Mount Holyoke College

English Courses

Fall 2016

ENGL 201 Intro to Creative Writing (200+ English elective)(English 254 equivalent course/creative writing specialization)
Section 1: MonWed 1:15-2:30  Instructor: Valerie Martin  
Section 2: Weds  1:15-4:04  Instructor: Corinne Demas  
Section 3: Thurs  1:15-4:04  Instructor: Andrea Lawlor  
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 Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 203 Short Story Writing (200+ English elective)(creative writing specialization)
Tues 1:15-4:05  Instructor: Valerie Martin  
This workshop will introduce students to the short story form as practiced by contemporary and canonical writers. Students will learn to read fiction actively, as writers developing their craft. We will focus on understanding the elements of fiction with an eye toward eventual mastery. Writing short stories will comprise the main work of this course, and students will work specifically on point of view, development of scenes, characterization, plot, and narration. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 204 Verse Writing I (200+ English elective)(creative writing specialization)
Mon 1:15-4:05  Instructor: Andrea Lawlor  
This course gives students practice in the basic elements of the poet's craft, emphasizing revision. It involves class criticism and conferences as well as collateral reading. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 211 Shakespeare (English 221 equivalent or 200+ elective)
Tue/Thur 2:40-3:55  Instructor: Supana Roychoudhury  
A study of some of Shakespeare's plays emphasizing the poetic and dramatic aspects of his art, with attention to the historical context and close, careful reading of the language. Eight or nine plays. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 218 Literature/Later Middle Ages (English 201 course equivalent or 200+ elective)
MonWed 1:15-2:30  Instructor: Wesley Yu  
This course will examine a variety of English works and genres written in the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries. Our concentration will be principally on the Gawain-poet, Chaucer, Langland, Margery Kempe, and Lydgate. Most of our readings are in Middle English. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.
ENGL 231 British Romanticism (English 202 equivalent or 200+ elective)
TuTh 1:15-2:30  Instructor: Katherine Singer
This class will examine the ways Romantic-era writers figured revolution and the reaction against it, in the wake of the French Revolution's spectacular but failed promises of liberty, fraternity, and equality for all. We will pay special attention to how British writers envisioned their own versions of freedom and equality, extending them to women, slaves, and the poor. Likewise we will explore how this project for social change was necessarily related to revolutions in language and aesthetics. Authors may include Burke, Wollstonecraft, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Smith, Barbauld, Blake, Austen, Keats, Percy and Mary Shelley, Byron, and Hemans. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 235 Modern British Poetry (200+ English elective)
MonWed 11:00-12:15  Instructor: Nigel Alderman
This introduction to modern British poetry pays special attention to the emergence, consolidation, and dismantling of modernist poetry and poetics. It will link this literary history with, amongst other things, the loss of faith, the two world wars, and the relationship between monumental aesthetics, utopian poetics, and totalitarian politics. Writers will include Hardy, Yeats, Eliot, H.D., and Auden. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 240 American literature I (English 268 equivalent or 200+ elective)
TuTh 1:15-2:30  Instructor: Donald Weber
A survey of American literature from the literature of exploration through the major authors of the mid-nineteenth century, with special attention to the formation of an American literary tradition, along with the political, social, and religious context that helped shape the imaginative response of American writers to their culture. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 243 American Gothic (200+ English elective)
TuTh 2:40-3:55  Instructor: Elizabeth Young
An examination of the gothic--a world of fear, haunting, claustrophobia, paranoia, and monstrosity--in American literature and culture, with an emphasis upon issues of race and gender. Topics include the gothic; gothic sexuality; Southern, Northern, and national gothic; freakishness and grotesquerie; and visual gothic. Focus on fiction, with some film and photography. Authors, filmmakers, and artists may include Alcott, Arbus, Browning, Crane, Dunbar, Dunn, Elmer, Faulkner, Gilman, Hitchcock, Kubrick, McCullers, Morrison, O'Connor, Oates, Parks, Poe, Romero, Turner, and Wood. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 265CL Children’s and YA Literature (200+ English elective)
Weds 7:00-9:50 PM  Instructor: Susannah Richards
This course provides an overview of the field of history of American Literature for youth with an emphasis on literature from the 1960s to the current day. Students will read diverse literature from multiple genres and engage in thoughtful analysis of the literature as it reflects the historical, cultural, psychological and sociological nature of American society past, present, or future. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.
ENGL 274 Intro to Asian American Literature (fulfills Anglophone/ethnic American literature requirement or 200+ elective)
TuTh 8:35-9:50  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 Revoyr, Ruth Ozeki, Nam Le, Chang-rae Lee, Aimee Phan, Susan Choy, and Jhumpa Lahiri.  Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 301SC Science Writing (300+ English elective)
Weds 1:15-4:05  Instructor: Catherine Manegold
This class is designed to immerse students in some of the most extraordinary science writing published today. Drawing from magazines, the web, and longer works such as 'Five Days at Memorial,' 'Tom's River' and 'The Sixth Extinction,' we will closely examine how writers bring complex scientific material to life for the general reader. Students will be coached through a series of writing challenges culminating in the production of one magazine-length work. Throughout, we will focus on clarity of expression, felicity of style, the delivery of complex facts and concepts in accessible language, and the building of narrative.  Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 302WL Writing the Lives of Women (300+ English elective)
Mon 1:15-4:05  Instructor: Martha Ackmann
This course will examine narrative nonfiction biographies written by women biographers in order to determine the specific ways in which women tell the stories of other women's lives. We will investigate stylistic and theoretical approaches to writing biographies in which gender is a central focus. We will ask if 'feminist biography' constitutes a literary genre. We will experience the challenges (and thrills) of conducting archival and primary research. The course will culminate in students writing chapter-length biographies. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors.  Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 311CT The Canterbury Tales (300+ English elective)
TuTh 1:15-2:30  Instructor: Wesley Yu
Known as a storyteller par excellence, Chaucer was also a famous reader of classical epic, romance, and philosophy. This research seminar will give students the opportunity to read the Canterbury Tales in light of the work's cultural, historical, and literary contexts. Throughout the semester, students will engage with Chaucer's tales and his favorite sources to examine and discuss his representations of gender and class, his perspectives on religious authority, his use of the English vernacular, and his commitment to poetry.  Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 312SF Shakespeare and Film (English 221 equivalent or 300+ elective)
MonWed 1:15-2:30  Instructor: Amy Rogers
We will read plays by Shakespeare, watch films based on those plays, and study the plays, the films, and the plays-as-films. 'Shakespeare' comes first, of course, both historically and as the source/inspiration for the films. Yet each film has its own existence, to be understood not just as an 'adaptation,' but also as the product of linked artistic, technical, and economic choices. Considering Shakespeare's plays as pre-texts (rather than pre-scriptions), we will look at early
and recent films, both those that follow closely conventionalized conceptualizations of 'Shakespeare,' and those that tend to erase or emend their Shakespearean sources. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 323 Gender & Class in the Victorian Novel (English 202 equivalent or 300+ English elective)
MonWed 11:00-12:15  Instructor: Amy Martin
This course will investigate how representations of gender and class serve as a structuring principle in the development of the genre of the Victorian novel in Britain. We will devote significant attention to the construction of Victorian femininity and masculinity in relation to class identity, marriage as a sexual contract, and the gendering of labor. The texts chosen for this course also reveal how gender and class are constructed in relation to other axes of identity in the period, such as race, sexuality, and national character. Novelists will include Dickens, Eliot, Gaskell, C. Bronte, and Hardy. Supplementary readings in literary criticism and theory. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 328 Eliot, Woolf, and Modernism (300+ English elective)
MonWed 2:40-3:55  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 poet, T. S. Eliot and the novelist, Virginia Woolf. 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. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 350TM Toni Morrison (300+ English elective)
Tues 1:15-4:05  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. Prereq: English 200. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.

ENGL 359 Emily Dickinson in her Times (300+ English elective)
Tues 1:15-4:05  Instructor: Martha Ackmann
This course will examine the writing of Emily Dickinson, both her poetry and her letters. We will consider the cultural, historical, political, religious, and familial environment in which she lived. Special attention will be paid to Dickinson's place as a woman artist in the nineteenth century. The class will meet at the Dickinson Museum (280 Main Street in Amherst and accessible by Five College bus. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.
ENGL 394MN Music and the Irish Novel (fulfills Anglophone or 300+ English elective)
Mon 7:00-9:50  Instructor: Katherine O’Callaghan
Music and the Irish Novel introduces students to Irish novelists from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In these novels music plays a significant role, as a thematic, formal, or aesthetic inspiration. Traditional, opera, ballads, jazz, classical, pop, and contemporary music; all play a role in this literature. What do we mean when we say that a language, or a piece of literature, is 'musical'? Why do writers of contemporary historical fiction favor musical references? This intertextual link will lead to inquiries into the role of music in prose fiction, and in particular in the Irish novel. Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Permission is required for interchange registration during the add/drop period only.