

## Mount Holyoke College English Courses

Spring 2019

### **Eng 201 Intro to Creative Writing (200+ English elective)(creative writing elective)**

Mon 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Samuel Ace

This course offers practice in writing various kinds of narrative. Assignments emphasize clarity, concision, and creativity. Exercises lead to longer work: sketches or short stories. Students hone critical as well as writing skills. Student papers are duplicated and discussed in class, along with selected works by published authors. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

### **Eng 204 Poetry Writing (200+ English elective)(creative writing elective)**

Tues 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Samuel Ace

In this introductory course, students will read widely in contemporary poetry. Through prompts and project-based inquiry, both within the workshop and in take-home assignments, students will have the opportunity to produce and share writing based on the conceptual frameworks explored in the class. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

### **Eng 214PD Perception & Deception/Medieval literature (early British lit or 200+ English elective)**

Mon/Wed 11:00-12:15 Instructor: Nigel Alderman

Medieval and early modern literature often desires to "paint" an image in our minds, but there are also inherent problems in how vision is represented and how easily those depictions can deceive. If vision is a means for gaining understanding, it is also subject to manipulation through theatrical, artistic, and literary means. Our class will explore how perception leads readily into deception through the works of medieval mystics, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, and Margaret Cavendish, among others. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

### **Eng 232 Queer Eighteenth Century (course in British literature after 1700 or 200+ English elective)**

TuTh 10:00-11:15 Instructor: Katherine Singer

With the rise of the two-sex model, the eighteenth century might be seen to be a bastion of heteronormativity leading directly to Victorian cis-gender binary roles of angel in the house and the bourgeois patriarch. Yet, beginning with the Restoration's reinvention of ribald theater, this period was host to a radical array of experimentation in gender and sexuality, alongside intense play with genre (e.g., the invention of the novel). We will explore queerness in all its forms alongside consideration of how to write queer literary histories. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

### **Eng 240 American literature 1 (American literature before 1865 or 200+ English elective)**

TuTh 11:30-12:45 Instructor: Christopher Benfey

A survey of American literature from the literature of exploration to the Civil War, with special attention to the formation of an American literary tradition, along with the political, social, and religious contexts that helped shape the imaginative responses of American writers to their culture. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

**Eng 243 American Gothic (American literature after 1865 or 200+ English elective)**

TuTh 1:30-2:45 Instructor: Elizabeth Young

An examination of the gothic - a world of fear, haunting, claustrophobia, paranoia, and monstrosity - in U.S. literature and visual culture. Topics include slavery and the gothic; gender, sexuality, and the gothic; regional and national gothic; the uncanny; and visual, especially cinematic, dimensions of the gothic. Authors, artists, and filmmakers may include Dunbar, Elmer, Faulkner, Gilman, Hitchcock, Jackson, Kubrick, LaValle, Lovecraft, McCullers, Morrison, O'Connor, Parks, Peele, Poe, Romero, and Wood. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

**Eng 267 Reading and Writing in the World (200+ English elective)(creative writing elective)**

Tues 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Lauret Savoy

An introduction to reading and writing about "environment", this seminar will attempt an exchange across distinct approaches to observing and describing the world around us. Do lenses of culture, discipline, and gender impact how we see and experience nature, environment, and place? Course work will include reading such authors as N. Scott Momaday, Jamaica Kincaid, Leslie Marmon Silko, Mary Oliver, Terry Tempest Williams, Wendell Berry, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Douglass; and many others; field trips; and writing assignments--weekly field notes and journals, analytical papers, and personal essays.

**English 274 Intro to Asian American literature (Anglophone/ethnic American or course in American literature after 1865 or 200+ English elective)**

TuTh 8:30-9:45 Instructor: Iyko Day

This course introduces students to Asian American literature, considering its historical origins and evolution. Throughout the course we explore questions of identity, immigration and citizenship, generational conflict, war and migration, and mixed and cross-racial politics. Readings of primary texts will be supplemented by historical and critical source materials. Authors may include Nina Baym, Ruth Ozeki, Nam Le, Chang-rae Lee, Aimee Phan, Susan Choy, and Jhumpa Lahiri.

**Eng 301MW Magazine Writing (300+ English elective)(creative writing elective)**

Mon 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Todd Brewster

Students in this class will produce original works at magazine length. Assignments will get them out of the classroom and into the world, exploring feature stories and local issues of importance. A student's mastery of her chosen topic will rest on personal observation, extensive interviews, and deep research. All pieces produced will go through multiple drafts. Readings are designed to shape classroom discussion and lend inspiration. These will include classics of the genre, as well as material from current issues of the in the New Yorker, Slate, Atlantic Monthly, Vanity Fair, the New York Times Sunday Magazine, and other publications.

**Eng 323 Gender & Class in Victorian Novels (course in British literature after 1700 or 300+ English elective)**

MonWed 1:30-2:45 Instructor: Amy Martin

This course will investigate how gender and class serve as structuring principles in the development of the Victorian novel in Britain, paying attention to the ways in which the form also develops in relation to emerging ideas about sexuality, race, nation, and religion. Novelists include Bronte, Dickens, Eliot, and Gaskell and we will read examples of domestic fiction,

detective fiction, social realist novels, and the Victorian gothic. This course is open to juniors and seniors.

**Eng 328 Woolf, Auden and Modernism (300+ English elective)**

Thurs 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Nigel Alderman

This course will chart the development of Modernism in poetry and prose by examining the careers of two of the most important writers in the first half of the twentieth-century: the novelist, Virginia Woolf and the poet, W. H. Auden. We will focus on the way both writers initially seek to wrestle into representation new content within the frame of pre-existing forms and, by so doing, discover that these forms are inadequate or buckle under the strain and need to be revised, renewed, and transformed.

**Eng 350TM Toni Morrison (American literature after 1865 or 300+ English elective)**

Mon 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Kimberly Brown

This course will examine the work and the centralized black world of the last American Nobel laureate in literature, Toni Morrison. Morrison is the author of eleven novels and multiple other works, including nonfiction and criticism. In a career that has spanned over forty years and has informed countless artists and writers, Morrison's expansive cultural reach can hardly be measured accurately. In this course we will endeavor to critically analyze the arc and the import of many of Morrison's writings. Readings include: *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Jazz*, *Playing in the Dark*, *Paradise*, and *A Mercy*.

**Eng 366 Love/Sex/Death in Anthropocene (300+ English elective)**

TuTh 11:30-12:45 Instructor: Katherine Singer

The "Anthropocene" has been defined as the era when humans exert change on the earth's climate, but this term has become a dynamo for theories, political discussions, and art about man's anthropocentric relation to the nonhuman world. This course will read theories of the Anthropocene alongside artistic contemplations of the shifting, ethical relations among humans, animals, and other beings of the world. How are we to live, die, and reproduce ourselves in a time when we have egregiously affected the earth? How does the critique of anthropocentrism shift our understanding of sex, gender, race, and the nonhuman? Finally, how does art speak within political conversations of climate change?

**Eng 373SC Landscape/Loss in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century American (American literature after 1865 or 300+ English elective)**

Thurs 1:30-4:20 Instructor: Leah Glasser

This seminar will focus on 20th-21st Century American narratives on landscape. In the context of a history tainted by destruction, and in the face of environmental concerns today, the course will explore the struggle to sustain an authentic connection with the natural world. Through a study of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, film, and art, students will address a range of questions. Does the history of loss within the American landscape carry particular challenges for writers and artists wishing to establish new definitions of what it means to work toward preservation? Does nature-writing in American narrative become a source of celebration, a love affair with landscape, or an expression of grief, a means of mourning? To what extent does gender, race, or class influence the shape of modern and contemporary narratives on the American landscape? This course is open to juniors and seniors.

**Eng 378 Another World: Writing Utopias (300+ English elective)**

Wed 1:30-4:20           Instructor: Andrea Lawlor

How and why do narrative artists envision whole new worlds? What is the role of fantasy in social change? In this course we will investigate contemporary utopian fictions and their historical antecedents as models for our own utopian writing. We will encounter novels and films from various lineages, including Afrofuturist, anarchist, critical utopian, ecotopian, and feminist. Authors we may read include Sir Thomas More, Ursula K. Le Guin, Samuel R. Delany, Ernest Callenbach, Octavia E. Butler, Walidah Imarisha, Roxane Gay, Ta Neheisi Coates, and Margaret Kiljoy. Interdisciplinary research and collaboration will make up a substantial portion of the work of the course.

**Eng 392SC Science/Magic in Early Modern Drama (early British or 300+ English elective)**

MonWed 2:55-4:10           Instructor: Nigel Alderman

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, belief in demons, fairies, apparitions, and other magical beings was still held by many in early modern England, including both the theaters' audiences and its critics. At the same time, sciences such as alchemy, palmistry, astrology, and dream interpretation borrowed from magical discourse to argue for their efficacy. This course examines the relationships among early modern literature, science, and magic by treating each as influential discursive practices that speak to and yet challenge each other. Our attention will be focused on the recent turn to scientific thought in literary analysis, with critical approaches from the history of the body, environmental and ecocriticism, animal studies, and history of science.