Smith College
Spring 2016 English Courses

ENG 135 Writing About Food (new requirements: 200+ elective)(creative writing or SPOW specialization)
TuTh 10:30 – 11:15  Instructor: TBA
Students learn to use literary techniques to write factual, engaging narratives that read like fiction. Based on research, interviews and personal experience, creative nonfiction encompasses a wide range of genres, including memoir, travel writing, nature writing, science writing, food writing and biography. Prerequisites: one WI course. Enrollment in each section limited to 16. Course may be repeated once on a different topic. (E) In this course we read and write about food, the everyday miracle. You needn't be a chef or even know how to cook to appreciate food; we all eat. It is an act full of anticipation, delight, wariness, fear and adventure: all the elements of a good story. We use our senses to construct narratives where food acts as a lens, where food is a character and where food conveys emotion. We look at food memoir, fiction, restaurant and cookbook reviews. We do writing exercises and short assignments in and out of class, celebrating our ordinary, extraordinary world on a platter. Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENG 135 Writing about Health/Healthcare/US (new requirements: 200+ elective)(creative writing or SPOW specialization)
MW 7:30-8:50  Instructor: Eleanor Lake
Students learn to use literary techniques to write factual, engaging narratives that read like fiction. Based on research, interviews and personal experience, creative nonfiction encompasses a wide range of genres, including memoir, travel writing, nature writing, science writing, food writing and biography. Prerequisites: one WI course. Enrollment in each section limited to 16. Course may be repeated once on a different topic. (E) This course teaches students how to use the tools of narrative nonfiction to write compelling, engaging, informative pieces about issues and ideas surrounding health and healthcare. We read and discuss works that illuminate the experiences of health and illness, and that examine how American society and the medical establishment respond to these. Each student develops her voice, her sense of purpose and her authority as a writer, while strengthening her relationship with her reader. Students practice revising for style, structure and accuracy. Enrollment limited to 16. Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENG 170 History of the English Language (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)
MWF 11 – 12:10  Instructor: Douglas Patey
An introductory exploration of the English language, its history, current areas of change and future. Related topics such as how dictionaries are made and the structure of the modern publishing industry. Students learn about editing, proofreading and page layout; the course also entails a comprehensive review of grammar and punctuation. Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENG 199 Methods of Literary Study (old and new requirements: English 200 equivalent course)
MW 2:40 – 4:00  Instructor: Ambreen Hai
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.

**Prerequisite:** Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

**ENG 200 English Literary Tradition (old and new requirements: English 201 equivalent course)(new requirements: fulfills early British period distribution)**

MW 1:10 – 2:30  Instructor: Nancy Bradbury

A study of the English literary tradition from the Middle Ages through the 18th century. Recommended for sophomores. Enrollment limited to 20 per section.

**Prerequisite:** Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

**ENG 201 English Literary Tradition II (old and new requirements: English 202 equivalent course)(new requirements: counts toward later period surveys 202, 268, 269 as English 202 equivalent course)**

TuTh 9 – 10:20  Instructor: Cornelia Pearsall

A study of the English literary tradition from the 19th century to modern times.

**Prerequisite:** Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

**ENG 203 Western Classics: From De Troyes to Tolstoy (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)**

TuTh 9 – 10:20  Instructor: Maria Banerjee

Chretien de Troyes's Yvain; Antony and Cleopatra; Cervantes' Don Quixote; Lafayette's The Princesse of Cleves; Goethe's Faust; Tolstoy's War and Peace. Lecture and discussion.

**Prerequisite:** Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

**ENG 207 Technology of Reading/Writing (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)(SPOW specialization elective)**

MWF 9 – 10:20  Instructor: Douglas Patey

An introductory exploration of the physical forms that knowledge and communication have taken in the West, from ancient oral cultures to modern print-literate culture. Our main interest is in discovering how what is said and thought in a culture reflects its available kinds of literacy and media of communication. Topics to include poetry and memory in oral cultures; the invention of writing; the invention of prose; literature and science in a script culture; the coming of printing; changing concepts of publication, authorship and originality; movements toward standardization in language; the fundamentally transformative effects of electronic communication.

**Prerequisite:** Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

**ENG 216 Intermediate Poetry Writing (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)(creative writing specialization-English 356 equivalent course)**

Mondays 1 – 4 PM  Instructor: Joan Houlihan

In this course we read as writers and write as readers, analyzing the poetic devices and strategies employed in a diverse range of contemporary poetry; gaining practical use of these elements to create a portfolio of original work; and developing the skills of critique and revision. In addition, students read
and write on craft issues, and attend Poetry Center readings/Q&A's. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor.

*Prerequisite: Writing Sample Required. By instructor consent only.*

**ENG 227 Modern British Fiction (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)**
MW 1:10 – 2:30  Instructor: Michael Gorra
Lectures, with occasional discussion, on the English novel from Conrad to the present day. The historical contexts and the formal devices (management of narrative and plot, stylistic and structural innovations, characterization, literary allusiveness) of works by such writers as Joseph Conrad, E.M. Forster, F.M. Ford, D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Bowen, Doris Lessing, Shirley Hazzard, V.S. Naipaul.

*Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.*

**ENG 236 African American Literature 1900 to Present (old requirements: 2nd American or 300+ English elective)(new requirements: Anglophone/ethnic American or 300+ English elective)**
MW 2:40 – 4   Instructor: Kevin Quashie

*Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.*

**ENG 242 History of Mystery (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)**
MW 2:40 – 4   Instructor: Dean Flower
study of detective fiction in English, starting with gothic mysteries in the late 18th century and the investigatory puzzles of Edgar Allan Poe in the 1830s. Exploration of how the mystery genre's newly formed conventions reflect issues of class, gender, race and social change, and how in the 20th century those conventions were reinvented, stylized, parodied and transformed—including its extension into the medium of film. Writers discussed include Poe, Wilkie Collins, A. Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, E.C. Bentley, Dorothy Sayers and Agatha Christie. Films include such works as The Third Man, Rear Window, Chinatown, Deathtrap and Gosford Park. Open to non-majors.

*Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.*

**ENG 257 Shakespeare (old and new requirements: English 221 equivalent course)(new requirements: fulfills early British period distribution or 300+ English elective)**
MWF 11 – 12:10  Instructor: William Oram

*Prerequisite: Not open to first-year students. Enrollment limited to 25.*

**ENG 260 Milton (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)**
MW 2:40 – 4   Instructor: Charles Reeves
A study of the major poems and selected prose of John Milton, radical and conservative, heretic and defender of the faith, apologist for patriarchy and advocate of human dignity, the last great Renaissance humanist, a poet of enormous creative power and influence. Not open to first-year students.

*Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.*
ENG 263 Romantic Poetry & Prose (old requirements: Brit-Lit 1700-1900 or 300+ English elective)(new requirements: 300+ English elective)
MW 1:10 – 2:30  Instructor: Daniel Block
Concentration on selected poems of the major Romantics (Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats) as well as their lesser-known contemporaries, with prose writings by the poets themselves and by Austen and Wollstonecraft.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENG 275 Witches/Witch Craft/Witch Hunts (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)
MWF 10 – 10:50  Instructor: Michael Thurston
This course has two central ambitions. First, it introduces themes of magic and witchcraft in (mostly) American literature and film. We work together to figure out how the figure of the witch functions in stories, novels and movies, what witches and witchcraft mean or how they participate in the texts' ways of making meaning. At the same time, we try to figure out how witches and witchcraft function as loci or displacements of social anxiety—about power, science, gender, class, race and politics. Since the identification of witches and the fear of witchcraft often lead to witch panics, we finally examine the historical and cultural phenomenon of the witch hunt, including both the persecution of persons literally marked as witches and the analogous persecution of persons (Communists, sexual outsiders, etc.) figuratively "hunted" as witches have been. Open to students at all levels, regardless of major.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENG 283 Victorian Medievalism (old requirements: Brit-Lit 1700-1900 or 300+ English elective)(new requirement: 300+ English elective)
TuTh 10:30 – 11:50  Instructors: Nancy Bradbury & Cornelia Pearsall
19th-century revivals and transformations of medieval literature, arts and social institutions; the remaking of the Middle Ages in the image of Victorian desires and aspirations. Arthurian legend in medieval and 19th-century England, the Gothic revival in British art and architecture, the cult of Chaucer, controversies over women's education, and the idealization of medieval communities in Victorian social theory.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENG 291 Lakes Writing Workshop (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)(creative writing specialization elective)
Thursdays 3 – 4:30  Instructor: Pamela Petro
Topic: Picturing the Text: A Word and Image Workshop. An intermediate-level workshop in which writers develop their skills through intensive reading, writing, revising, and critique. Emphasis on narrative writing, broadly defined to include a variety of genres, depending on the interests of the current holder of the Lakes writing residency. Every day we receive information from words and pictures working in tandem: on road signs, storefronts, Facebook and Instagram, on cereal boxes and in films. In this course, students regularly produce original writing that invites images into the text, drawing from our study of graphic novels, artist's books, medieval manuscripts, comic strips, literary texts with images, illustrated children's books and playscripts that invite visualization on stage. You don’t have to draw or have "artistic talent" to take this workshop-style course-photos and digital images are welcome. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite: Writing Sample Required. Instructor permission required. Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.
ENG 293 Colloq: Art and History of the Book (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)
MW 2:40 – 4   Instructor: Martin Antonetti
A survey of the book-as vehicle for the transmission of both text and image-from the manuscripts of the Middle Ages to contemporary artists’ books. The course examines the principal techniques of book production-calligraphy, illustration, papermaking, typography, bookbinding-as well as various social and cultural aspects of book history, including questions of censorship, verbal and visual literacy, the role of the book trade, and the book as an agent of change. In addition, there are labs in printing on the handpress and bookbinding. Admission limited to 20 by permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.

ENG 295 Advanced Poetry Writing (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)(creative writing specialization: English 356 equivalent course)
Tuesdays 1 – 2:50   Instructor: Marilyn Chin
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 are reading at Smith during the semester, and students gain expertise in reading, writing and critiquing poems. Writing sample and permission of the instructor are required.

Prerequisite: Writing Sample Required. Instructor permission required. Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.

ENG 296 Advanced Fiction Writing (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)(creative writing specialization: English 355 equivalent course)
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.

Prerequisite: Writing Sample Required. Instructor permission required. Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.

ENG 309 Black Prison Intellectuals(old requirements: 2nd American or 300+ English elective)(new requirements: 300+ English elective)
Thursdays 3 – 4:50   Instructor: Andrea Stone
Interrogating theories of intellectualism, among them Antonio Gramsci's notion of traditional and organic intellectuals, and distinctions between categories of criminal and enemy, this course traces the role of black prison writings in the development of American political and legal theory. From 18th-century black captivity narratives and gallows literature through to the work of 20th- and 21st-century thinkers like Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver and Angela Davis, this course asks how the incarcerated black intellectual has informed and challenged ideas about nationalism, community and self-formation from the early republic to the present

Prerequisite: Instructor permission required. Not open to first-years, sophomores. Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.
ENG 333 Major American Writer: Ursula K. LeGuin (old requirements: 2nd American or 300+ English elective)(new requirements: 300+ English elective)
Ursula K. LeGuin is arguably the most important writer of science fiction and fantasy in the second half of the 20th century and certainly one of the best. Although the course stresses her experiments with the novel form, we also consider other genres in which she writes—short stories, "suites" of longer stories, essays, poetry. We study the formal experiments of her fiction and its accompanying thought-experiments with gender, identity, the good society, and the promise and fear of the other.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.

ENG 333 Major American Writer: Henry James (old requirements: 2nd American or 300+ English elective)(new requirements: 300+ English elective)
Section 2  Tuesdays 3 – 4:50    Instructor: Michael Gorra
"It's a complex fate, being an American, and one of the responsibilities it entails is fighting against a superstitious valuation of Europe." So Henry James wrote in 1872, and for the rest of his life he would explore that complexity and that superstition alike. A reading of his stories, criticism and travel writing, along with three major novels: The Portrait of a Lady, The Bostonians and The Ambassadors.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.

ENG 333 Major British Writer: Sir Thomas Malory (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)
Section 3 Tuesdays 3 – 4:50    Instructor: Craig Davis
Sir Thomas Malory was a Warwickshire knight with a bad conscience, charged with rape, attempted murder and other violent crimes during the Wars of the Roses. He completed his prose compilation of Arthurian lore in Newgate Prison in 1469, which William Caxton published in 1485 as Le Morte Darthur. It became the definitive account of the rise and fall of Arthurian Britain. We explore the Celtic roots and Christian resonances of Malory's epic saga, its commentary on the politics of his own day, the human passions in which he embroils his male and female characters in the legendary past.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.

ENG 353 Advanced Studies in Shakespeare (old requirements: Shakespeare survey or 300+ English elective)(new requirements: English 221/early British period equivalent or 300+ English elective)
Tuesdays 1 – 4    Instructor: Naomi Miller
This seminar explores the significance of women's voices in Othello, King Lear and The Tempest, viewed in conjunction with reimaginings of these plays and their female protagonists by women playwrights, producers, and directors, as well as women poets and novelists. The course considers how women artists have engaged with, reinterpreted and transformed Shakespeare's women at different cultural moments, exploring questions of adaptive appropriation across global and temporal boundaries as well as race and gender. The course contextualizes Shakespeare's women characters in relation to the voices of women of the early modern period, as well as modern women authors including Toni Morrison, Suniti Namjoshi, Elizabeth Nunez and Jane Smiley. Graduating senior English majors are given priority in enrollment.

Prerequisite: Permission is required for interchange registration during all registration periods.
ENG 384 Writing About American Society (old and new requirements: 300+ English elective)(creative writing specialization/SPOW specialization)
Tuesdays 1 – 2:50  Instructor: Dava Sobel

**Topic: The Climate of the Country.** In this class, students develop their skills in narrative, long-form nonfiction writing as they explore the ways that science and technology are transforming American culture. This course focuses on writing about the country's weather and climate-past, present and future. As the United States confronts the consequences of global climate change, some sectors of the population continue to deny that any human-induced crisis looms. What is the scientific evidence to support the prediction of impending climate catastrophe? And why isn't everyone swayed by that evidence? Course readings include current reports in science news sources as well as poems, plays and historical and literary accounts by authors such as John McPhee, Andrea Barrett, Bill McKibben and Elizabeth Kolbert. Writing assignments range from short descriptions of weather phenomena to longer essays and reported pieces. Writing sample and permission of the instructor are required.

*Prerequisite: Writing Sample Required. Not open to first-years, sophomores. Instructor permission required.*