Smith College
Fall 2015 English Courses

English 199 Methods of Literary Study (English 200 equivalent course)
TuTh 10:30-11:50  Instructor: Naomi Miller
TuTh 1:00-2:20   Instructor: Andrea Stone
This course teaches the skills that enable us to read literature with understanding and pleasure. By studying examples from a variety of periods and places, students learn how poetry, prose fiction and drama work, how to interpret them, and how to make use of interpretations by others. English 199 seeks to produce perceptive readers well equipped to take on complex texts. This gateway course for prospective English majors is not recommended for students simply seeking a writing intensive course. Readings in different sections vary, but all involve active discussion and frequent writing. Enrollment limited to 20 per section.

English 200 English Literary Tradition I (English 201 equivalent course) (old requirements: British literature pre-1700)(new requirements early British period distribution/English 201 or 200+ elective)
MWF 11:00-12:10  Instructor: William Oram
MWF 11:00-12:10  Instructor: Douglas Paley
A study of the English literary tradition from the Middle Ages through the 18th century. Recommended for sophomores. Enrollment limited to 20 per section.

English 202 Western Classics Homer to Dante (new requirements: 200+ elective)
MW 9:00-10:20  Instructor: Robert Hosmer
TuTh 9:00-10:20  Instructor: Scott Bradbury
TuTh 10:30-11:50  Instructor: Maria Banerjee
Texts include The Iliad; tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides; Plato's Symposium; Virgil's Aeneid; Dante's Divine Comedy. Lecture and discussion.

English 205 Old Norse (new requirements: 200+ elective)
MWF 10:00-10:50  Instructor: Craig Davis
An introduction to the language and literature of medieval Iceland, including the mythological texts and the family sagas.

English 206 Intermediate Fiction Writing (English 355 equivalent course)(old and new requirements: 300+ elective)
Thursdays 7:30-9:30  Instructor: David Maine
A writer's workshop that focuses on sharpening and expanding each student's fiction writing skills, as well as broadening and deepening her understanding of the short story form. In addition to analyzing and discussing one another's work, students hone their craft by examining the work of established writers. Writing sample and permission of the instructor are required.
English 230 American Jewish Literature (old requirements: 2nd American)(new requirements: Anglophone/ethnic American or 200+ elective)
MW 2:40-4:00 Instructor: Justin Cammy
Explores the significant contribution of Jewish writers and critics to the development of American literature, broadly defined. Topics include the American dream and its discontents; ethnic satire and humor; literary multilingualism; crises of the left involving Communism, Black-Jewish relations, and '60s radicalism; after-effects of the Holocaust; and the aesthetic engagement with folklore. Authors include Mary Antin, Henry Roth, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, E.L. Doctorow, Cynthia Ozick. Yiddish, Canadian and Latin-American writers provide transnational perspective. Must Jewish writing in the Americas remain on the margins, "too Jewish" for the mainstream yet "too white" to qualify as multicultural? No prerequisites.

English 231 American Literature Before 1865 (English 268 equivalent course)(old requirements: English 270 substitution or 2nd American)(new requirements: later period distribution/English 268 or 200+ elective)
MW 1:10-2:30 Instructor: Dean Flower
A study of American writers as they respond to a newly-formed nation, its unique landscape and problematic ambitions. Emphasis on the extraordinary burst of creativity that took place between 1820 and the Civil War. Works by Cooper, Hawthorne, Poe, Emerson, Melville, Thoreau, Douglass, Whitman, Dickinson and others.

English 238 What Jane Austen Read: 18th Century Novel (old requirements: British literature 1700-1900 or 300+ elective, non-writing)(new requirements: 300+ elective)
MWF 9:00-9:50 Instructor: Douglas Patey
A study of novels written in England from Aphra Behn to Jane Austen and Walter Scott (1688-1814). Emphasis on the novelists' narrative models and choices; we will conclude by reading several novels by Austen -- including one she wrote when thirteen years old.

English 239 American Journeys (old requirements: 2nd American or 300+ elective)(new requirements: Anglophone/ethnic American or 300+ elective)
TuTh 10:30-11:50 Instructor: Julian Pegues
This course is a study of American narratives, from a variety of ethnic traditions and historical eras, that explore forms of movement-immigration, migration, relocation, and border crossing-that are deeply imbedded in understandings of American life. We will look at how citizenship as a social category and American national belonging is constructed in relation to and, sometimes, in opposition to indigeneity, race, gender, and sexuality. We will focus on each author's treatment of the complex encounter between new or marginalized communities and an established culture, and on definitions or interrogations of what it might mean to be, to become, or to refuse "American." Texts will include novels, memoirs, films, and graphic novels written by American Indian, African American, Asian American, and Chicano/Latin@ authors.

English 241 Empire Writes Back: Post-Colonial Literature (old requirements: 300+ elective, non-writing)(new requirements: Anglophone or 300+ elective)
MW 1:10-2:30 Instructor: Ambreen Hai
An introduction to Anglophone fiction, poetry, drama and film from Africa, the Caribbean and South Asia in the aftermath of the British empire. Concerns include: the cultural work of writers as they
respond to histories of colonial dominance; their ambivalence towards English linguistic, literary and cultural legacies; the ways literature can (re)construct national identities and histories, and explore assumptions of race, gender, class and sexuality; the distinctiveness of women writers and their modes of contesting cultural and colonial ideologies; global diasporas, migration and U.S. imperialism. Readings include Achebe, Adichie, Aidoo, Dangarembga, Fanon, Walcott, Cliff, Markandaya, Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri, Mohsin Hamid and some theoretical essays.

**English 243 Victorian Novel (old requirements: British literature 1700-1900 or 300+ elective)(new requirements: 300+ elective)**
TuTh 10:30-11:50  Instructor: Micahel Garra
An exploration of the worlds of the Victorian novel, from the city to the country, from the vast reaches of empire to the minute intricacies of the drawing room. Attention to a variety of critical perspectives, with emphasis on issues of narrative form and the representation of consciousness. Novelists likely include Bronte, Dickens, Eliot, Trollope and Hardy.

**English 249 Literatures of Black Atlantic (old requirements: 300+ elective, non-writing)(new requirements: Anglophone/ethnic American or 300+ elective)**
TuTh 3:00-4:20  Instructor: Andrea Stone
Visiting the pulpits, meeting houses, and gallows of British North America to the colonial West Indies and docks of Liverpool to the modern day Caribbean, U.S., Canada, U.K., and France, this course analyzes the literatures of the Black Atlantic and the development of Black literary and intellectual history from the 18th to the 21st century. Some key theoretical frameworks, which will help inform our study of literature emerging from the Black Atlantic, include diaspora, transnationalism, internationalism, and cosmopolitanism. Readings range from early African diasporic sermons, dying words, poetry, captivity and slave narratives to newspapers, essays, novels, drama and film.

**English 250 Chaucer (old requirements: British literature pre-1700 or 300+ elective, non-writing)(new requirements: 300+ elective)**
MW 2:40-4:00  Instructor: Nancy Bradbury
A contextualized close reading of Geoffrey Chaucer's ambitious and enduring literary project, The Canterbury Tales, with attention to language change, narrative technique, the representation of varied and distinctive medieval voices, and the poem as vivid introduction to life and thought in the later Middle Ages. Not open to first year-students.

**English 252 16th Century Literature (old and new requirements: 300+ elective)**
TuTh 1:00-2:50  Instructor: William Oram
Renaissance writers thought in different, incompatible ways about love. Is it a pastime to be outgrown or a means of self-transcendence? How is it affected by notions of gender? How does sexual desire relate to the love of God? The course investigates various literary/philosophical "models" for loving that Renaissance writers inherit, from Petrarch, Ovid, Plato, and the mixture of attitudes inherited from romance tradition. We'll consider how English Renaissance writers revise these traditions to create particular visions of love and sexuality. Sonnet sequences by Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare and Lady Mary Wroth; narratives by Marlowe, Shakespeare, Spenser and others.
English 256 Shakespeare (English 221 equivalent)(old requirements: Shakespeare or 300+ elective)(new requirements: early British period/English 221 or 300+ elective)
TuTh 1:10-2:30  Instructor: Naomi Miller
A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It, I Henry IV, Measure for Measure, King Lear, Macbeth, Coriolanus, The Tempest. Enrollment in each section limited to 25. Not open to first-year students.

English 282 Harlem Renaissance (old requirements: 2nd American or 300+, non writing)(new requirements: 300+ elective)
A study of one of the first cohesive cultural movement in African-American history. This class will focus on developments in politics, and civil rights (NAACP, Urban League, UNIA), creative arts (poetry, prose, painting, sculpture) and urban sociology (modernity, the rise of cities). Writers and subjects will include: Zora Neale Hurston, David Levering Lewis, Gloria Hull, Langston Hughes, and Nella Larsen among others. Enrollment limited to 40.

English 290 Crafting Creative Nonfiction (English 358 equivalent course)(old and new requirements: 300+ elective)
Tuesdays 1:00-2:50  Instructor: Dava Sobel
A writer's workshop designed to explore the complexities and delights of creative nonfiction. Constant reading, writing and critiquing. Admission by permission of the instructor. This course invites students with an interest in science to learn skills for creatively communicating science news, concepts and history. Class time is devoted to discussions (call them dissections) of assigned readings, including books, articles, plays, poems and blogs that treat scientific themes. We compare and contrast the writing of practicing scientists with that of science writers, in the hope of appropriating the best elements of both. Class sessions later in the term provide time and space for work-shopping and peer-editing. Writing assignments include a profile (or obituary) of a scientist, and a final project concerning research in a field of personal interest.

English 295 Advanced Poetry Writing (English 356 equivalent course)(old and new requirements: 300+ elective)
Tuesdays 1:00-2:50  Instructor: Arda Collins
Taught by the Grace Hazard Conkling Poet in Residence, this advanced poetry workshop is for students who have developed a passionate relationship with poetry and who have substantial experience in writing poems. Texts are based on the poets who will read at Smith during the semester, and students gain expertise in reading, writing and critiquing poems. Writing sample and permission of the instructor are required.

English 296 Advanced Fiction Writing (English 355 equivalent course)(old and new requirements: 300+ elective)
Tuesdays 1:00-4:00  Instructor: Ruth Lounsbury
In this workshop, more advanced fiction-writing students pursue two chief aims: to become stronger, more sophisticated writers in ways that feel natural to them, and to broaden their horizons by pursuing experimentation in new styles and subjects. At the same time, students continue to work on honing their observational and revision skills through attention to their own work and work of their peers. Coursework includes emphasis on becoming a skillful and sophisticated critic, readings from diverse contemporary writers and occasional ad hoc exercises. Writing sample and permission of the instructor are required.
English 305 Poets, Pageantry and Monarchs (old and new requirements: 300+ elective, non-writing)
Tuesdays 1:00-2:50  Instructor: Lynn Staley
We will explore the ways in which medieval and early modern poets addressed their monarchs using the language of gender and how those texts conveyed carefully constructed and sometimes concealed messages. We begin with Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde, a courtly poem that displays Chaucer's talents as poet, translator, and dramatist, a poem as dazzling as his Canterbury Tales, and like the Tales, informed by the political tensions of Ricardian England. We move from the late fourteenth century to the sixteenth, considering medieval advice to royal women as refracted through the pageantry created for Elizabeth I. We then read three Elizabethan dramatic texts and end with a masque created for Anne of Denmark, queen of James I. Enrollment limited to 12 students. Lynn Staley (Kennedy Professor 2015-2016).

English 333 Major British or American Writer (old and new requirements: 300+ elective, non-writing)
Tuesdays 3:00-4:50  Instructor: Charles Reeves
Alice Munro has won extraordinary and steadily growing recognition as one of the very finest and canniest writers of our time. The subtlety of her narrative skills and the subdued brilliance of her moral insights mark her as a major figure. And yet this has not translated into the kind of attention one might expect in college and university curricula, although this is likely to change with the recognition following on her winning of the Nobel Prize for Literature (2013). Certainly there are challenges for both student and teacher in tracing out the arc of her achievement, beginning with the early "Dance of the Happy Shades" to her most recent work. But this tracing provides an opportunity to follow Munro "writing her lives" in all their narrative sublimity. Prerequisites: Three literature courses, including one American literature course and one upper-level course in fiction. Enrollment limited to 12.

English 365 Studies in 19th Century (old and new requirements: 300+ elective, non-writing)
Thursdays 1:00-2:50  Instructor: Cornelia Pearsall
Topics course. Victorians mourned and marked their dead with elegies and stone angels, novels and black ostrich plumes. This course studies the representation and commemoration of the dead in literature, art, and social practice. Readings from poetry, fiction, theory and etiquette books, in the context of mourning attire from Smith's Historic Clothing Collection and a range of objects from other archives. Particular attention to ways in which grief intersected with Victorian discourses of gender, sexuality, race, and class. Topic: Victorian Mourning and Memorialization. Instructor permission. Not open to first-years, sophomores.

English 399 Teaching Literature (old and new requirements: 300+ elective, non-writing)
Wednesdays 7:00-9:30  Instructor: Samuel Scheer
Discussion of poetry, short stories, short novels, essays and drama with particular emphasis on the ways in which one might teach them. Consideration of the uses of writing and the leading of discussion classes. For upper-level undergraduates and graduate students who have an interest in teaching. Enrollment limited to 15 and to juniors, seniors.