such as Durba Mitra and Jordache Ellapan on South-South and Afro-Asian feminisms. While this course will be conducted in English, participants are encouraged to bring materials and expertise that move beyond an Anglophone frame. (18th/19th, 20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Kanesha Parsard Terms Offered: Spring

ENGL 32300. Marxism and Modern Culture. 100 Units.
Designed for graduate students in the humanities, this course begins with fundamental texts on ideology and the critique of capitalist culture by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Gramsci, Althusser, Wilhelm Reich, and Raymond Williams, before moving to Marxist aesthetics, from the orthodox Lukács to the Frankfurt School (Adorno, Benjamin) to the heterodox (Brecht), and concludes with contemporary debates around Marxism and imperialism (Lenin, Fanon, and others), and Marxism and media, including the internet.
Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): MA and PhD students in humanities disciplines only. Not suitable for the MAPSS program or for Social Science PhDs
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 31600, CMLT 31600

ENGL 32312. Virtual Theaters. 100 Units.
This course probes the nature and limits of theater by exploring a range of theatrical texts from various centuries whose relation to performance is either partially or fully virtual, including philosophical dialogues, closet dramas, novel chapters in dramatic form, drama on social media, remote online theater on platforms like Zoom, algorithmic theater, mixed reality performance, and transmedia games. One unit of the course attends to experiments in remote theater since the COVID-19 pandemic. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): John Muse Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 32312

ENGL 32314. Alternate Reality Games: Theory and Production. 100 Units.
Games are one of the most prominent and influential media of our time. This experimental course explores the emerging genre of "alternate reality" or "transmedia" gaming. Throughout the quarter, we will approach new media theory through the history, aesthetics, and design of transmedia games. These games build on the narrative strategies of novels, the performative role-playing of theater, the branching techniques of electronic literature, the procedural qualities of video games, and the team dynamics of sports. Beyond the subject
matter, students will design modules of an Alternate Reality Game in small groups. Students need not have a background in media or technology, but a wide-ranging imagination, interest in new media culture, or arts practice will make for a more exciting quarter.

Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda, Heidi Coleman
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third- or fourth-year standing. Instructor consent required. To apply, submit writing through online form at https://www franke.uchicago.edu/big-problems-courses; see course description. Once given consent, attendance on the first day is mandatory. Questions mb031@uchicago.edu.

Note(s): This course fulfills the Theory (H) distribution requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 25954, TAPS 28466, ARTV 30700, MAAD 20700, BPRO 28700, CMST 35954, ENGL 25970, ARTV 20700

**ENGL 32705. Composing Composition: Writing Pedagogy. 100 Units.**

Composing Composition is a course for graduate students who plan to work as teachers or who are entering the academic job market. This course provides a scholarly context and practical exercises that will prepare graduate students for the challenges of writing-related jobs in institutional contexts ranging from large research universities to small liberal arts schools. The course will prepare you to discuss the teaching of writing in applications to and interviews for academic jobs and fellowships.

Instructor(s): Tracy Weiner, Linda Smith-Brecheisen
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): None
Note(s): Graduate students ONLY - limit 12.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 13000

**ENGL 33000. Academic and Professional Writing (The Little Red Schoolhouse) 100 Units.**

Academics and professionals need advanced writing skills if they are to communicate effectively and efficiently. In this intensive, pragmatic course, students master the writing skills they need by first studying and then applying fundamental structures of effective writing. Each week, students meet in a synchronous small-group seminars to discuss each other's papers and then watch asynchronous lecture videos on a new principle. Discussion, editing, critiques, and rewrites ensure that all students sharpen their ability to write with clarity and power.

Instructor(s): L. McEnerney, K. Cochran, T. Weiner
Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third- or fourth-year standing
Note(s): This course does not count towards the ISHU program requirements. May be taken for P/F grading by students who are not majoring in English. Materials fee $20.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 13000

**ENGL 33809. Muses and Saints: Poetry and the Christian Imagination. 100 Units.**

This course provides an introduction to the poetic traditions of early Christians and the intersection between poetic literature, theology, and biblical interpretation. Students will gain familiarity with the literary context of the formative centuries of Christianity with a special emphasis on Greek and Syriac Christians in the Eastern Mediterranean from the fourth through the sixth centuries. While theology is often taught through analytical prose, theological reflection in late antiquity and early Byzantium was frequently done in poetic genres. This course introduces students to the major composers and genres of these works as well as the various recurrent themes that occur within this literature. Through reading poetry from liturgical and monastic contexts, students will explore how the biblical imaginations of Christians were formed beyond the confines of canonical scripture. How is poetry a mode of "doing" theology? What habits of biblical interpretation and narration does one encounter in this poetry? This course exposes students to a variety of disciplinary frameworks for studying early Christian texts including history, religious studies, feminist and literary critique, as well as theology. Students will also analyze medieval and modern poetry with religious themes in light of earlier traditions to reflect on the poetry and the religious imagination more broadly.

Instructor(s): Erin Galgay Walsh
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduate and graduate students; Graduate students may choose to attend weekly translation group
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 24104, MDVL 23000, RLVC 33000, CLCV 26119, BIBL 33000, CLAS 36119, HCHR 33000, GNSE 34104, RLST 23000

**ENGL 34100. Foundations of Interpretive Theory. 100 Units.**

The MAPH Core Course, Foundations of Interpretive Theory, begins two weeks before regular University classes and covers seminal works by thinkers such as Freud, Lacan, and Marx. It is taught by the MAPH Director and Preceptors and may include guest lectures by distinguished faculty members from different disciplines. The course is designed to give MAPH students a shared base for their further study.

Instructor(s): Strang, Hilary Bayne, Rowan Carloy, Chris Chia, Darrel Hutchison, Bill Kunjummen, Sarah Malinowska, Agnes Schweiger, Tristan Tusler, Megan
Note(s): Required for MAPH students. Others by consent only. Register by Preceptor Section.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 30100

**ENGL 34220. New York, Capital of the Twentieth Century. 100 Units.**

From the late 1950s New York became aworld center for innovative poetry, painting, jazz and dance. This course explores the networks that linked uptown and downtown, black and white, queer and straight and other scenes, with the tensions both productive and destructive these created. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): John Wilkinson
Terms Offered: Spring
ENGL 34255. America’s Literary Scientists. 100 Units.

This course targets in on the entanglements between science and literature during the nineteenth and early twentieth century in America—a historical moment when these realms did not appear nearly as divided as they do now. In particular, we attend to the period’s exciting developments in biology, which promised to revolutionize contemporary notions of human being. Our analysis of American fiction will center on the subjects and methods that writers adopted (imaginatively and often critically) from fields like evolutionary science, microbiology, and experimental psychology. But the course syllabus also includes American scientists who wrote fiction: What types of knowledge did they hope to produce in becoming literary? The aim of our inquiry will, in large part, be to examine the role of literature in shaping the significance of science in American culture, as well as the role of science in helping to build an American literary canon. Along the way, we will track the kinds of experiments in form and genre that such literary-scientific hybrids might produce. Readings may include works by Henry Adams, W.E.B. Du Bois, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William James, Silas Weir Mitchell, Mark Twain, and Edith Wharton. Theoretical and critical works will be drawn from the history of science, science and technology studies, and nonhuman studies.

Instructor(s): Agnes Malinowska Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to 3rd and 4th years in the College and MA students

Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 34255, ENGL 24255

ENGL 34407. Critique of Humanism. 100 Units.

This course will provide a rapid-fire survey of the philosophical sources of contemporary literary and critical theory. We will begin with a brief discussion of the sort of humanism at issue in the critique—accounts of human life and thought that treat the individual human being as the primary unit for work in the humanities and the humanistic social sciences. This kind of humanism is at the core of contemporary common sense. It is, to that extent, indispensable in our understanding of how to move around in the world and get along with one another. That is why we will conduct critique, rather than plain criticism, in this course: in critique, one remains indebted to the system under critical scrutiny, even while working to understand its failings and limitations. Our tour of thought produced in the service of critique will involve work by Hegel, Marx, Gramsci, Freud, Fanon, Lacan, and Althusser. We will conclude with a couple of pieces of recent work that draws from these sources. The aim of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to engage with some extraordinarily influential work that continues to inform humanistic inquiry. (A)

Instructor(s): C. Vogler Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 12002, PHIL 21225, PHIL 31225

ENGL 34500. Postcolonial Poetics. 100 Units.

Does postcolonial literature have a distinctive ‘poetics’? We will begin with an inquiry into the nature and extent of the ‘difference’ that marks postcolonial literature, while at the same time remaining open to finding similarities, connections, influences, dialogue and dispute among the many literatures of the modern world. The tension between the two aspects—sameness and difference—will enable us to explore postcolonial poetics in terms of a dialectic (rather than attempt to arrive at a definition of it). This will also mean sidestepping the framing of the question of a postcolonial poetics exclusively in terms of a debate between aesthetics and politics. We will adopt a comparative methodology in discussing theoretical issues relating to form, genre, periodization, and language, selectively focusing on the postcolonial novel and tragedy (as genres), realism (as narrative form), and modernism (as internationalist movement). We will also examine the genealogy of aesthetic terms that have been specifically associated with postcolonial writing (or identified as specifically postcolonial), like magical realism, hybridity, creolism, and negritude. Finally, we will explore the terms in which postcolonial themes and ideologies like nationalism, reform and modernity, history and Marxism have been invoked in the literature. Our readings will address a range of theoretical writings from the Caribbean, South Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Instructor(s): Rajeswari Sunder Rajan Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 34528. Seeing Ourselves: Photography and Literary Non-Fiction. 100 Units.

What knowledge about ourselves can photographs provide? Can photographs change the way we see ourselves—collectively, individually? Photography has been around for almost 200 years, yet its dominance in our lives seems only to increase. This course examines photography’s influence on our everyday lives, particularly on conceptions and portrayals of the self. We will see how theorists have grappled with the phenomenon of photography, engaging the written word to address its conundrums, dangers, and attractions. With the help of these theorists, we will question the promises that photographs seem to make about representing the world. The purpose of this course is also, however, to take seriously the affective, documentary power of photography. We will thus analyze the creative use of photographs in the non-fiction (or nearly non-fiction) of major 20th- and 21st-century writers (philosophers, critics, journalists, essayists, poets, novelists, activists). Photography will emerge as a productive medium for navigating issues of memory, identity, race, gender, authenticity, agency, publicity, and art. With keen attention to the different capabilities of writing and photography, we will explore the dynamics of self-expression, the ethics of representing others, and the politics of image-text depictions.

(Theory, 20th/21st)

Instructor(s): Christine Fournaies Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 24528

Equivalent Course(s): ARCH 34220, GNSE 34221
ENGL 34540. Islands and Otherness. 100 Units.
The island as a space of possibility - of discovery, of (re)imagination, and of otherness - is a concept with a very long history in Anglophone literature. Indeed, Britain’s own archipelagic geography (a landscape unique among Europe’s imperial powers) has often been invoked for a range of rhetorical ends. John of Gaunt’s famous speech in Richard II uses the idea of Britain as the "scepter’d isle" as both a source of comfort (England as especially favored) and the foundation of critique (favor squandered). With the rise of transoceanic empires, writers throughout Great Britain, its colonial dominions, and other literary traditions imbued the symbol of the island with ever-increasing layers of meaning. Yet the island was also always already a location of anxiety, hostility, and liminality - of alternate cultural practices and systems of belief, of indigenous peoples who refused the claims of the colonizer, and where the meaning of Europe itself was destabilized in the colonial encounter. While eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European writers often deployed the island to think through the implications of empire for the metropole, anticolonial writers turned to the island as a site of resistance and recuperation. This transhistorical course will discuss the many significations of the island in metropolitan, colonial, and postcolonial literature as a lens into the conflicts and debates of imperialism.
Instructor(s): Tristan Schweiger Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to MAPH students and 3rd and 4th years in the College Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 24540, MAPH 34540

ENGL 34770. Digital Media Aesthetics: Interaction, Connection, and Improvisation. 100 Units.
This course investigates the ways that digital and networked media have changed contemporary aesthetics, forms, storytelling practices, and cultures. Along the way, we will analyze electronic literature, Twine games, interactive dramas, video games, transmedia narratives, and more. Formally, we will explore concepts such as multilinear narrative, immersive and navigable worlds, network aesthetics, interactive difficulty, aleatory poetics, and videogame mechanics. Throughout the quarter, our analysis of computational media aesthetics will be haunted by matters of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other ghosts in the machine. Students need not be technologically gifted or savvy, but a wide-ranging imagination and interest in new media cultures will make for a more exciting quarter. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 37870, CMST 67870, GNSE 34770, TAPS 34770

ENGL 34800. Poetics. 100 Units.
In this course, we will study poetry 'in the abstract'. We will study various efforts on the part of philosophers, literary critics, and poets themselves to formulate theories of poetic discourse. We will examine a range of historical attempts to conceptualize poetry as a particular kind of language practice, from Greek, Chinese, and Indic antiquity to the present. (18th/19th, 20th/21st)
Instructor(s): David Wray Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 34801, MAPH 34800

ENGL 34850. T.S. Eliot. 100 Units.
With the major new edition of Eliot’s poems by Jim McCue and Christopher Ricks, the new volumes of Eliot’s letters, and two separate new editions of Eliot’s complete prose, we are in a position to rethink the meanings and force of Eliot’s life work. The class will be devoted to careful reading of his poems, essays, plays, and correspondence, with attention to his literary, cultural, and political contexts.
Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren Terms Offered: Spring. Course will be taught spring 2021
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 26614, SCTH 36014, FNDL 26614

ENGL 34960. California Fictions: Literature and Cinema 1945-2018. 100 Units.
This course will consider works of literature and cinema from 1884-2018 that take place in Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, the Inland Empire, and rural California to offer a case study for everyday life and critical space theory. Beginning with Helen Hunt Jackson’s Ramona and ending with Boots Riley’s Sorry to Bother you, we will also consider how ‘the west’ provides an opportunity for reconsidering canon formation and genre.
(20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Megan Tusler Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Open to MAPH students: 3rd and 4th years in the College email 2-3 sentences about why you want to take the course for consent.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 24960, MAPH 34960

ENGL 35008. Changing Worlds: J.G. Ballard’s Apocalyptic Quartet. 100 Units.
Between 1961 and 1966, the English novelist and short story writer J.G. Ballard produced four novels (THE WIND FROM NOWHERE, THE DROWNED WORLD, THE BURNING WORLD, and THE CRYSTAL WORLD) that depict, poetically and concretely, global changes to the earth and its human inhabitants, n particular their imaginations. The relation of these lyrical apocalypses to science fiction, visual art, ecology and the philosophy of time, as well as their awkward coordination into a cycle, will concern us. We will conclude the course by reading Anna Kavan’s 1967 ICE, which in a way complements and completes Ballard’s cycle.
Instructor(s): Andrei Pop
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 35008, FNDL 25008
ENGL 35270. Strange Worlds. 100 Units.
Medieval Literature often conjures worlds of almost science-fictional strangeness. We will focus on the fantastic spaces of romance and visionary religious literature to explore the affective, conceptual, and ideological experiments enabled by medieval forms of estrangement. (Med/Ren)
Instructor(s): Mark Miller
Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 35417. Utopia and Perfection in Late Medieval England. 100 Units.
A course on the drive to individual and collective perfection, and its relation to social and psychic conflict. Readings from medieval political theory, theology, mystical, hagiographical, and penitential writing, texts documenting the demographic and political upheavals of the 14th century, and poetry of the period. (Med/Ren)
Instructor(s): Mark Miller
Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 35550. Feminist and Queer Literary Criticism. 100 Units.
An introduction to classic texts in feminist and queer literary criticism. We will also be reading works by Frank O’Hara, Tennessee Williams, Octavia Butler, Ernest Hemingway, Allen Ginsberg, Gwendolyn Brooks, Adrienne Rich, Sylvia Plath, Harryette Mullen, and Maggie Nelson. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Sianné Ngai
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 35550

ENGL 35605. Imagining the City. 100 Units.
The rise of the modern city makes possible new modes of experience, new kinds of people and personality, and new kinds of stories. Texts include Gaskell, North and South; Dickens, Hard Times; Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; Conan Doyle, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; Wilde, The Portrait of Dorian Gray; Woolf, Mrs Dalloway.
Instructor(s): Lawrence Rothfield
Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 35670. Modernist Poetry. 100 Units.
This introduction to modernist poetry focuses on British, Irish, and expatriate American poets such as T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), Mina Loy, and W.B. Yeats. We will also consider some of their antecedents (such as Alfred Tennyson, Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti, Charlotte Mew) and some of their contemporaries, known as the ‘war poets,’ such as Wilfred Owen, David Jones, Siegfried Sassoon, and Isaac Rosenberg. Assignments consist of two papers, collaborative class presentations, and regular contributions to the online discussion board. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Maud Ellmann
Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 35700. Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in the Middle Ages. 100 Units.
The field of gender and sexuality in medieval Western Europe is both familiar and exotic. Medieval poetry is fascinated by the paradoxical inner workings of desire, and poetic, theological, and philosophical texts develop sophisticated terms for analyzing it. Feminine agency is at once essential to figurations of sexual difference and a scandal to them. Ethical self-realization gets associated both with abstinence and with orgasmic rapture. This course will examine these and other topics in medieval gender and sexuality through reading a range of materials including poetry, theology, gynecological treatises, hagiography, and mystical writing.
Instructor(s): Mark Miller
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 35700

ENGL 35902. Virgil, The Aeneid. 100 Units.
A close literary analysis of one of the most celebrated works of European literature. While the text, in its many dimensions, will offer more than adequate material for classroom analysis and discussion, attention will also be directed to the extraordinary reception of this epic, from Virgil’s times to ours.
Instructor(s): G. Most
Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 44512, CMLT 35902, SCTH 35902

ENGL 35950. Beckett and Media. 100 Units.
Though best known for a single play, Waiting for Godot, Samuel Beckett was a poet, novelist, short-story writer, playwright, translator, and critic with a voluminous output. This course introduces students to the variety and influence of one of the central figures in twentieth-century literature and theater by considering Beckett’s better-known plays—both on the page and in recorded performances—alongside select novels, criticism, film, radio, and television pieces. Among the questions we will ask are: What can Beckett’s experiments across media teach us about the presumed and actual limits of form? What happens when a medium becomes the means of its own undoing? What can we learn from Beckett’s career about cardinal developments in twentieth-century drama, literature, film, and television? (20th/21st, Drama)
Instructor(s): John Muse
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 35950

ENGL 36003. Wit & Wisdom in 18th-Century Literature. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): CHSS 30100

ENGL 36012. 19th Century French Poetry in Translation: Tradition and Revolution. 100 Units.
A study of modern French lyric poetry: Tradition and Revolution, Poetry and Politics, the seedbed of Modernism. Desbordes-Valmore, Baudelaire, Mallarme, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Apollinaire. Texts will be read in English with
reference to the French originals. Close reading, references to poetry in English, and focus on problems in translation. Students with French should read the poems in the original. Class discussion to be conducted in English; critical essays to be written in English. An extra weekly session will be scheduled for discussion in French, for French-speakers.

Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 36012, CMLT 36012, SCTH 26012, FREN 26019, FREN 36019

ENGL 36018. Poetry and Trauma: Hayden, Lowell, Plath. 100 Units.
We will read the poems of three 20th century American poets, Robert Hayden, Robert Lowell, and Sylvia Plath, with an eye to the historical and psychological wounds suffered by the poets and the transformation of wounds into art. By close attention to both text and context, we will try to feel our way into the mysteries of poetic creation and human resilience.
Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 36018, ENGL 26018

ENGL 36077. Literary Biography. 100 Units.
Literary Biography: A Workshop. We will study four major literary biographies: Elizabeth Gaskell’s The Life of Charlotte Brontë (1857), Lytton Strachey’s Eminent Victorians (1918), Walter Jackson Bate’s John Keats (1964), and Hermione Lee’s Virginia Woolf (1996). While analyzing the arts of literary biography, students will compose a biographical sketch of their own (20 pages), using primary materials from the Special Collections in the Regenstein Library and elsewhere, as appropriate. The course combines literary criticism and creative writing.
Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren
Terms Offered: Autumn. Course will be taught Autumn 2021.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 36017, ENGL 26017

ENGL 36210. Translation Theory and Practice. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to the field of Translation Studies and its key concepts, including fidelity, equivalence, and untranslatability, as well as the ethics and politics of translation. We will investigate the metaphors and models that have been used to think about translation and will consider translation as a transnational practice, exploring how “world histories” may be hidden within “word histories,” as Emily Apter puts it. In the process, we will assess theories of translation and poetry from classical antiquity to the present; compare multiple translations of the same text; and examine notable recent translations. Students will regularly carry out translation exercises and create a final translation project of their own. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Elizabeth Galvin
Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 36222. Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell. 100 Units.
An intensive study of these two poets, whose work differs radically, but whose friendship nourished some of the most enduring and original poetry of the American 20th century. Close attention to the poems, in the light of recent biographical work and new editions.
Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren
Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 36401. Milton and Blake: Conceptions of the Christian Epic. 100 Units.
Milton wrote Paradise Lost to capture in epic form the essence of Christianity; Blake wrote Jerusalem to correct Milton’s mistakes. We’ll read them together to get in on the debate.
Instructor(s): Richard Rosengarten
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 26411, RLVC 36401, FNLD 25307, RLST 26401

ENGL 36407. Comedy Central 2: The Body’s Genres. 100 Units.
The story of comedy from the classics on focuses on the comedic as a weapon, as play that disrupts communication, and as a scene of moral revelation. This course will take up those relations, but begins with the body. We will focus on the plastic, corporeal, affective, and psychodramatic dynamics of the comedic. So much so, in fact, that we’re calling it a studio seminar: it will involve actively participating in exercises adapted from the somatic arts, contemporary dance, music, theatre and contemporary comedy and developing new ones. Recognizing that bodies are as much created by movement as engendering it, and recognizing that the comedic is a register for translating the impact of other bodies including the world’s body, the course will partition “the body” into focal themes such as: scale/gesture, the vocal grotesque/irony, movement/interruption, trauma/repair, slapstick/satire, ritual/convention, spontaneity/improvisation; cognitive laughter/belly laughter. Readings will include texts by Linda Williams, Erving Goffman, J.L. Moreno, Elias Canetti, Moshe Feldenkrais, Steve Paxton, Mikhail Bakhtin, Mae West, Jerry Lewis and Fred Moten. Students will contribute their own choices to an exploration of individual performances by Buster Keaton, Louise Lasser, Eleo Pomare, Phyllis Diller, Jackie “Moms” Mabley, and Jerrod Carmichael.
Instructor(s): L. Berlant, C. Sullivan
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 36215, TAPS 36215

ENGL 36590. The Pleasure of Hating: Satire Now and Then. 100 Units.
Satire exposes human folly to ridicule in order,” as Jonathan Swift claimed, “to mend the world.” This course will examine the protean mode of satire—its history, its forms, its pleasures and its politics—beginning with the origins of satire in Ancient Greece and Rome and extending through the literary satire of the 17th-19th centuries, with some consideration of these works in relation to popular contemporary forms like news satire and sketch
comedy. We will supplement our reading with theoretical and critical discussions of satire by John Dryden, William Hazlitt, Mikhail Bakhtin, Northrop Frye, Linda Hutcheon, and others. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Alexis Chema Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 36710. Eccentric Moderns. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Open to advanced undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 36710, ENGL 26710

ENGL 37803. The Body of Cinema: Hypnoses, Emotions, Animalities. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 47803, CMST 27803

ENGL 37815. Appropriations and Impostures. 100 Units.
What are the different aesthetic and literary uses of appropriation? The editor of a Canadian magazine who set up the Appropriation Prize in 2017, defended the practice of cultural appropriation by insisting that “anyone, anywhere, should be encouraged to imagine other peoples, other cultures, other identities.” This case underscores the continuing tension between narrative as a vehicle for imagining and empathizing with distant others, and notions of cultural property. In this course, we look at a selection of literary works that speak to these themes including Diderot, Ern Malley, Patricia Highsmith, Peter Carey, Kenneth Goldsmith, and Sherman Alexie, with particular attention to the work of appropriation in postcolonial contexts. We also touch on appropriation in other media, such as for instance, Richard Prince’s “New Portraits,” Sherrie Levine’s “After Walker Evans”, and Ni Haifeng’s installations.
Instructor(s): Darrell Chia Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to MAPH students and 3rd and 4th years in the College
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 37815, ENGL 27815

ENGL 38230. Fashion and Change: The Theory of Fashion. 100 Units.
This course offers a representative view of foundational and recent fashion theory, fashion history, and fashion art, with a historical focus on the long modern era extending from the eighteenth century to the present. While engaging the general aesthetic, sociological, and commercial phenomena of fashion, we will also devote special attention to fashion as a discourse reflexively preoccupied with the problem of cultural change-the surprisingly difficult question of how and why “change” does or does not happen. We will aim for a broader appreciation of fashion’s inner workings-its material processes, its practitioners-but we will also confront the long tradition of thinking culture itself through fashion, to ask how we might productively do the same. (Literary/ Critical Theory)
Instructor(s): Timothy Campbell Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 28230, GNSE 38230, ENGL 28230

ENGL 38290. Samuel Richardson’s Clarissa. 100 Units.
This course will examine the very long and possibly-very probably-the greatest novel in the English language. We'll consider the effect of Richardson's decision to conduct his novel as a series of letters, and we'll pay particular attention to his extraordinary effectiveness in creating complexity in a fairly simple plot and in tracking an ever-expanding cast of characters. The Penguin edition we'll be using comes to 1499 pages, and they are over-sized pages. This is a course for committed readers! (1650-1830 ; 18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Frances Ferguson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 28290, FNDL 28290

ENGL 38500. Mythologies of America: 19th Century Novels. 100 Units.
Hawthorne, Melville, Stowe, Alcott, and Twain wrote fiction that, in individual novels and also read comparatively, offers a civic template of mythologies of America: its genesis, its composition, its deities, its ritual life. The course considers this writing as both distinctively American, and as engaging central themes of modern novels, e.g. time, history, and memory, the relation of private to civic life, and the shifting role of religious authority.
Instructor(s): Richard Rosengarten Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RAME 38500, ENGL 28510, RLST 28510, RLVC 38500

ENGL 38647. Trauma and Narrative. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar invites students to engage with literary trauma studies, a field that first emerged in the 1990s, and that has more recently been undergoing decolonization processes. Following calls by scholars such as Stef Craps in Postcolonial Witnessing (2013), we will examine foundational and current literary theory by questioning its validity and applicability across different cultural contexts and languages. We will read select fictional trauma narratives, in English translation or in the original language when possible. Readings will include select psychological and psychoanalytical theoretical literature from Judith L. Herman and Cathy Caruth to Bessel van der Kolk; (literary) theory by Ruth Leys, Lauren Berlant and Stef Craps, as well as fictional texts, largely from non-Euro-Anglo-American contexts. Students working on trauma-related literary projects are welcome to contribute materials in their respective research languages. We will end the course by bridging
discussions of literary trauma studies with recent debates around a pedagogy of trauma, especially as applicable the context of higher education. Students need to be available for 2 synchronous online meetings per week.

Instructor(s): Nisha Kommattam Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 38647

ENGL 38710. On Fear and Loathing: Negative Affect and the American Novel. 100 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 28710, MAPH 40120

ENGL 38860. Black Shakespeare. 100 Units.
This course explores the role played by the Shakespearean canon in the shaping of Western ideas about Blackness, in long-term processes of racial formation, and in global racial struggles from the early modern period to the present. Students will read Shakespearean plays portraying Black characters (Othello, Titus Andronicus, The Tempest, and Antony and Cleopatra) in conversation with African-American, Caribbean, and Post-colonial rewritings of those plays by playwrights Toni Morrison, Amiri Baraka, Bernard Jackson, Djanet Sears, Keith Hamilton Cobb, Aimé Césaire, Derek Walcott, Lolita Chakrabarti, and film-makers Max Julien and Jordan Peele. This course is open to MAPH students and to PhD students upon request. (Drama, Pre-1650 ; Med/Ren)
Instructor(s): Noémie Ndiaye Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 30040, TAPS 20040, ENGL 18860, CRES 18860

ENGL 39100. Black Studies Research Methods. 100 Units.
This course will introduce and examine some of the concepts, methodological approaches, and ethical commitments and challenges relevant for pursuing research and teaching in Black studies. This methods class will study these frameworks alongside the history of the field and its many contemporary iterations in order to explore how different configurations of research process and theoretical innovation continue to shape scholarly work in this field. In addition to readings by Barbara Christian, Sylvia Wynter, St. Clair Drake, Roderick Ferguson, and others, students will “try on” certain methodological approaches in practical assignments throughout the quarter. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Sophia Azeb Terms Offered: Spring

ENGL 39203. Bad Readers. 100 Units.
By the end of the eighteenth century more women and working class readers existed than ever before, and as the ranks of readers grew, so did cultural fears about the dangerous effects of popular, untrained, promiscuous, or otherwise bad, reading. This course will investigate the democratization of the “reading public,” the debates about the dangers of reading that it provoked, and the ways that these arguments inflect, underlie, or diverge from contemporary anxieties about what constitutes bad reading, from Eve Sedgwick’s critique of paranoid reading to the now daily warnings about fake news. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Alexis Chema Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 39203

ENGL 40110. Literature and Citizenship. 100 Units.
What we think of as modernity can be said to begin with the birth (or rebirth) of the citizen. During the 17th and 18th centuries, revolutions in Britain, France, and North America sought to recast political society as a structure built upon social contracts and natural rights of the people rather than the divine right of kings. Yet the category of citizen was (and remains) exclusionary as well as inclusive, frequently deployed to mark those outside its boundaries and protections. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the constructions of race, gender, and nation continued to shift into new forms, and many literature of these centuries focus on how “the citizen” is conceived and reinvented into the present. This interdisciplinary, trans-historical, and transatlantic course will discuss how these tensions and debates influence literature and political discourse over four centuries, a breadth that will allow us to trace the concepts and critiques of citizenship as they have come to shape our contemporary world. Primary readings will include William Shakespeare, Tobias Smollett, Olaudah Equiano, Anna Laetitia Barbauld, Herman Melville, Frederick Douglass, Richard Wright, Miné Okubo, and Claudia Rankine. Secondary and theoretical readings will include Michel Foucault, Raymond Williams, Benedict Anderson, Ian Baucom, Lord Mansfield, C. L. R. James, Paul Gilroy, John Locke, Thomas Jefferson, Achille Mbembe, Emma Goldman, and Harry Harootunian.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 24119, MAPH 40110

ENGL 40141. Structural -isms. 100 Units.
What does it mean to designate “structure” as the operative force in discrimination against categories of person- as in appeals to structural racism or structural violence on the basis of gender? And how can we approach this question by attending to aesthetic uses of structure and form, especially as these have been understood in such paradigms as structuralism and recent literary formalisms? How do we read for structure, in reading for racism and for systemic discrimination on other bases? We’ll focus on intersections of race, gender, and class (in U.S. contexts) as these categories have been reconfigured in the past half century or so. To explore appeals to structure, we’ll consider definitions of literary and aesthetic form, debates about structure vs. agency, and questions of individual and collective action as mediated by institutions. Readings will balance theory with examples drawn from fiction, documentary film, built form, and other media. Throughout, we’ll pay particular attention to problems of structure construed as problems of narrative, as we develop sharper terms for understanding how discrimination proceeds structurally.
Instructor(s): Rowan Bayne Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Instructor consent required for undergraduates.
ENGL 40161. 21st Century Ethnic American Literature. 100 Units.
This class will read US novels and short stories by African-American, American Indian, Asian-American, and Latinx writers from the last twenty years to conceptualize the shifting categories of race and ethnicity, paired with critical and theoretical works in critical cultural race studies. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Megan Tusler Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 45141, MAPH 40141, GNSE 25141, CRES 40141, ENGL 20242, CRES 22141

ENGL 40170. Experiments in Kinship and Care. 100 Units.
In this class, we’ll examine the notions of kinship and care, analyzing them both as conceptual frameworks and as concrete forms of being-together in human and more-than-human relations. Kinship and care are uncertain territories, fluctuating and dynamic; sites of possibility and futurity. Kin-making and care-giving practices reveal existing structures of oppression as well as the utopian possibilities within relation. We’ll spend much of our time engaging with a set of “experiments” or case studies-historical, science fictional, and critical accounts of community-to see how connection appears as a mode of resistance or survival. Throughout, our collective goal will be to think together about living together. Readings may include SF from Octavia Butler, Claire Coleman, Ursula Le Guin, Wu Ming-Yi; theoretical and critical work from Sara Ahmed, Leela Gandhi, Donna Haraway, Laura Harjo, Sadiya Hartman, Kara Keeling, Audre Lorde, José Esteban Muñoz, Maria Puig de la Bellacasa, Dean Spade, Kim Tallbear, Anna Tsing.
Instructor(s): William Hutchison Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 41170, MAPH 40170, ENGL 20170, GNSE 21170

ENGL 40171. Robots, animals, technologies: Science fiction and the more-than-human. 100 Units.
Science fiction allows encounters with other beings that variously encourage or strain the bonds of kinship, and many of those beings are related to entities with whom we already share a world. From companion animals and modified humans to starfish and androids, estrangement from familiar categories allows us to trouble assumptions about the certainty of species, the superiority of consciousness, and what care looks like in relation with those who may not respond to, recognize, or return care in familiar ways. In this class, we’ll look at relations with the more-than-human in the context of urgent and emergent lived experience, in which social, political, and environmental realities require a response that thinks beyond entrenched approaches and takes wild and revolutionary imagination as a reparative possibility. We’ll explore these and other questions through science fiction novels, poetry, graphic novels, music, and video (by Octavia Butler, Ursula Le Guin, Vonda McIntyre, Janelle Monae, Grant Morrison, Margaret Rhee, and others). We’ll engage with theoretical work on topics including multispecies kinship, race and technology, and non-conscious/non-biological life (by Karen Barad, Beth Coleman, Wendy Chun, Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles, Shannon Mattern, Sophia Roosth, Alan Turing, and others). [Note: this class pairs well with “Rocks, plants, ecologies: science fiction and the more-than-human” offered in Spring, and may also be taken as a stand-alone course.]
Instructor(s): William Hutchison Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 40171, MAPH 40171, MAAD 25171

ENGL 40180. Women Writing God. 100 Units.
This course examines imaginative works by women that take on the task of representing divine or supernatural being from the medieval era to the present. Drawing on the work of critics such as Luce Irigaray, Caroline Walker Bynum, and Judith Butler, we explore what strategies these writers employ to depict an entity simultaneously understood to be unrepresentable and to have a masculine imago. Texts range from premodern mystics such as Julian of Norwich and Teresa of Avila to Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower. (Med/Ren)
Instructor(s): Sarah Kunjummen Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Instructor consent required for first and second year undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 20180, GNSE 25180, GNSE 45180, MAPH 40180

ENGL 40190. The Gender of Modernity. 100 Units.
This course examines the dramatic revisions in gender and sexuality that characterize American modernity. Together, we will read literary texts by women and queer writers to investigate their role in shaping the period’s emergent regimes of sex and gender. We’ll consider modernist revisions of these concepts for their effect on America’s broader social and political terrain and explore the intimate histories they made possible: What new horizons for kinship, care, affect, and the everyday reproduction of life did modernist ideas about sex and gender enable? This class doubles as an advanced introduction to gender and sexuality studies, with a particular emphasis on literary criticism. As we map the contours of a feminist and queer modernity, we will also be staging a series of encounters between our literary objects and influential theoretical texts. In so doing, we will consider a range of methodological orientations - psychoanalytic, queer, Black feminism, Marxist, postcolonial, historicist, and so on - as themselves telling divergent stories about what it means to be a sexual and gendered body in American modernity. Readings may include works by Djuna Barnes, Gwendolyn Brooks, H.D., Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Henry James, Nella Larsen, Gertrude Stein; theoretical and critical work from Lauren Berlant, Leo Bersani, Judith Butler, Hélène Cixous, Lee Edelman, Jack Halberstam, Saidiya Hartman, Eve Sedgwick, Hortense Spillers, Gayatri Spivak, Alys Weinbaum.
Instructor(s): Agnes Malinowska Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 40190, GNSE 25150, GNSE 45150, AMER 40190, ENGL 20190
ENGL 40202. Postcolonial Bildungsroman. 100 Units.
In this course, we consider the novel of subject formation in the twentieth-century, with a particular emphasis on postcolonial adaptations of this form. We examine how different instances of the genre play across tropes of aesthetic education, self-making, and nation-building. Readings will likely include Conrad’s Lord Jim, E.M. Forster’s A Passage to India, Olive Schreiner's Story of an African Farm, and Tsitsi Dangarembga’s Nervous Conditions, as well as key critical pieces by Mikhail Bakhtin, Marc Redfield, and Jed Esty, among others.
Instructor(s): Darrel Chia Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 40202, ENGL 21212

ENGL 40203. Biopolitics & Posthumanism. 100 Units.
Much has been written about the possibility (or impossibility) of creating an integrated political schema that incorporates living status, not species boundary, as the salient distinction between person and thing. In this course, we will explore how biopolitical and posthumanistic scholars like Michel Foucault, Hannah Arendt, Giorgio Agamben, Jane Bennett, Cary Wolfe, and Donna Haraway have acknowledged (and advocated transcending) the anthropocentric ümwelt, to borrow Jakob von Úexküll’s influential term. In parallel with our theoretical readings, we will explore how actual legal systems have incorporated the nonhuman, with a particular focus on Anglo-American and transnational law. Our goal is to develop our own sense of an applied biopolitics--whether to our own research, to future legislation and jurisprudence, or both.
Instructor(s): Nicolette I. Bruner Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course fulfills part of the KNOW Core Seminar requirement to be eligible to apply for the SIFK Dissertation Research Fellowship. No instructor consent is required, but registration is not final until after the 1st week in order to give Ph.D. students priority.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 40203, CHSS 40203, KNOW 40203

ENGL 40250. Housekeeping: Domestic Drama and Material Culture. 100 Units.
The theatre represents a new and wildly successful commodity in the early modern English market. Yet it is often kept separate from other fashionable goods of the period by virtue of its intangible form. This course overturns the orthodoxy that an early modern play was a co-imaged event and the early modern theatre was an "empty space" by attending to the Renaissance theatre’s frequent recourse to household stuff. We will read plays designed for private performance, that use the fixtures of the household to build theatrical worlds. We will investigate dramatists who liken the playhouse to key venues of commodity culture, including the pawnshop, the Exchange (the precedent of the shopping mall), and the fairground. We will draw from Henslowe’s Diary to recover the business of theatrical property-making and the allure of a company as disclosed by its holdings. All the while, we will question how the fiction of emptiness takes hold in theatre history, and how plays that depict a furnished world are relegated to second-class genres like domestic tragedy and city comedy. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Ellen MacKay Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 20260, GNSE 40250, GNSE 22260

ENGL 40305. The Archive of Early English Literature: Manuscripts, Books, and Canon. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to early English literature through manuscript studies and book history. Throughout the course we will reflect on archival research as a critical practice: how do the material histories of early texts invite us to rethink the fundamental categories that organize literary history, like authorship or canonicity? The course will be both a practicum (teaching the basics of paleography, codicology, and textual editing) and an ongoing conversation about the archives of literary history, as sites of interpretation, memory, and erasure. We will meet in the Special Collections Research Center, and use the collections of the University of Chicago. We will first focus on the archives of Chicago’s Chaucer Research Project and its principals, John Matthews Manly and Edith Rickert, who tried to establish an authoritative text of the Canterbury Tales in the early twentieth century. The second half of the course will focus on print culture and reading practice, with a focus on Chicago’s collection of early modern commonplace books. Students will propose and pursue a research project in the U of C or Newberry Library collections, on a topic of their choosing. Students will produce a piece of scholarship that reflects both careful research in those collections and thoughtfulness about the place of that research in critical practice.
Instructor(s): J. Stadolnik Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course fulfills part of the KNOW Core Seminar requirement to be eligible to apply for the SIFK Dissertation Research Fellowship. No instructor consent is required, but registration is not final until after the 1st week in order to give Ph.D. students priority.
Equivalent Course(s): CHSS 40305, KNOW 40305

ENGL 40309. Miracles, Marvels, and Mystics: Unknowing in Medieval England. 100 Units.
In this seminar we will explore how premodern literary texts imagined experiences of ‘unknowing’: narrating scenes of astonishment, misapprehension, and disbelief. Our primary readings will draw on a rich tradition of vernacular writing in medieval England. We will read across that tradition’s genres, as writers experimented with ways to represent the wondrous, the occluded, the incomprehensible, and the horrific in a variety of forms, among them spectacular miracle plays, prose exercises in mystical negation, and the poetry of dreamworlds and alchemical secrecy.
Instructor(s): Joe Stadolnik Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): KNOW 40309
ENGL 40464. The Lives of Others. 100 Units.
How much can you ever really know someone else? In this course, we take up the inscrutability of others through a range of narratives about - politically, socially, and geographically - distant others from the early 20th century. Texts include fiction, documentary film, and critical theory around transnationalism, contact zones and ethnography. Some of these texts meditate on the general problem of living with others. Others take on the limits of empathy, access, and friendship whether explicitly or in their formal arrangement. Specifically, we focus on works that engage with an ethics or "work on the self" as a preliminary to having knowledge of others. We will be guided by readings that likely include Jacob Riis, How the Other Half Lives, E.M. Forster's A Passage to India, Werner Herzog's Grizzly Man, Victor Segalens's Essay on Exotism, Levi-Strauss' Tristes Tropiques, Vikram Seth's The Golden Gate, Amitav Ghosh's In An Antique Land and J.M. Coetzee's Elizabeth Costello. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Darrel Chia Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 20464, MAPH 40464

ENGL 40562. Renaissance Freedoms. 100 Units.
This course explores early modern debates about human agency across multiple registers: political, philosophical, religious, erotic. Texts include selections from the writings of Thomas Hobbes and Baruch Spinoza, William Shakespeare, Elizabeth Carey, Margaret Cavendish and John Milton. (Poetry, Pre-1650, 1650-1830; Med/ Ren
Instructor(s): Sarah Kunjummen Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 40562, ENGL 20562

ENGL 40565. Postcolonial Aesthetics. 100 Units.
What do we mean by the "postcolonial aesthetic"? In this course, we read and think through the literary and conceptual resources that might help us reconstruct this notion - from Deepika Bahri, to Theodor Adorno and Walter Benjamin. Our goal is to attend to "the aesthetic" as an experience that reshapes subjectivity in terms of our relation to ourselves and others. By engaging with twentieth-century novels, memoir, and film, we consider how this postcolonial aesthetic might function. What habituated forms of perception or common sense notions does it seek to interrupt? What ways of sensing and living does it offer? Readings will likely include Ashis Nandy, Deepika Bahri, Theodor Adorno, Derek Walcott, Frantz Fanon, Arundhati Roy, and Jean Rhys. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Darrel Chia Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 40565, ENGL 20565

ENGL 41219. Interpretation: Theory and Practice. 100 Units.
his seminar will be conducted on two tracks. On the one hand, we will study major contributions to hermeneutic theory (including positions that understand themselves as anti-hermeneutic). Contributions to be considered include works by Friedrich Schleiermacher, Wilhelm Dilthey, Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Paul Ricoeur, E.D. Hirsch, Manfred Frank, Roland Barthes, Stanley Cavell, and Jacques Derrida. At the same time, the seminar will include a practical component in which we will collectively develop interpretations of works by Heinrich von Kleist, Johann Peter Hebel, Franz Kafka, Friedrich Nietzsche, Charles Baudelaire, Guillaume Apollinaire, Emily Dickinson, and Herman Melville. English translations of the assigned readings will be provided. (This course is restricted to students in Ph.D. programs.)
Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 41219, GRMN 41219, FREN 41219, SCTH 41219

ENGL 41360. Gender, Capital, and Desire: Jane Austen and Critical Interpretation. 100 Units.
Today, Jane Austen is one of the most famous (perhaps the most famous), most widely read, and most beloved of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British novelists. In the two hundred years since her authorial career, her novels have spawned countless imitations, homages, parodies, films, and miniseries - not to mention a thriving "Janeite" fan culture. For just as long, her novels have been the objects of sustained attention by literary critics, theorists, and historians. For example, feminist scholars have long been fascinated by Austen for her treatments of feminine agency, sociality, erotic desire. Marxists read her novels for the light they shed on an emergent bourgeoise on the eve of industrialization. And students of the "rise of the novel" in English are often drawn to Austen as a landmark case - an innovator of new styles of narration and a visionary as to the potentials of the form. This course will offer an in-depth examination of Austen, her literary corpus, and her cultural reception as well as a graduate-level introduction to several important schools of critical and theoretical methodology. We will read all six of Austen's completed novels in addition to criticism spanning feminism, historicism, Marxism, queer studies, postcolonialism, and psychoanalysis. Readings may include pieces by Shoshana Felman, Frances Ferguson, William Galperin, Deirdre Lynch, D.A. Miller, Edward Said, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, and Raymond Williams. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Tristan Schweiger Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Open to 3rd and 4th years with consent of the instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 40130, ENGL 21360, GNSE 21303, GNSE 41303

ENGL 41370. Ships, Tyrants, and Mutineers. 100 Units.
Since the Renaissance beginnings of the "age of sail," the ship has been one of literature's most contested, exciting, fraught, and ominous concepts. Ships are, on the one hand, globe-traversing spaces of alterity and possibility that offer freedom from the repression of land-based systems of power. And they are Michel Foucault's example of the heterotopia par excellence. From Lord Byron to Herman Melville to Anita Loos, the ship has been conceived as a site of queerness and one that puts great pressure on normative constructions of gender. At the same time,
the ship has been a primary mechanism for the brutality of empire and hegemony of capital, the conduit by which vast wealth has been expropriated from the colony, military domination projected around the world, and millions of people kidnapped and enslaved. Indeed, the horror of the "Middle Passage" of the Atlantic slave trade has been a major focus of inquiry for theorists like Paul Gilroy and Hortense Spillers, interrogating how concepts of racial identity and structures of racism emerge out of oceanic violence. In the 20th and 21st centuries, science-fiction writers have sent ships deep into outer space, reimagining human social relations and even humans-as-species navigating the stars. While focusing on the Enlightenment and 19th century, we will examine literary and filmic texts through the present that have centered on the ship, as well as theoretical texts that will help us to deepen our inquiries. (18th/19th)

Instructor(s): Tristan Schweiger
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 4170, ENGL 21370

ENGL 41420. Futures Other Than Ours: Science Fiction and Utopia. 100 Units.
Science fiction is often mistaken for a variety of futurism, extrapolating what lies ahead. This class will consider what kind of relationship science fiction might have to the future other than prediction, optimism or pessimism. How might science fiction enable thinking or imaging futures in modes other than those available to liberalism (progress, reproduction, generation) or neoliberalism (speculation, anticipation, investment)? This class asks how science fiction constitutes its horizons, where and how difference emerges in utopias, and what it might be to live in a future that isn’t ours. Readings may include SF works by Delany, Le Guin, Russ, Butler, Robinson, Banks, Ryman, Jones; theoretical and critical readings by Bloch, Jameson, Suvin, Munoz, Murphy, and others.

Instructor(s): Hilary Strang
Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Email the instructor directly for consent.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 21420, MAPH 41400

ENGL 41644. American Muckrakers: The Literature of Exposé, 1900/2000. 100 Units.
This seminar examines the genre of American "muckraking," a form of journalism and fiction intended to expose social and economic injustices. We attend, in particular, to writers active in the years surrounding 1900, when muckraking narratives enjoyed great social influence, and then turn to the new crop of prominent muckrakers that emerged around 2000. In coining the term "muck-rake" in a 1906 speech, President Theodore Roosevelt linked the genre’s aesthetic deficiencies to a potentially dangerous political impact: Its tendency towards “hysteric sensationalism” threatened to provoke a “morbid and vicious public sentiment” marked by cynical apathy. Though we may not end up agreeing with Roosevelt, the seminar picks up his emphasis on the relationship between the aesthetics and politics of exposé in our examination of muckraking media. We will discuss the narrative strategies of a genre often designated as “bad” literature, focusing, in particular, on the link between its purported aesthetic deficiencies-populism, sentimentalism, melodrama, sensationalism-and its political mission. Last but certainly not least, this seminar situates muckraking narratives in their historical contexts—what they hoped to expose, why, and what impact they ended up having. Texts in this course may include the work of: Upton Sinclair, Ida Tarbell, Jacob Riis, Ray Stannard Baker, Frank Norris, Lincoln Steffens, Barbara Ehrenreich, Eric Schlosser, Naomi Klein, Michael Moore, and Laurie Garrett.

Instructor(s): Agnes Malinovska
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 41600, ENGL 21644

ENGL 41710. Rocks, plants, ecologies: science fiction and the more-than-human. 100 Units.
Science fictional worlds are full of entities more familiar and perhaps less noticeable than the aliens that are often thought to typify the genre. Rock formations, plants, fungal expanses, metallic seams, crystalline structures and oozing seepages are among the entities that allow SF to form estranging questions about what it means to be in relation to others, what it means to live in and through an environment, and perhaps especially, what it means to form relations of care, sustenance, and even kinship with those who do not or cannot return that care, or even recognition. Such questions about relations with the more-than-human are urgent ones for thinking about climate catastrophe, extractive capital, settler colonialism and endemic pandemics, as well as for thinking substantively about what life and livable worlds beyond these bleak horizons might be. This class will engage science fiction (authors may include Ursula Le Guin, Vonda McIntyre, Nalo Hopkinson, Kim Stanley Robinson, Jeff Vandermeer and more) and theories of care, environment, the vegetal and the lithic, among other things (authors may include Donna Haraway, Andreas Malm, Mel Chen, Anna Tsing, James C. Scott and more). [Note: This class pairs well with Robots, animals, technologies: science fiction and the more-than-human offered in Winter, but may also be taken as a stand-alone course.]

Instructor(s): Hilary Strang
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 41710, ENGL 21710

ENGL 42119. Milton’s Italian Music. 100 Units.
This seminar examines John Milton’s encounter with Roman culture, first and foremost music, around 1640. It is built around the April 2019 performance in Logan Center of this music by the English early music group Atalanta, for which students will prepare notes and preconcert activities. Reading Milton’s youthful texts, as well as literature and poesia per musica from Rome, while studying the musical genres and personalities that we know he encountered there, gives insight into this encounter between Puritan and Barbarini sensibilities, seemingly so distant, but mediated via music. In addition to preparing for the concert activities (including interacting with the singers in a workshop), students will write a research paper. Prerequisites: no music reading needed, but experience with 17th-century English or Continental literature will aid in that case.
ENGL 4200. Marxist Literary Criticism: Fredric Jameson. 100 Units.
2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of The Political Unconscious. This seminar will provide students with an overview of Marxist literary criticism via the career of one of its most innovative living practitioners. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Sianne Ngai

Terms Offered: Spring

ENGL 42411. Marx and His Cultural Context. 100 Units.
This course provides students with an in-depth introduction to the work of Karl Marx, situating it within the nineteenth-century literary, cultural and political contexts that helped to shape his thought and its subsequent reception by later thinkers and theorists. Readings will include important works in nineteenth-century political theory; proto-sociological studies of the industrial workplace; novels of labor and class struggle; as well as Victorian anthropological studies of culture, religion, fetishism, and the origins of the family. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Zachary Samalin

Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): open to advanced undergraduates and MAPSS students with the consent of the instructor

ENGL 42550. Reading Bleak House: Criticism / History. 100 Units.
Charles Dickens's great anti-law novel, Bleak House (1852-3), was formally daring and technically ambitious. Part mystery story, part comment on the age (Dickens called it his "Condition of England" novel), from its first appearance it attracted both enthusiasts and detractors among its vast, worldwide readership. In the late 20th and 21st centuries it has continued to provoke intense responses, generating a body of work that reflects the major trends in criticism and theory of the novel. In this course we will consider the novel in both its 19th-century contexts and in recent criticism. The aim is not only to read Bleak House - one of the great novels of the Victorian period - but to read readers of Bleak House, to think about the different ways the novel has been construed in different contexts, and to how it has shaped ongoing critical debates in, for example, narrative theory, historicism, formalism, and postcolonial literary criticism. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Josephine McDonagh

Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 42918. Exploratory Translation. 100 Units.
Translation is one of the central mechanisms of literary creativity across the world. This course will offer opportunities to think through both the theory and practice of this art form and means of cultural transmission, focusing on the problems of translation of and by poets in a variety of languages: it will emphasize precisely the genre most easily "lost in translation," as the truism goes. Topics to be discussed will include semantic and grammatical interference, loss and gain, the production of difference, pidgin, translationese, bilingualism, self-translation, code-switching, translation as metaphor, foreignization vs. nativization, and distinct histories of translation. Alongside seminar sessions for discussion of readings, workshop sessions patterned on Creative Writing pedagogy will offer students a chance to try their hands at a range of tactics of translation. We also hope to invite a few poets and translators to engage in dialogues about the art (these visits conditioned on funding that we are currently seeking). The course therefore engages with such fields as linguistics, literary study, creative writing, psychology, and anthropology. Its thematic and methodological implications reach across the humanities and social sciences.
Instructor(s): Jennifer Scappettone, Haun Saussy

Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): RLLT 42918, SCTR 42918, CRWR 42918, MAPH 42918, CMLT 42918

ENGL 42920. Coming of Age: Reading and Writing Autobiographical Memoirs. 100 Units.
This course seeks to study the mixed literary history of coming-of-age narratives, beginning with 19th-century autobiography and the Bildungsroman through to modern memoir, in order to inform the writing of our own coming-of-age narratives. The analytical and creative habits of mind will be closely linked as we learn about how childhood, adolescence, and development, along with ideas around education and trauma, took on new significance in the nineteenth century, setting generic terms that have been continually mobilized, revised and reimagined in the coming-of-age memoirs of the twentieth century and beyond. Readings by Mary Prince, John Stuart Mill, Charles Dickens, George Orwell, Kathryn Harrison, Jamaica Kincaid, and Alison Bechdel, among others. This course will be of particular interest to those working on autobiographical narrative and will ask you to deepen your understanding of the past and present of this ever-developing form through critical and creative responses and projects.
Instructor(s): Elaine Hadley and William Boast

Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 22920, MAPH 42920, CRWR 20500, CRWR 40500

ENGL 43250. The New Criticism. 100 Units.
An examination of primary works of The New Criticism, British and American. We will consider the theoretical variety and different critical practices of these loosely allied critics, who were often not allies at all. Authors to be studied: I.A. Richards, T.S. Eliot, F.R. Leavis, Kenneth Burke, John Crowe Ransom, Cleanth Brooks, Robert Penn Warren, W.K. Wimsatt, Yvor Winters, R. P. Blackmur, William Empson.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 36015, SCTR 36015
ENGL 43708. The Poetry and Prose of Thomas Hardy. 100 Units.
A Victorian and a Modernist, a rare master of the arts of fiction and poetry, Thomas Hardy outraged Victorian proprieties and helped to make 20th century literature in English possible. Close reading of four novels and selected early middle, and late poems by Hardy, with attention to the contexts of Victorian and Modern literary culture and society.
Note(s): For graduate students and advanced undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 46011, ENGL 23708, FNDL 26011

ENGL 44100. T. S. Eliot. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): RLIT 44600

ENGL 44202. Psychoanalysis, Literature, Film. 100 Units.
We will read major works by Freud, Melanie Klein, D.W. Winnicott, and Slavoj Žižek, among other psychoanalytic theorists, in conjunction with literary works such as Sophocles's Oedipus Rex, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter," Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, Henry James's The Turn of the Screw, and Rudyard Kipling's "Mary Postgate." The course will conclude with one or more of Alfred Hitchcock's films. Topics include the unconscious, dreams, childhood, the uncanny, desire, subjects and objects, mourning, and the death drive. Requirements: one paper 10-12 pages, joint presentations in class, and regular postings to the online discussion board.
Instructor(s): Maud Ellmann Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 44202

ENGL 45150. American Literature and Photography. 100 Units.
This class considers how photographic techniques spurred new literary methods. We’ll discuss how visual media impact the development of forms, methods, and genres of literature, and how pictures and novels can be read together. Students will learn how to consider the visual register in novels, and how the drive to make fiction “real,” or “photographic,” helps to shed light on many attendant issues - the question of evidence, the problem of reliability, the terms of objectivity. We will discuss the drive to narrate real events in photographic and literary terms, and the limits of representation. Furthermore, we will think carefully about how discourses of race and poverty are imbricated with the development of photographic technologies and methods, and how racial groups such as American Indians are invented and reinvented in the advent of the mobile camera. Primary texts include fiction by Stephen Crane, Ella Cara Deloria, and Ralph Ellison and secondary texts include works from Roland Barthes, Walter Benjamin, Judith Butler, Susan Sontag, and Gerald Vizenor.
Instructor(s): Megan Tusler Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Instructor consent required for undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 40150, AMER 40150, AMER 25150, ENGL 26150

ENGL 45264. New Directions in Postcolonial Studies. 100 Units.
Postcolonial studies emerged as an influential sub-field in English departments in the metropolitan academy in the last decades of the twentieth century. This course is an attempt to identify and map the new directions that postcolonial studies appears to be currently moving into, a few decades on. Some of these shifts are clearly signaled, while others might be less perceptible. Even as it engages with new and urgent issues, adopts methods opened up by new technologies, and identifies fresh objects of study that promise greater relevance and staying power, postcolonial studies is also encountering challenges to its historical focus and its method as critique. We will focus on six key developments in the field:
Instructor(s): Rajeswari Sunder Rajan Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 45264

ENGL 45433. Book History: Methods, Practices, and Issues. 100 Units.
What is the history of the book? This course considers answers from literary scholars, historians, bibliographers, sociologists, and anthropologists over the past fifty years, using case studies from a variety of times, places, and textual traditions from the fifteenth century to the present to introduce the methods, practices, and issues of the field. This hands-on course meets in the Rosenthal Seminar Room in the Special Collections Research Center in Regenstein Library.
Instructor(s): Eric Slauder Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 46202. Performance Theory: Action, Affect, Archive. 100 Units.
This seminar offers a critical introduction to performance theory and its applications to theatre and other practices. We will discuss three key conceptual clusters: a) action, acting, and forms of production or play, from classical (Aristotle) through modern (Hegel, Brecht, Artaud), to contemporary (Richard Schechner, Philip Zarrilli, others); b) affect, and its intersections with emotion and feeling: in addition to contemporary theories, we will read earlier texts that anticipate recent debates (Diderot, Freud) and their current interpreters (Joseph Roach, Erin Hurley, others), as well as writing about the absence of affect and the performance of failure (Sara Bailes etc); c) archives and related institutions and theories, including audience formation (Susan Bennett) and challenges of recording ephemeral acts: theorists of memory (Pierre Nora) and remains (Rebecca Schneider), theatre historians (Daphne Brookes, Tracy Davis and others) as well as current theorists on the tensions between the archive and the repertoire (Diana Taylor). Requires active and complete participation; two oral presentations and final
paper. Final paper could be a review article (ca 5000 words) using two recent books in your field to examine key concepts that define the field and controversies they may engender.

Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Winter  
Prerequisite(s): Note: This course is intended only for those who have completed their undergraduate degree.  
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 46202, CMST 38346, CMLT 46202

ENGL 46751. Of Whiteness. 100 Units.  
In his essay "The Souls of White Folk," WEB Du Bois asks, "But what on earth is whiteness that one should so desire it?" This course will explore a multiethnic cultural and theoretical archive that grapples with the patterned and partial irrationality of this excessive racial desire. How does whiteness structure the racial/social field? What mechanisms regulate or have regulated populations' access to and desire for it? (18th/19th)  
Instructor(s): Christopher Taylor Terms Offered: Spring  
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 46751

ENGL 47102. Dissident Lit. 100 Units.  
This seminar will explore the literature and history of "the dissident," a central figure of late 20th-century and 21st-century human rights politics. Through our readings of novels, essays, and criticism drawn from a range of traditions (from the US and Latin America to Russia and East-Central Europe) we will consider both the possibilities and dilemmas of literary dissidence.  
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 27102, ENGL 27102, HMRT 37102

ENGL 47700. Sensing the Anthropocene. 100 Units.  
This co-taught 3-week and in-person course between the departments of English (Jennifer Scappettone) and Visual Arts (Amber Ginsburg) will deploy those senses most overlooked in academic discourse surrounding aesthetics and urbanism-hearing, taste, touch, and smell-to explore the history and actuality of Chicago as a site of anthropogenic changes. Holding our classes entirely out of doors, we will move through the city seeking out and documenting traces of the city's foundations in phenomena such as the colonization of the ancestral homelands of the Three Fires Confederacy and trade routes of many other indigenous groups; the filling in of swamp; the redirection of the river; and the creation of transportation and industrial infrastructure-all with uneven effects on human and nonhuman inhabitants. Coursework will combine readings in history and theory of the Anthropocene together with examples of how artists and activists have made the Anthropocene visible and audible, providing forums for experimental documentation and annotations as we draw, score, map, narrate, sing, curate and collate our sensory experience of the Anthropocene.  
Instructor(s): A. Ginsburg, J. Scappettone Terms Offered: Autumn  
Prerequisite(s): Third or fourth-year standing.  
Note(s): This intensive three-week course meets out of doors from September 27 through October 17. Graduate registration by Consent Only.  
Equivalent Course(s): CHST 27200, ENST 27700, ENGL 27700, ARCH 22322, BPRO 27200, ARTV 22322, ARTV 32322

ENGL 47703. Queer Modernism. 100 Units.  
This course examines the dramatic revisions in gender and sexuality that characterize Anglo-American modernity. Together, we will read literary texts by queer writers to investigate their role in shaping the period's emergent regimes of sex and gender. We'll consider queer revisions of these concepts for their effect on the broader social and political terrain of the early twentieth century and explore the intimate histories they made possible: What new horizons for kinship, care, affect, and the everyday reproduction of life did modernist ideas about sex and gender enable? At the same time, we will seek to "queer" modernism by shifting our attention away from high literary modernism and towards modernism's less-canonical margins. Our examination will center on queer lives relegated to the social and political margins-lives of exile or those cut short by various forms of dispossession. This class will double as an advanced introduction to queer theory, with a particular emphasis on literary criticism.  
Instructor(s): Agnes Malinowska Terms Offered: Winter  
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 47703, GNSE 47702, AMER 47703, ENGL 27703, GNSE 23138, AMER 27703

ENGL 47710. Race and Governmentality in Transnational Literature. 100 Units.  
In this course, we read a range of literary works that are concerned with the boundaries of nation-states and the flows between them, and with racial formations across borders. We think critically about different kinds of transnational literature, from travel narratives, to fiction dealing with migrant/refugee/diaspora experience, to "global lit," and how these articulate configurations of race and governmentality under modernity. We read essays by Julie Chu on human cargo, and David Harvey on flexible accumulation. The literary titles we look at might include: Henry James, The American Scene Thomas Mann, Death in Venice Derek Walcott, Omeros Claude Levi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques Therese Hak Kyung Cha’s Dictée Kazuo Ishiguro, Never Let Me Go Amitav Ghosh, The Sea of Poppies Viet Thanh Nguyen, The Sympathizer Claudia Rankine, Just Us: An American Conversation  
Instructor(s): Darrel Chia Terms Offered: Spring  
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 46751, MAPH 47710, ENGL 27710

ENGL 47714. Race, Reproduction, and Modernism. 100 Units.  
In this class, we focus on the centrality of debates around women's reproductive capacity in shaping the culture of modernity in the U.S. around 1900. We look at the way that feminist politics, in conjunction with broader
developments in industrial capitalist society, disrupted traditional pathways of reproduction, as these have revolved around woman's crucial role in sustaining the biological family and the home. We will read fiction, essays, and political tracts around the birth control movement, free love, sex work, the figure of the "new woman," the politics of the home, the rise of consumer culture, and the demands placed on both Black and white women during this period in reproducing "the race." Most generally, we will focus on texts that both trouble and shore up bourgeois motherhood as the central means of reproducing the biological life and social fabric of American culture. And we will likewise be interested in writers and political figures that imagine and advocate for non-reproductive intimacies that would dismantle this social reproductive order altogether. Open enrollment for all graduate students, as well as 3rd- and 4th-year undergraduate students with majors in the Humanities and Social Sciences. All others, please email amalinowska@uchicago.edu to request permission to enroll. (20th/21st)

Instructor(s): Agnes Malinowska Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 27714, MAPH 47714, GNSE 47714, GNSE 27714, ENGL 27714

ENGL 48000. Methods and Issues in Cinema Studies. 100 Units.
This course offers an introduction to ways of reading, writing on, and teaching film. The focus of discussion will range from methods of close analysis and basic concepts of film form, technique and style; through industrial/critical categories of genre and authorship (studios, stars, directors); through aspects of the cinema as a social institution, psycho-sexual apparatus and cultural practice; to the relationship between filmic texts and the historical horizon of production and reception. Films discussed will include works by Griffith, Lang, Hitchcock, Deren, Godard.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 33000, ARTH 39900, CMST 40000

ENGL 48421. Stifter's Modernity. 100 Units.
Probably no other author has been written off as boring as frequently as Adalbert Stifter (1805-68); yet Thomas Mann recognized in this boredom a compelling "sensationalism" and Stifter was admired by writers as diverse as Nietzsche, Benjamin, Handke, and Sebald. His work rewards closer attention today for readers interested in his extreme description, but also for its treatment of ecocritical themes and diagnosis of violence and modernity. In this seminar we will focus on reading his monumental Bildungsroman Der Nachsommer (1857). We will also consider shorter prose works ranging from his Viennese feuilleton essays to later stories from the collection Bunte Steine, as well as his output as a painter.

ENGL 48700-48900. History of International Cinema I-II.
This sequence is required of students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies. Taking these courses in sequence is strongly recommended but not required.

ENGL 48700. History of International Cinema I: Silent Era. 100 Units.
This course provides a survey of the history of cinema from its emergence in the mid-1890s to the transition to sound in the late 1920s. We will examine the cinema as a set of aesthetic, social, technological, national, cultural, and industrial practices as they were exercised and developed during this 30-year span. Especially important for our examination will be the exchange of film techniques, practices, and cultures in an international context. We will also pursue questions related to the historiography of the cinema, and examine early attempts to theorize and account for the cinema as an artistic and social phenomenon.
Instructor(s): Allyson Field Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 is required. Course is required for students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): For students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies, the entire History of International Cinema three-course sequence must be taken.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 33600, ENGL 29300, CMLT 32400, CMST 48500, ARTH 38500, CMLT 22400, ARTH 28500

ENGL 48900. History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960. 100 Units.
The center of this course is film style, from the classical scene breakdown to the introduction of deep focus, stylistic experimentation, and technical innovation (sound, wide screen, location shooting). The development of a film culture is also discussed. Texts include Thompson and Bordwell’s Film History: An Introduction; and works by Bazin, Belton, Sitney, and Godard. Screenings include films by Hitchcock, Welles, Rossellini, Bresson, Ozu, Antonioni, and Renoir.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 required. Required of students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): CMST 28500/48500 strongly recommended
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 28600, MAAD 18600, CMLT 22500, ARTH 38600, CMLT 32500, CMST 48600, ENGL 29600

ENGL 48902. Dostoevsky: The Idiot. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 29300, REES 30018, ENGL 28902, FNDL 27101, CMLT 39300, REES 20018
ENGL 50000. Pedagogies of Writing. 100 Units.
Pedagogies of Writing is a training course and practicum for graduate students hired to teach for the Writing Program. The course combines instruction in principles for effective academic writing and workshops focused on written commentary, instruction techniques, and small-group seminar design.

ENGL 50101. Contemporary Critical Theory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar introduces key debates in contemporary theory from a broad cross-section of disciplinary perspectives, fields, and cultural contexts. Adopting a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, we will explore critical models of aesthetics, ethics, and politics. These theories shape not only how we come to understand the nature of aesthetic objects (literature, film, art), but also the principles, methodologies, and ethical stakes of their analysis. Our seminar topics include: global Marxism; orientalism and anti-colonial discourse; (post)secularism; feminist and queer theory; embodiment and affect; as well as critical race theory. Engaging recent critical projects to "theorize from below," we will put foundational texts of the Euro-American canon into conversation with translated works of theory from the global south. In so doing, our seminar asks: What comes to count as theory and how do we account for alternative practices of knowledge production? Where does theory come from and what are the political economies that structure its circulation? Finally, what is the relationship of theory to embodiment, affect, and experience?
Instructor(s): Hoda El Shakry Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course fulfills the fall core requirement for first-year Ph.D. students in Comparative Literature.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 50101, MAPH 40101, GNSE 50102, CRES 50101

ENGL 50106. Literary Theory: Pre-Modern, Non-Western, Not Exclusively Literary. 100 Units.
Readings in theories of literature and related arts from cultures other than those of the post-1900 industrialized regions. What motivated reflection on verbal art in Greece, Rome, early China, early South Asia, and elsewhere? Rhetoric, hermeneutics, commentary, allegory, and other modes of textual analysis will be approached through source texts, using both originals and translations. Authors to be considered include Confucius, Plato, Aristotle, Zhuangzi, Sima Qian, Augustine, Liu Xie, Abhinavagupta, Dante, Li Zhi, Rousseau, Lessing, Schlegel, and Saussure.
Instructor(s): Haun Saussy
Equivalent Course(s): KNOW 50106, CMLT 50106

ENGL 50201. Premodern Critical Theory: Historicity, Worldmaking, Filiation. 100 Units.
This course explores contemporary theoretical approaches to premodern cultural objects. How do we establish relationality with thought worlds whose archives are only partially preserved? Or redress the "discovery" of premodern cultural objects in contexts of political instrumentalization? How do we care for the earliest cultural objects as legacies of non-literary worldmaking? Where possible, the course will pair readings in contemporary theory with class visits from scholars engaged in premodern comparative projects, with research engaging cultural objects from Europe, the Americas, and Asia. We will ask: What is at stake in characterizations of cultural objects as "ancient," "archaic," or "premodern"? And: How does the practice of comparison change when its objects are located in a distant past?
Instructor(s): Mark Payne Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course fulfills the winter core requirement for first-year Ph.D. students in Comparative Literature.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 50111, CMLT 50201

ENGL 50205. Contemporary Critical Theory 1920-Present. 100 Units.
This course (the second half of the required Comparative Literature introductory sequence) roams the cultural landscape transformed by Freud, Saussure, Shklovsky, the First World War, and the Russian Revolution. Readings from psychoanalytic, formalist and Marxist criticism, from the corresponding heresies, and their successors. The aim throughout is to locate theoretical texts in the polemical situations to which they originally were addressed, and others in which they subsequently were invoked.
Instructor(s): Haun Saussy Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 50205

ENGL 50250. Moving and Being Moved. 100 Units.
This course considers the significance of mobility, migration and migrancy in the context of concepts of 18th- and 19th century-modernity, and explores some of their legacies especially in relation to literature. We will focus on migration in and from Britain mainly in the nineteenth century, and consider, inter alia, how literary and other printed texts intersect with the practices and fantasies of moving and staying still. Key terms are mobility and stability or stagnancy, emigration and settlement, colonization and decolonization, empire, eviction, dispossession, hospitality, refuge and asylum, and ‘being moved’ in all its senses. (18th/19th, 20/21st)
Instructor(s): Josephine McDonagh Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 50300. Principles of Teaching Writing. 100 Units.
Principles of Teaching Writing (offered in Autumn only) is for graduate students who have been hired to teach Academic and Professional Writing (The Little Red Schoolhouse).

ENGL 50301. Catharsis, Tedium, and other Aesthetic Responses. 100 Units.
This seminar examines the ramifications of catharsis, tedium and other forms of aesthetic response, in other words the relationship between effect and affect in and in response to performance, live, mediated and in reading. Beginning with Aristotle and present day responses to catharsis, we will investigate the kinds of
ENGL 50400. Teaching Undergraduate English (Pedagogy) 100 Units.
This course seeks to provide a setting in which graduate students in English, prior to their first formal teaching assignment at this institution, can explore some of the elements of classroom teaching. With the recognition that not all our students will teach at the graduate level, the course is intended primarily as an introduction to teaching undergraduate English. While emphasizing the practical issues of classroom instruction, the class includes theoretical readings on pedagogy to help students reflect on and talk about their practice. Students will have significant opportunities to practice conceiving, designing, and running a college-level course in English, e.g., the opportunity to construct a sample syllabus, to lead a mock-classroom discussion, to grade a common paper.
Instructor(s): Sarah Pierce Taylor Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 50300, CMLT 50300

ENGL 50622. Creations: the Popol Vuh and Paradise Lost. 100 Units.
While apparently worlds apart, John Milton’s Paradise Lost (1667) and the K’iche’ Maya story of creation the Popol Vuh (1702) are historically adjacent works of world creation that remind us that world creations happen in historical circumstances, that creation itself is nothing if not historically, socially, and critically tensioned. This class thinks with and between these works to ask conceptual questions about creation and its relationship to myth and history. What are creations for? What kinds of thinking and feeling do they enable? And how should we understand the framework of comparability itself? At the same time, we will rethink the global historical currents within which the texts were written: the early modern anglophone, hispanophone, and indigenous worlds whose interconnections bind together the creation stories told by Milton and the anonymous K’iche’ Maya authors. Listening closely for shared engagements with colonialism, race, religion, political power, historical experience, pedagogy, intellect, imagination, critique, and social crisis, we will look for through-lines between these works but also for distinct points of departure and incommensurability.
Instructor(s): Edgar Garcia & Timothy Harrison Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This is a Ph.D.-level course, but spaces may be made available for MA or BA students who provide a note describing their interest and readiness for the course.
Equivalent Course(s): CDIN 50622

ENGL 51000. PhD Colloquium. 100 Units.
This course provides a theoretical and practical introduction to advanced literary studies. Readings are drawn from four modes of inquiry that helped to produce our discipline and that continue to animate scholarship in the present - namely, philology, criticism, aesthetics, and genealogy. In addition, participants will complete several short assignments meant to familiarize them with common skills and practices of literary studies.
Instructor(s): Kenneth Warren Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course is intended for first-year English PhD students only; other students need consent of instructor.

ENGL 51023. Narrative in the Time of Queer and Crip. 100 Units.
This course focuses on Crip and Queer theories of time as ways to get at varied understandings of temporality that destabilize the wobbly formation of “normal” and produce non-linear forms of life as narratable. By focusing on narrative unfolding, circling back, slowing down, and the precarity of the future, the course proceeds by putting two distinct strands of Queer and Crip Theory in conversation. We begin with what theorists have conceptualized as a distinct queer temporality (e.g. Halberstam, Freeman) alongside its complement, crip time (McRuer). We then turn to questions about queer futurity alongside critiques within Crip Theory that fully embrace the future as a way of embracing the present. Following these two strands, we see the productive dynamism and the tension between crip and queer temporalities in envisioning non-normative, non-heterosexual life.
Instructor(s): Sarah Pierce Taylor Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 51000, GNSE 51000

ENGL 51225. Sources of Critical Theory. 100 Units.
This course is designed to give students a broad and rapid introduction to the philosophical and other sources that inform contemporary literary and critical theory. We will cover a lot of ground very quickly. The variety of humanism at issue in our work will be the sort that informs common sense or, as one of our authors might put it, ordinary understanding of the things that strike many of us as obvious about ourselves and other people. The critique will not make anything stop seeming obvious. But it will provide some tools for thinking differently
about contemporary commonsense understandings of human life. We will conclude by seeing the way this material shapes work by two prominent recent critics, Slavoj Žižek and Lauren Berlant.

Instructor(s): C. Vogler
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 51225

ENGL 51310. Images and Science. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 41310, CHSS 51310

ENGL 52000. Research Paper Proseminar. 100 Units.
Required for students in their 2nd year of the English Ph.D. program. In this class, we will perform substantial revisions of a previous seminar paper.
Instructor(s): Timothy Harrison
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): English Ph.D. students only.

ENGL 52102. Hemispheric Studies. 100 Units.
This course examines the Hemispheric Studies approach to the literature of the Americas, which combines a commitment to comparativism with attention to the specificities of local contexts ranging from the Southern Cone to the Caribbean to North America. We’ll investigate debates about the theories and uses of a method that takes the American hemisphere as its primary frame, yet does not begin with the U.S. as the default point of departure; and the conceptual and political limitations of such a method. Theories drawn from American Studies, Canadian Studies, Caribbean Studies, Latin American Studies, Poetry and Poetics, Postcolonial Studies, and U.S. Latinx Studies will be explored in relation to literature primarily written in the 20th and 21st centuries by writers residing throughout the Americas. In the last part of the course, we’ll take meta-theoretical look at the development of Hemispheric Studies and the politics of academic field formation. No knowledge of Spanish or French is required. (18th/19th, 20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 52102

ENGL 52502. Literary Theory: Auerbach’s Mimesis. 100 Units.
This seminar will explore Western literary criticism from Plato to the late eighteenth-century conceived of as a prehistory of comparative literature as a discipline. The course will take as its particular lens the critical treatment of epic in some of the following authors: Plato, Aristotle, Longinus, Horace, Montaigne, Tasso, Giraldi, Sidney, Boileau, Le Bossu, St. Evremond, Dryden, Addison, Voltaire, Fielding, and Burke. The course will also examine both twentieth-century comparative approaches to epic (e.g., Auerbach, Curtius, Frye) and more recent debates within comparative literature with an eye to continuities and discontinuities in critical method and goals.
Instructor(s): David Wray
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 50105

ENGL 52690. Racial Ecologies. 100 Units.
This course highlights theories of race that emphasize space, entanglement, and networks and poses questions like, how does race animate the anthropocene? How does race inflect climate change? What is the relationship between the turn to ontology and ecocriticism? (18th/19th, 20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Riley Snorton
Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 53000. Dissertation Proposal Proseminar. 100 Units.
Required for students in their 4th year of the English Ph.D. program and all English Ph.D. students who have not yet entered candidacy.
Instructor(s): John Muse
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): English Ph.D. students only.

ENGL 53450. Enlightenments and Romanticisms. 100 Units.
This seminar will develop research projects around the topics of Enlightenment(s), nationalisms, and transnationalisms in the Romantic era. Some of the categories for the course will come from traditional faculty psychology (reason, memory, imagination). Some will come from criticism and theory that are sometimes tinged with aesthetic and philosophical ambitions. Our primary emphasis will be on literature, but questions about romanticism in music, the visual arts, and the historical disciplines will be in play. The main focus will fall on English-language literary materials produced in England, Scotland, Ireland, and America, but the course may also engage texts by non-British writers such as Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau, Kant, Herder, Schiller, and the Saint Simonians. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): James Chandler
Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 53570. Slavery, Law, and Literature. 100 Units.
This course will explore the intersection of law, literature, and slavery in the United States. In part, this class will provide an introduction to the methods and animating questions of the “law and literature” mode of scholarship. More particularly, we will examine how law decisively structured the cultural imaginaries of abolitionist and pro-slavery writers, a structure that endures in many contemporary public debates on the histories of slavery and freedom. While attending to the atmospheric legalism of abolitionism, we will also consider anti-legalist and anarchist critiques of the abolitionist mainstream—critiques that put pressure upon construing slavery’s antitheses in the legal genres of personhood, citizenship, and so on. (18th/19th)
ENGL 53580. Debates and New Directions in Black Feminisms. 100 Units.
Following Jennifer Nash’s charge for Black feminists to “let go” of tightly held intellectual genealogies (intersectionality) and postures (defensiveness), this doctoral seminar takes up new directions and debates in the study of Black feminisms. We’ll study institutional debates and tensions between Black and transnational feminisms (where do we mean when we say Black, and who do we mean when we say transnational), the agonistic relationship between Afropessimism and Black feminisms, among others. Alongside these new works in Black feminisms, we’ll consider the foundational works of Black feminist thought, literature, and art they’re reimagining. Scholars, writers, and artists under consideration include Jennifer Nash, Katherine McKittrick, Jennifer Morgan, Simone Leigh, Saidiya Hartman, Patrice Douglass, Torkwase Dyson, and Canisia Lubrin. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Kaneesha Parsard Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 53580

ENGL 53590. Archival Methods: Race, Indigeneity, and Gender Before 1900. 100 Units.
This class offers an in-depth introduction to archival theory and research methodologies that attend to colonialism and slavery between 1650 and 1865. With a focus on how scholars have used the analytics of race and gender to examine this history, our class will examine foundational primary materials and the bodies of scholarship that have grown up around them. We will read the work of Olaudah Equiano, Matthew Lewis, Phillis Wheatley, Mary Prince, Samuel Occom, Venture Smith, Black Hawk, Harriet Jacobs, as well as Salem Witch Trial transcripts. In addition, the class will visit UChicago’s Special Collections and the Newberry Library. Students will write on an archival object of their choosing from the period that is relevant to their individual research interests. (Med/Ren, 18th/19th)
Instructor(s): SJ Zhang Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 53590

ENGL 54104. On Man: Sociogenesis and Subjectivation. 100 Units.
In this course, students will read and engage with how “Man” has been conceptualized and critiqued in certain areas of philosophy and critical theory. The class begins with Man’s emergence in colonial contexts, with readings from Frantz Fanon, Homi Bhabha, and Sylvia Wynter. Students will also contend with Man’s intersubjectivity with the “Subject” with readings from Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, Jose Munoz, and Hortense Spillers. Memoirs, novels, and auto-documentary films supplement this courses’ exploration of the genealogies of “Man.” (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): C. Riley Snorton Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 54104, GNSE 54104

ENGL 54308. Economic Humanities: 19th C British Literature and Inequality. 100 Units.
Do the humanities have a role in thinking inequality? In the nineteenth century, political economy, the precursor to economics, was largely a humanistic method focused on questions of distribution rather than efficiency as is often true today. Recent new work in various fields as well as the resuscitation of political economy itself suggests Humanities may be reininserting itself into the inequality conversation. In this class, we will explore the shift from political economy to economics in the nineteenth century, the methodological revisions it occasioned and, inspired by new multidisciplinary thinking about economics, consider if this earlier moment can still help us think about inequality. We will read the fiction of Dickens, Hardy, Wells, Eliot, the political economy and economics of Smith, Mill, Jevons, Marshall, Veblen and modern theorists Orlean, Yuran, Feher, Nussbaum, Piketty. (18th/19th)
Instructor(s): Elaine Hadley Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 54332. X Before X: Historicist Method and Concepts Across Time. 100 Units.
This course explores the methodological friction between present-day concepts and the archives of the past. In particular, we look at instances when an organizing concept is arguably anachronistic to the cultural milieu in question. The class will be divided into several units, like "race before race," "lyric before lyric" "trans before trans," and "literature before literature." Readings will include both primary and secondary sources. Along the way, we will also consider different paradigms for understanding literary history, cultural history, and the history of ideas (e.g., Friedrich Nietzsche, Walter Benjamin, Quentin Skinner, Arnold Davidson, Hans Robert Jauss, Sheldon Pollock). (Med/Ren)
Instructor(s): Julie Orlemanski Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 54420. Introduction to the Environmental Humanities. 100 Units.
This course critically examines the Environmental Humanities as an interdisciplinary and unruly field. We will focus our attention on some of the topics that have animated the field as it has coalesced over the past ten or fifteen years: the Anthropocene and its alternatives; environmental racism and global inequity; competing narratives of apocalypse and resilience; posthumanist accounts of species relations. We will also discuss the wide variety of methods and approaches that take place under the banner of “environmental humanities” and explore how they might be adapted to or engaged by our own writing and research. Prior to our first meeting, we will collaborate to build a reading list for the quarter that is reflective of students’ areas of interest.
Instructor(s): Benjamin Morgan Terms Offered: Spring
ENGL 55000. Advanced Writing for Publication Proseminar. 100 Units.
Required for students in the 5th year of the English Ph.D. program or above, this course will be a venue for revising a significant seminar paper to make it suitable for publication.
Instructor(s): Deborah Nelson Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): This course is restricted to English Ph.D. students only; other students need consent of instructor.

ENGL 55105. Theories of Racial Perception. 100 Units.
We tend to talk about racial perception as a singular and instantaneous act, but it is perhaps better understood as a complex series of procedures involving judgment, reading, rationalization, instinct, and conjecture that normally go undescribed. In this course we will read theory, criticism, and literature considering the varying combinations of techniques, processes, structures, and convictions that allow a subject to believe they are having an experience of race. How have writers variously learned to describe and call into question the mechanics of racial perception? And is imagining the end of racial perception the same as imagining the end of race? Exploring works from a variety of traditions, eras, and genres, we will trace investigations into race’s perception as a color, a lack, a sense, a sound, a shape, a pathology, a habit, a surface, a depth, and a spell.
Instructor(s): Adrienne Brown Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 56000. Job Market Proseminar. 100 Units.
Required for students in their 6th year of the program and open to all English Ph.D. students on or preparing for the academic job market.
Instructor(s): Frances Ferguson Terms Offered: Autumn Winter
Prerequisite(s): English Ph.D. students only.

ENGL 56200. Early Modern Critical Race Studies. 100 Units.
This course explores the history and developments of Early Modern Critical Race Studies (pre-1700) from the inception of the field in the early 1990s to the present. Students will read classics and new classics on early modern racial formations (including monographs by Kim F. Hall, Ania Loomba, Geraldine Heng, and Patricia Akhimie, among others), while learning about the theoretical and political roots of the field, the stages and controversies that have marked its history, and its major subfields including presence studies (Imtiaz Habib), performance studies (Ayanna Thompson), and visual culture (Peter Erickson). Students will also learn about the newest directions in which the field is headed, namely, whiteness studies (Arthur Little, David Sterling Brown) and transnational critical race studies (Noémie Ndiaye). (Med/Ren)
Instructor(s): Noémie Ndiaye Terms Offered: Autumn

ENGL 56240. Mapping Black Studies. 100 Units.
This course contextualizes various schools of thought in the field of Black Studies, including Afrofuturism, Afropessimism, Afrophilism, black optimism, and Afrorealism. Students will read texts by key figures, who might include Saidiya Hartman, Orlando Patterson, Hortense Spillers, Frantz Fanon, Stuart Hall, Kara Keeling, Achille Mbembe, Fred Moten, Sylvia Wynter, Frank Wilderson, Katherine McKittrick, and Jared Sexton.
(20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Tina Post Terms Offered: Winter

ENGL 57750. Race and Literature in the Twilight of Neoliberalism. 100 Units.
In this course we will explore the thesis that literary fiction published in the years of the 2010s participates in and signals the end of embedded neoliberalism as a governing consensus. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Ken Warren Terms Offered: Spring

ENGL 58910. Aesthetics and Politics. 100 Units.
Aesthetics and Politics: Adorno, Benjamin, Bloch, Brecht, Lowenthal, Lukacs, … This PhD seminar will build on the work covered in Marxism and Modern Culture to examine in more detail and where possible in the original German the arguments about the intersections and frictions between aesthetics and politics in high, middle, and mass cultural forms of literature, performance, film and other media, in the work of the above theorists.
Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PhD Seminar: Marxism or equivalent grad training; German desirable
Note(s): Consent required, please email the professor, Loren Kruger (lkruger@uchicago.edu) by Friday, March 17th with details about your program, and preparation to take the course.
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 58910, CMST 58910, CMLT 58910

ENGL 59900. Reading and Research: English. 100 Units.
This course is intended for graduate students in the English doctoral program who can best meet program requirements by study under a faculty member’s individual supervision. The subject, course of study, and requirements are arranged with the instructor.

ENGL 60220. Philosophy and Anarchy. 100 Units.
In contemporary Western philosophy, thinkers such as Levinas, Derrida, Schümann, Foucault, Agamben, and Rancière have proposed “anarchic” ways of thinking, thus opening new perspectives in ontology, ethics, and politics. Surprisingly however, philosophical concepts of anarchy have always been strictly distinguished from those of political anarchism. On their end, thinkers and activists such as Proudhon, Bakunin or Kropotkin never acknowledged themselves as philosophers. The course examines the reasons why philosophers advocate for an anarchy without anarchism and anarchists advocate for an anarchism without philosophy. (Catherine Malabou is this year’s Critical Inquiry Visiting Professor.)
ENGL 65007. The Assemblage Mode. 100 Units.
Assemblage names a compositional practice in the material, visual, and literary arts. It also names a way of conceptualizing non-aesthetic forms (markets, cities, nation states). This course begins by focusing on the different semantic and pragmatic values of assemblage (in anthropology, urban geography, and social theory); turns its attention to two art exhibitions, The Art of Assemblage (MoMA, 1961), and 66 Signs of Neon (1966), led by Noah Purifoy and consisting of assemblage work made from the detritus of the Watts riots (Aug. 1965); and ultimately concentrates on a history of how and why African American writers and visual artists (such as Jean Toomer, Zora Neal Hurston, Romare Bearden, Ntozake Shange, and Betye Saar) have deployed the assemblage mode. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Catherine Malabou Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Interested students must send a paragraph stating their interest to Hank Scotch, cisubmissions@gmail.com.
Note(s): The course meets twice a week Feb 1 to Mar 3.

ENGL 65008. Materialities. 100 Units.
In the first instance, this course surveys a range of thinking (by Elizabeth Grosz, Karen Barad, and Rosi Braidotti, among others) that has gone under the banner of ‘new materialism,’ emphasizing the vitality of matter and working to reject anthropocentrism. In the second instance, the course focuses on textual materialism within literary studies (both Susan Howe and Derrida, for instance), ultimately asking how we might begin to understand material texts within a new materialist frame. The widest frame for the course, though, will be provided by the question of how the materialisms of our moment (across fields and disciplines) can be understood through the analytics provided by historical materialism. We will read literary texts from different periods, and we will conduct at least two sessions in Special Collections. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Bill Brown Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 65007

ENGL 70000. Advanced Study: English Language & Literature. 300.00 Units.
Advanced Study: English Language & Literature

ENGL 75000. Advanced Research. 300.00 Units.
TBD
Terms Offered: Autumn