University of Connecticut
Hartford Campus
Department of English
Course Description Booklet
Fall 2019

The pages that follow contain section-by-section descriptions of the Department of English undergraduate course offerings for the Fall 2019 semester at the Hartford campus. Prepared by individual instructors, these descriptions are much more precise and detailed than those given in the University Catalog.
General Information: For guidance about courses, majors, and minors, contact any English faculty member or Professor Kneidel, Curriculum Coordinator (gregory.kneidel@uconn.edu); all forms about major and minor requirements can be found at http://advising.english.uconn.edu

Helpful Information for Non-majors and Minors:

- 1000-level courses do not count toward the English major but are terrific introductions to literary study and typically serve GenEd Category 1b or 4.
- If you think you might be interested in an English major, try out a course; if you know you’re set on the major, plan on taking ENGL 2600 as early as possible.
- Non-majors are welcome in all courses (including the 2000-, 3000- and 4000-level); if you have questions, check with an instructor before registering. Following completion of the ENGL 1010/1011 first-year writing requirement, upper-level courses are open to all students.
- The English minor is highly recommended and easy to accomplish: ENGL 2100 or 2101; 2201 or 2203; plus your choice of almost any 3 upper-level courses. For the English Minor requirement of ENGL 2201 or 2203 and ENGL 2100 or 2101, please note that we typically offer one of these classes per semester (Fall 19=ENGL 2101).
- Remember that English courses make great “related field” classes for many other majors. Check with your major advisor for appropriateness of choices.

Helpful Information for Majors:

- Major Requirement A: ENGL 2600 is offered every Spring.
- Major Requirements B and C: We offer a variety of survey and method courses each semester
- Major Requirement D: A single-author course is offered annually (Fall 19=ENGL 3503).
- Major Requirement E: An Advanced Study/Capstone course will be offered in Spring 2020 and then typically every third semester (i.e., Fall 2021). **We do not anticipate offering a capstone course in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.**
- We plan to offer at least one pre-1800 course each semester (Fall 19=ENGL 3503—a double dipper). All plans of study require two pre-1800 classes. Check with your advisor or the coordinator if you have questions.
- Check your catalog year to know your plan of study. Depending on your matriculation year (found in your PeopleSoft account), your total credits for the major may be arranged for between 6 and 9 credits (2-3 regular courses) of electives (Requirement F). Courses that meet a requirement you have already satisfied can count for elective credit. You are able to change your catalog year to have more flexibility to enroll in courses you may be interested in.
- Pre-2017 catalog years limit the number of Advanced Composition or Creative Writing courses that can count for the major.
“W” 1601 RACE, GENDER, AND THE CULTURE INDUSTRY
This course satisfies the following:
• **General Education Requirement:** Content Area Four (USA)

1601W-01  (TuTh 2:00-3:15)  Campbell, Scott
This course explores the cultural construction of race and gender in English-language literature, film, and music. Although the sting of the phrase “culture industry” has diminished over time, the argument that contemporary culture is mass-produced, driven by economic factors, and, through this, largely deceptive is no less relevant today than when it first appeared in the 1940s. We’ll take up this idea to explore the close relationship between “entertainments” and the maintenance of (or perhaps resistance to) constructed categories of race and gender. The first section of the course puts an emphasis on race and particularly African-American explorations of freedom in the post-war through the civil rights era. Writers and musicians in this section include: Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Amiri Baraka, Sun Ra, John and Alice Coltrane, and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). Our second section gives more attention to gender with a focus on depictions of working women (in film, but also in texts from Jhumpa Lahiri, Zadie Smith, PJ Harvey). Our exploration of the present day will include works by Claudia Rankine and Viet Thanh Nguyen with room to explore a contemporary text of your choice. Expect to write two critical essays and frequently contribute to class in the form of brief presentations, forum postings, and in-class writing.

“W” 1616 MAJOR WORKS OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE
This course satisfies the following:
• **General Education Requirement:** Content Area One (Arts & Humanities) and one Writing Competency course

1616W-01  (MWF 11:15-12:05)  Kneidel, Gregory
This is a law and literature-themed, hybrid W-course. Mon and Wed in-person classes will focus on literary analysis and college writing; Fri online sessions (which will include quizzes and discussion boards) will focus on important legal issues and will be facilitated by a robust selection of podcasts and videos. Possible readings include Twain’s *Pudd’nhead Wilson*, Orwell’s *1984*, Okobo’s *Citizen 13660*, and Hamid’s *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*.

1616W-02  (TuTh 12:30-1:45)  Verstandig, Davyne
What does it mean to be human? “The most important task we can set ourselves...is to sustain, articulate, and persevere through literature the essential human values that early in the evolutionary history of our species distinguished us from our higher primate cousins loving kindness, protection of the young, the weak, and the elderly, and consciousness of mortality.... Simply put, we must not be allowed to forget what it is to be human...It is our story tellers, our poets, our novelists and dramatists, who have always performed this task” (Russell Banks “Notes on Literature and Engagement” from *Burn This Book* edited by Toni Morrison); “...the human project is to remain human and to block dehumanization and estrangement of others” (Toni Morrison *The Origin of Others*). Reading, critiquing, and appreciating literature is a way to understand what it means to be human in our sometimes broken and chaotic world. We will
be reading from some of the following writers: Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, Oscar Wilde (De Profundis), or Virginia Woolf (To The Lighthouse), Henry David Thoreau (“Walking”), Henry James (Daisy Miller), Arthur Miller (Focus), James Baldwin (“Sonny’s Blues”) and Toni Morrison (The Bluest Eye).

2101 BRITISH LITERATURE II
This course satisfies the following:

- General Education Requirements: Content Area One (Arts & Humanities)
- English Major Requirements:
  - 2008-2016 Plans: Section B.2 (Survey and Period Course after 1800) or F (Elective courses)
  - 2017 & 2018 Plan: Section B.1 (British Literature) or F (Elective courses)
- Meets one of NEAG’s Secondary Education British Literature requirements
- Meets the British Literature requirement for the English Minor

2101-01   (TuTh 9:30-10:45)    Shea, Tom
This survey of British Literature from 1800 through the Present, will take us on an extensive tour through the last 200+ years of Britain’s finest writing. We will begin with the Romantic Movement of the early 19th century, proceed through the Victorians, meet the Edwardians, engage the Modernists & Post Modernists, and conclude with Contemporary authors of the 21st century.

We will also take full advantage of the Wadsworth Atheneum, exploring links between British Literature and the various artistic masterpieces one-half block away.

Course grades will be based on class participation (40% of your semester grade), occasional in-class writings, a brief mid-term essay, and a medium-length final essay.

Usually, NO FINAL EXAM.

Freshmen Through Seniors Welcome:
Email Thomas.Shea@uconn.edu for a permission number if needed.

2214 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
This course satisfies the following:

- General Education Requirements: Content Area Four (Diversity & Multiculturalism - USA)
- English Major Requirements:
  - 2008-2016 Plans: Section B.3 (Multi-Period, Multi-Cultural, & Ethnic-Lit Courses) or Section F (Elective Courses) and Distribution Requirement 2 (At least one course must concern ethnic or post-colonial literatures in English)
  - 2017 & 2018 Plan: Section B.2 (American Literature) or Section F (Elective courses)
• Meets one of NEAG’s Secondary Education Multicultural Literature requirements
• Meets the Multicultural Literature requirement for the Concentration in Teaching English

2214-01   (TuTh 9:30-10:45)    Verstandig, Davyne
Critical and historical examination of the literature of African American writers from Phyllis
Wheatley to the present. Toni Morrison stated she did not “regard Black literature as simply
books by Black people, or simply as literature written about Black people or simply as
literature that uses a certain mode of language in which you sort of drop g’s. There is
something very identifiable about it and it is my struggle to find that elusive but identifiable
style in the books.” This course will explore the rich traditions of African American literature
in the U.S. We will begin with reading slave narratives (Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs,
Solomon Northup), excerpts from the writings of W.E.B. DuBois, Nell Larson (Passing) and
William Wells Brown (Clotel or The President’s Daughter). We will end the semester with a
focus on Toni Morrison, (God Help the Child), Jesym Ward (Salvage the Bones), Tayari Jones
(An American Marriage), James Baldwin (If Beale Street Could Talk), and Claudia Rankin
(Citizen). Course requirements include class discussion, three essays, mid-term and an
occasional quiz.

2408 MODERN DRAMA
This course satisfies the following:
• General Education Requirements: Content Area One (Arts & Humanities)
• English Major Requirements:
  ○ 2008-2016 Plans: Section C (Methods) or Section F (Elective Courses)
  ○ 2017 & 2018 Plan: Section C (Genre) or Section F (Elective courses)
• Meets one of NEAG’s Secondary Education Genre requirements
• Meets the Genre requirement for the Concentration in Creative Writing

2408-01   (TuTh 3:30-4:45)    Verstandig, Davyne
We will be reading the following: Arthur Miller’s play All My Sons as well as some of his
theatre essays, either a play by Eugene O’Neill or Tennessee Williams and from of Theater of
the Absurd Samuel Beckett’s Waiting for Godot and one act plays of Edward Albee. In
addition, we will read 2 contemporary African American playwrights – Lynn Notage (Sweat)
and Suzan-Lori Parks (In the Blood). I will be asking you to view these plays, as a director
whose task it is to understand and interpret the play. I hope it might be possible to attend at
least one play. Requirements: You will write response for each play after viewing and reading.
There will be a final project.

“W” 2413 THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
This course satisfies the following:
• General Education Requirements: Content Area One (Arts & Humanities) and one
  Writing Competency course
• English Major Requirements:
2008-2018 Plans: Section F (Elective Courses)

2413W-01 (MWF 12:20-1:10) Horn, Jacob
This course will help students understand the medium of comics and how to write about it, beginning with formal discussions of comics structure and language. With those in place, we will move into a brief historical overview, looking at comics from the Golden, Silver, and Bronze ages, before exploring modern comics genres such as literary memoir, science fiction/fantasy, and, of course, superheroes. Students will be expected to write several quality papers with significant scaffolding in preparation and composition, building on our in-class discussions and their own outside research and work. There will be a multimodal project component to the class along with more traditional writing projects, and participation will be expected.

3120 IRISH LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TO 1939
This course satisfies the following:
- General Education Requirement: Content Area Four (Diversity & Multiculturalism – International)
- English Major Requirements:
  - 2008-2016 Plans: Section B.3 (Multi-period, Multi-cultural, & Ethnic Lit) or Section F (Elective Courses) and Distribution Requirement 2 (At least one course must concern ethnic or post-colonial literatures in English)
  - 2017 & 2018 Plan: Section B.3 (Anglophone and Postcolonial Literature) or Section F (Elective Courses)
- Meets one of the requirements for the Concentration in Irish Literature
- Meets NEAG’s Secondary Education International Literature Requirement
- Meets the International Literature requirement for the Concentration in Teaching English

3120-01 (TuTh 12:30-1:45) Shea, Tom
The purpose of this course is to enhance our appreciation of Irish Literature, Film, and Drama. We will center on works from the first half of the twentieth century and then expand our explorations to some contemporary artists. Some of the authors we will engage may include William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, Lady Gregory, Samuel Beckett, Martin McDonagh, Eilis Ni Dhuibhne, and Colum McCann. We will also take full advantage of the Wadsworth Atheneum, exploring links between Irish Literature, Film, Drama and the various artistic masterpieces one-half block away.

Course grades will be based on class participation (40% of your semester grade), occasional in-class writings, a brief mid-term essay, and medium-length final essay.

Usually, NO FINAL EXAM.

Sophomores Welcome: Email Thomas.She@uconn.edu for a permission number.
3503 SHAKEPEARE I
This course satisfies the following:

- **English Major Requirements:**
  - 2008-2018 Plans: Section D (Major Author) or Section F (Elective Courses) and Distribution Requirement I (At least two courses must concern literature written before 1800)
  - Meets one of NEAG’s Secondary Education British Literature requirements

3503-01 (M 6:30-9) Kneidel, Greg
This is a survey of major Shakespearean comedies and tragedies. Requirements include a handful of short papers and a final exam or project. If possible, we will also see a performance at a local Hartford theater.