

FALL 2016 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course	Professor	Core Area of Understanding or Major	Description
LITERATURE			
220 WCH British Literature: Medieval-Romance & War MF 11:00	Martin	English major; WCH; GWR	This course explores the cultural heritage of Medieval England through the literature of the period. We will discuss widely different aspects of the time such as aesthetics, political issues, sex roles, and chivalric values. Alfred the Great, Cynewulf, William the Conqueror, Chaucer, The Pearl Poet and other important figures helped shape 1,000 years of English literature, and we will consider ways that Medieval attitudes contributed to the culture of later ages up through current times.
230 British Literature-Modern: Literature and World Wars TH 9:30 & 12:30	Adams	WCH, English major, GWR	The twentieth century was marked by violence, upheavals, and the destruction of old worlds: the first and second world wars, the “troubles” in Ireland, the revolutions in Russia and China, the atomic bomb. . . In this course we will examine the impact of such cataclysmic events on British and Irish literature and culture. The first unit of the course deals with responses to the world wars by soldier-poets, T. S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, and Kazuo Ishiguro. The second unit of the course, “The Irish and the British: Home and Exile,” focuses on major writers such as W. B. Yeats, James Joyce, and Seamus Heaney, whose work was shaped by a century of civil and cultural conflict in modern Ireland. “Book into film” will be an important topic of the course; we will analyze the cinematic “translations” of Woolf’s <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> , Ishiguro’s <i>The Remains of the Day</i> , and Joyce’s “The Dead.” The course assignments include a short paper, a course paper, group work, a midterm, and a final.
240 American Literature-Modern: The World Turned Upside Down TH 11:00 & 2:00	Rohrkemper	WCH, English major, GWR	Students will read fiction, poetry, and drama written during the last hundred years. These have been turbulent years and the restless experimentalism of the writers we will examine reflect the age. Sample text: William Faulkner’s <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> .
240 American Literature: Revolution to Civil War TH 9:30 & 11:00	Sarracino	English major; WCH; GWR	This course focuses on the major writers from the inception of our country until shortly after the Civil War, especially those from the middle of the nineteenth century: Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman. In this course we read American Literature from the beginnings to the late 19th Century, focusing on writings from the middle of the 18th Century, the American Revolution, and the middle of the 19th Century, the Civil War. We are especially interested in seeing the continuity of ideals and values from the very beginnings that bring us first to revolution, and then-- the same values and ideals-- to civil war. But, more importantly, we read of the human struggles of those who were caught up in these sweeping historical events, whether slaves in shackles aboard trading ships, or those who volunteered to serve in the nightmarish hospitals of the Civil War.
315 Studies in Poetry: Metaphysical Poetry MF 2:00	Martin	English major;	Resurrected lovers fighting the crowds to meet at judgment day? A blood-swelled flea that serves as a symbol for a wedding? A vengeful ghost coming back from the dead to haunt his former girlfriend? These are only some of the striking and sometimes odd images metaphysical poets used in their work. Drawing on disciplines such as astrology and alchemy, and aiming at creating fresh new symbols and poetic forms, they remade English poetry in the 17 th century. Forgotten for hundreds of years, they were discovered by modern writers who put them back in the canon.
430: British Authors: Gothic: The Brontes TH 2:00	Adams	English Major	We will read Charlotte Bronte’s novels <i>Jane Eyre</i> and <i>Villette</i> and her sister Emily’s <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , with attention to the Gothic elements in each—gloomy houses full of violence and secrets, mysterious laughter from locked rooms, ghosts that haunt moors and convents, and lifeless faces that disturb dreams. Some of these Gothic elements will be given psychological or natural explanations, but others not. A few stories by Edgar Allan Poe, literary criticism, and a film about vampires will help us formulate definitions of the Gothic that are flexible and fanged. The course requirements are a short paper, a course paper, a presentation, a midterm, and a final. This

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			course satisfies the Authors requirement for the English major and minor, and also counts as a Humanities elective for the WGS minor.
HEN 253 MW 9:30	Harman	WCH core, Honors Interdisciplinary	A study of the intersection between the Gaelic and Anglo-Irish linguistic, cultural, and literary traditions of Ireland. Besides exploring the past and present state of Gaelic language and culture, the class will focus on the impact of the older Gaelic heritage of English-language classics such as Swift, Joyce, Yeats, Beckett, and Heaney. This course is cross listed as Modern Languages 232. Please specify if you need enrollment in one department over another. Honors Interdisciplinary seminar.
PROFESSIONAL WRITING			
185 Introduction to Professional Writing MW 12:30	Downing	English Major	This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of research, writing, and editing tasks most common to professional writers. We will discuss guidelines, contexts, and good and bad models of writing in the worlds of journalism, business and advertising, technical writing, book or magazine publishing, and webpage design.
280 Creative Writing-Poetry MW 9:30	Sarracino	English major; RBI	This course begins with about five weeks of writing-prompt based creative writing exercises, and then move on to five weeks of writing poems derived from journal entries. In the last five weeks the focus is on revising poems for the final portfolio. RBI Course
281 Writing and Analyzing the Short Story MW 2:00; TH 12:30; TH 9:30	Ehrhardt; Fellinger; STAFF	English major; Creative Expression Core	This course provides an introduction to the analysis and creation of short stories. Students will use concepts of literary criticism to discuss and write about short fiction. They will also use their understanding of the elements of fiction to generate a variety of topic papers, a research paper and one original short story.
281 Writing and Analyzing the Short Story MF 9:30	Waters	English major; Creative Expression Core	Some say short fiction is dying- but is it dead? Most people don't read short stories unless they have to, or have the genre thrust upon them by another person. Still, short stories can be powerful, and convenient- they often pack a powerful punch, be it emotional, intellectual or psychological, and they're economic in the sense that a short story can (usually) be read in its entirety in one sitting. EN 281 is an introduction to the analysis and creation of short stories, and the classic components of what a short story is. Students will exploit concepts of literary criticism in order to discuss and write about short fiction, and will exercise their understanding of the elements of fiction to generate a variety of topic papers, including (but not limited to) a research paper and one original, new short story. Through these various approaches, students will increase their comfort level in working with the genre.
282 Technical Writing TH 12:30	STAFF	English Major, RBI	Technical writing encompasses the range of writing between the jargon of the technical professional who creates the technology and the lay person, often the end user of the technology. What determines clear, concise, plain language depends on who's reading it and why. How do technical experts explain the mechanism's workings to each other? How does a company explain how to use the technology to someone who doesn't need to understand the science behind how it works? How does a writer translate patents written by lawyers with technical undergraduate degrees into accurate advertising, catalog, or instructional prose? Who writes those user instructions anyway? The technical writer, one of the best paid, highest sought-after writing positions out there, does it, and you can, too. RBI Course
283 Legal Writing T 5:30-8:45	Telleen	English major, RBI	A survey of the types of writing common in government, politics and law. Students practice basic legal analysis, statistical analysis, persuasion and more advanced forms of legal writing, such as the appellate brief. RBI Course

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286 Creative Non-Fiction MW 2:00	Harman	English major, Creative Writing minor, RBI	While essay writing is challenging, it can also be--contrary to popular opinion--great fun. In this course, we read a range of stimulating and provocative essays from Ancient Greece to the present day. Inspired by this exposure to experienced writers in the genre, students then write their own personal, creative essays. RBI Course
493 Seminar in Rhetorical Theory MF 11:00	Waters	English major, SLE: Developmental Portfolio	What is rhetoric? Is it a dry, disengaged segment of language and expression that once fueled discourse in a world without Twitter, or is it a vibrant, multi-faceted set of structures for examining how the world itself is a text? Probably some of both. In this class, we'll examine rich theoretical and practical articles in a variety of disciplines in an effort to build our own rhetorical writing and editing skills to the point of supporting future work as professional writers and editors. This will involve an intense examination of rhetorical strategies, from Aristotle to Andy Rooney. We'll create a rhetorical salon in which we develop critical and creative skills in discourse; we'll write extensively about argumentation strategies as applied to rhetorical vocabulary; we'll explicate the relationships between text and context in the written and image-based world we live in. Class members will build and/or contribute to current electronic portfolios and digital representations of professional-level work.
ENGLISH EDUCATION			
302 The English Language MF 9:30	Martin	English major, English education concentration	This course considers the transformation of the English language from its formation in Anglo Saxon England through modern times. Using cultural, political, historical, literary, and linguistic analyses, students will follow changes in vocabulary and syntax from Beowulf through Shakespeare and on to the many varieties of English spoken across the globe today.
306 methods Seminar in Teaching Language and Composition TH 12:30	Skillen	English Major, Education concentration	This course is a seminar on how to teach writing and language to students in both secondary and post-secondary settings. As the best writing teachers are writers too, the course is also designed to help future teachers develop a more extensive writing craft.
LATIN			
LAT 111 MWF 9:30 & 2:00	Besse	Power of Language, Core	This course is designed to introduce students to Latin. Through a study of ancient Roman and Greek culture, students will make informed translations of Latin into English. Acquisition of Latin vocabulary and grammatical concepts will enhance English skills. Class will include introductions to grammatical concepts, reading practice, review of homework assignments, and Socratic class discussions on cultural nuances. In order to develop an ability to read Latin, quizzes and exams will emphasize translation from Latin into English.