



Albion College

English Department
Spring 2016
Course Offerings



ENGL 151 (1 Unit)
INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDY:
STRANGE WORLDS

NELS CHRISTENSEN (M W F 11:45 AM-12:50 PM)

English 151 provides an introduction to the foundations of literary study, with a special emphasis on exploring why the literary imagination is important to our past, present, and future. This section in particular considers science fiction and fantasy alongside other more traditional genres. Our primary goal will be to investigate *strangeness* as a recurring thematic and stylistic characteristic of the kinds of novels, stories, and poems people love to read and write. **English 151 fulfils the Textual Analysis Mode requirement.**



ENGL 151 (1 Unit)
INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDY

MATTHEW HARRISON (M W F 9:15-10:20 AM)

English 151 provides an introduction to the foundations of literary study, with a special emphasis on exploring why the literary imagination is important to our past, present, and future. In this section, we'll explore great poems, plays, and prose narratives ranging from the 16th century to the 21st, paying careful attention to how they represent love, nature, and the purpose of literature. **English 151 fulfils the Textual Analysis Mode requirement.**



ENGL 205 (1 Unit)
INTRODUCTORY CREATIVE WRITING

DANIT BROWN (M W F 1:00-2:05 PM)
HELENA MESA (T R 2:15-4:05 PM)

An introduction to the basics of writing poetry and fiction, approaching both genres from a writer's perspective. Because learning to write involves an understanding of how stories and poems are put together, a major portion of this course is centered on the examination and discussion of contemporary texts. You will be asked to write your own poems and stories, to comment on your peers' work, and to read extensively and carefully, looking for ways in which a particular work can inspire and inform your own composition. Prerequisite: English 101. **This course counts for the Artistic Creation and Analysis Mode.**



ENGL 208 (1 Unit)
PROFESSIONAL WRITING

GLENN DEUTSCH (M W 2:15-4:05 PM)

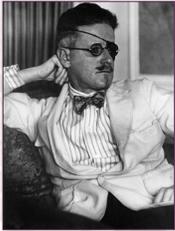
Professional writers help organizations solve problems and achieve goals with print, digital, and multimedia communications. Their projects typically require research and interaction with a variety of internal and external publics as well as writing and production. This course aims to equip students with the skills they'll need to write effectively in number of professional settings, both for-profit and not-for-profit. They will learn, among other things, to recognize and work within appropriate genres (memos, letters, grant applications, etc.), craft documents for specific audiences, and identify and make effective use of relevant information. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or above and one of the following: completion of English 101 or 101H with a grade of 2.0 or better, recommendation of student's instructor in English 100, placement during SOAR or advanced placement in English.



ENGL 253 (1 Unit)
BRITISH LITERATURE 900-1660

MATTHEW HARRISON (M W F 2:15-3:20 PM)

This course presents a survey of major works of Medieval and Renaissance British literature, from Old English narratives like *Beowulf* to the great poetry of Donne and Milton. The class will blend lecture and discussion, with requirements including short papers, quizzes, and exams. **This course counts for the Textual Analysis Mode requirement.**



ENGL 256 (1 Unit)
BRITISH LITERATURE 1900-present

MARY COLLAR (T R 2:15-4:05 PM)

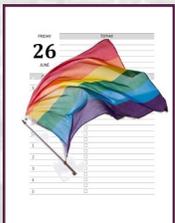
This survey is framed by two wonderful novels: E. M. Forster's *Howards End* and Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*, a contemporary revisioning of the Forster text. Between these bookends, we will pull from the shelves many other provocative pieces, including texts by the most influential writers of High Modernism (for examples, James Joyce and Virginia Woolf), poetry and fiction about the Great War produced within the shadow of that war and from the distance of more than eighty years, socially engaged texts of the period between WWI and WWII, award-winning dramas, and texts from the post-colonial re-examination of the meaning of "English" literature. **English 256 meets a survey requirement for both the major and the minor and satisfies the Textual Analysis Mode.**



ENGL 257 (1 Unit)
AMERICAN LITERATURE 1600-1860

JESS ROBERTS (T W R F 10:30-11:20 AM)

This class surveys the first several centuries of American literature, from the travel literature of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century explorers to the voices of an emerging republic to the cerebral prose and bodily poetry of what is sometimes called the "American Renaissance." It will provide you with a solid understanding of early American literary history even as it helps you develop reading strategies for a variety of texts, equips you with the tools to perform close literary analysis, and hones your skills as a critical thinker, reader, and writer. **This course counts for the Textual Analysis Mode requirement.**



ENGL 285 (1 Unit)
GAY AND LESBIAN LITERATURE

MARY COLLAR (M T W 1:00-2:05 PM)

To provide important contexts for later works, we will begin this class by reading selected classical texts by Plato and Sappho. Then we will move to reading gay and lesbian literature written in Great Britain and America from the Renaissance through the twentieth century, including works by such writers as Shakespeare, Whitman, Wilde, Forster, Woolf, Baldwin, Lorde, Merrill, Gunn, Winterson, and Bechdel--and discussing the film version of Cunningham's *The Hours*.

It is no accident that this course and the Gender Category requirement came into existence at about the same time: both insist that it's important to examine the social construction of gender. What counts as "gay" or "queer" literature cannot be isolated from what constructs and constitutes "gay" or "queer" lives. One of the reasons homosexuality causes so much cultural anxiety is that it transgresses notions of what men and women are and how they should behave, so we need to investigate the systems that construct and police identities. We will examine both how the cultural oppression of people who express same-sex desire shapes the literary texts they produce and how that oppression has been met with resistance literature, albeit a literature that has often had to speak code. As we will discover, this oppression has also affected whether and how these texts could be taught and read. This class is discussion-based and **counts for the Gender Category requirement.**



ENGL 354 (1 Unit)
THE IDEA OF NATURE, THE NATURE OF IDEAS

NELS CHRISTENSEN (M W 8:00-9:50 AM)

This course sets out to explore the relationship between the imagination and the natural world in the works of six American writers. Drawing on the creative and critical tools of multiple disciplines-including literary studies, creative writing, and natural history-our primary goal will be to investigate how ecology provides a model for thinking and writing about the imaginative and creative capacities of the human mind and spirit. **This course counts for the Environmental Studies Category requirement.**



ENG 379 (1 Unit)
CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP-POETRY

HELENA MESA (M W 2:15-4:05 PM)

A workshop for advanced poets focusing on producing and critiquing student writing. Students will write a body of polished, publishable poems, many of which will be critiqued by the entire class. Students should have a thorough understanding of poetic forms and devices. Students will be expected to develop their own style and interests, and to revise their work significantly. Includes discussion of recent poetry collections, contemporary literary trends, and publishing practices. Prerequisite: English 321. **This course counts for the Artistic Creation and Analysis Mode.**



ENGL 389 (1 Unit)
THE WOMEN OF EARLY AMERICA

JESS ROBERTS (T R 2:15-4:05 PM)

This class will examine the imaginative writing of American women before the twentieth century. Expect to encounter dashing suitors and dying children, jilted lovers and hopeful maidens, domestic spaces and intellectual heft, striking sentiment and subtle subversion. We will read Anne Bradstreet, Mary Rowlandson, Catharine Maria Sedgwick, Louisa May Alcott, Emily Dickinson, and Sarah Piatt, among others. **(I am applying for the Gender Category Requirement.)**

English Department Faculty

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Judy Lockyer Vulgamore 412 Ext. 0339
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