UConn Stamford English Updates:
Fall 2019 Course Descriptions and Announcements

General Information:

For guidance about courses, majors, and minors, contact any English faculty member or Professor Roden, Curriculum Coordinator, at frederick.roden@uconn.edu
All forms and details about major and minor requirements can be found at http://advising.english.uconn.edu

Helpful Information for Nonmajors:

- 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 2600 as early as possible.
- Non-majors are welcome in advanced courses (including the 3000- and 4000-level); check your preparedness with an instructor before registering if you have questions. Following completion of the Engl 1010/1011 first-year writing requirement, upper-level courses are open to all students. If you encounter difficulty in registering, contact the instructor or Prof. Roden.
- 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.
- 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 and Minors:

- Engl 2600 (Major Requirement A) is offered annually in the Fall semester. A single-author course (Major Requirement D) is offered annually or every third semester. An “advanced study” course (Major Requirement E) is typically offered every third semester.
- We offer at least one pre-1800 course each semester (Engl 2100 this term) All plans of study require two pre-1800 classes. Check with your advisor or the coordinator if you have questions.
- We offer a variety of survey and methods courses each semester (this term Major Requirement B1= Engl 2100; B2=Engl 2203, 2214W; B3=Engl 3318; Major Requirement C: this term Engl 2401). Check your catalog year to know your plan. For the English Minor requirement of Engl 2201 or 2203 and Engl 2100 or 2101, please note that those courses are offered every other year (typically as Fall-Spring two-semester sequences, although there will not be a 2201 or 2203 in Spring 2020, so if you need one to
graduate then with the minor, take 2203 now). Catalog years through 2014 count Engl 3003W (offered this term) as Requirement C2; in later years it is an elective. Pre-2017 catalog years limit the number of Advanced Composition or Creative Writing courses that can count for the major. They also count the following courses offered in Fall 2019 for a diversity requirement: Engl 2214W and Engl 3318.

■ 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.

Special Announcement: The Concentration in Teaching English

The Stamford Campus is now offering the Concentration in Teaching English as part of the major. This can be obtained through five courses that already can count for your major. See https://advising.english.uconn.edu/teaching-english/

This semester we are offering three of the five course requirements:
Engl 3003W (Advanced Expository Writing: W elective)
Engl 3318 (Third-World Literature: survey B3 and elective)
Engl 3422 (Young Adult Literature: elective)

If you are interested in the concentration within your major, consult your advisor and review the courses list, as you may have already met other requirements. These include LING 2010W (The Science of Linguistics), a popular Q course that can serve as a Related Field class for the English major. Engl 3422 is an approved Related Field course for the HDFS major.

For further information, contact Prof. Roden or Inda Watrous, Undergraduate Advisor for English (inda.watrous@uconn.edu).

Course Descriptions

Engl 1503: Introduction to Shakespeare – “Shakespeare: Our Contemporary”
Professor Mark Weisstuch
Fridays 1:25-3:55 p.m.

Shakespeare composed his plays over four centuries ago. Yet they remain vital and provocative, offering multivalent interpretations in both readings and stage presentations. What accounts for their resilience? In this course students will explore six plays: Richard II, Measure for Measure, Macbeth, Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, and The Tempest. We will examine the plays from the perspective of their
poetic components -- their structure, use of imagery, character development and thematic organization -- while recognizing their performance values and stage dynamics. We will pay special attention to the original meaning of the plays and the way their meaning continues to resonate for contemporary readers/viewers. The course will rely on close readings of the plays with the objective of developing a facility in understanding Shakespeare's language.

**Engl 1503 counts for a GenEd Category 1b requirement.**

Engl 1616: Major Works of English and American Literature  
Professor P. Morgne Cramer  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:45 p.m.

English 1616 will focus on “classics” in English and American Literature from the eighteenth century to the present. We will read novels, poetry, plays, and essays. Reading units will be organized by themes, not chronology: (1) manifestos; (2) the quest narrative and bildungsroman; (3) romantic love in literature; (4) revision and stepping out.

Readings are designed to be brief and provide a panoramic sampling of “masterpieces” in English and American literature. You will be introduced to, e.g., the following authors: Gloria Anzaldua, Margaret Atwood, James Baldwin, Toni Cade Bambara, J. M. Coetzee, William Blake, W. E. DuBois, T. S. Eliot, Homer, Judy Grahn, Langston Hughes, James Joyce, Adrienne Rich, Ntozake Shange, George Schuyler, W. B. Yeats, Alice Walker, Virginia Woolf.

Required readings will include:  
*Weight* (Jeanette Winterson)  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (James Baldwin)  
*Disgrace* (J. M. Coetzee)  
*The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (Anne Bronte)  
*Oryx and Crake* (Margaret Atwood)  
*Beloved* (Toni Morrison)

**Engl 1616W counts for a GenEd Category 1b requirement.**

Engl 1701: Creative Writing I  
Professor Fran Shaw  
Fridays 10:10 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

In-class writing experiments will help us write short short stories, poetry, micro-memoir, and humor. Discover unexpected sources of creativity from which words freely flow. Become your own best editor.
For English speakers, the literary production and culture of Britain is the oldest and perhaps the most important tradition of influence. Global literature including cultural output in America has its roots in this history from (before) “Beowulf to Virginia Woolf” (and beyond). This course will provide an introduction to the literary history of Britain (Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration/Enlightenment) to the end of the eighteenth century. As we analyze “canonical” works, we interrogate modern constructions of gender and sexuality, race, religion, ethnicity, dis/ability, and nationhood. We trace these western notions from their original contexts. When we study texts that became the canon (and its borderlands), we explore “what makes a classic.”

*Engl 2100 counts for the English major B1 requirement, elective credit, and pre-1800 distribution; the English minor; and GenEd 1b.*

Engl 2203: American Literature Since 1880
Professor Gregory Pierrot
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45 p.m.

This course will cover American Literature from 1880 to today. In this time the U.S. saw the collapse of Reconstruction and rise of Jim Crow, and grew from being a regional force to becoming a global power. The upheaval and turmoil of these 150 years were announced, echoed and inspired by literature. Our goal in this course will be to gain a better understanding of the developments and trends in American literature throughout that period, exploring their aesthetic and ideological characteristics, reading, analyzing and interpreting a variety of texts. We will discuss what made modern American literature, what ideals and concerns it grappled with, and how it engaged with the national and individual questions of its time, with an emphasis on literature of and about World War I following its 100th anniversary. We will read a variety of fiction, poetry and drama from Henry James to Toni Morrison, Kate Chopin to Sherman Alexie, and consider them against the events and arts of their day.

*Engl 2203 counts for the English major B2 requirement, elective credit, the English minor and GenEd 1b.*
Engl 2214W: African American Literature
Professor Gregory Pierrot
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Black experience in America has been marked by displacement and movement. Forcibly taken from Africa and deported to the New World, black people in the New World built cultures uprooted from Africa yet necessarily tied to it; of the West but not completely in it, in between, in flux. Movement is especially significant for ethnic groups long denied the security of racial and national belonging. Movement both acknowledges and overcomes borders, whether physical or conceptual, and it concretizes networks and communities. According to Paul Gilroy, global black culture is characterized by “long histories of the association of self-exploration with the exploration of new territories.” African American literature overwhelms U.S. borders and is essential to American culture.

In this course we will follow in the steps of African American authors in these explorations, by land, sea and air, from Afrofuturism back to the Middle Passage and back again, from Octavia Butler to Phillis Wheatley and back to Colson Whitehead, tracing the textual itineraries that have made African American literature.

Engl 2214W counts for the English major B2 and elective, the English minor, GenEd 4-USA and GenEd W competency. For pre-2017 catalog years, Engl 2214W satisfies a diversity requirement.

Engl 2401: Poetry
Professor Ira Joe Fisher
Wednesdays 3:35-6:05 p.m.

You are invited to step through the door to a vast meadow called poetry. This course will inspire you to appreciate and to understand the poem. And to develop skill in reading the poem. You will encounter great writing. And great writers. You will read many poems. You will be required to express your thoughts about particular poems in class discussions... and in writing. Together we will consider rhythm, meter, figurative language, imagery, irony, persona, and symbolism.

You will develop confidence to defend your love for a particular poem... or to defend your dislike of it. Good reading will also inspire the foundational sentence for the course’s required writing... and to build upon the good reading, from line to page, from page to point... the remembered thought, carried on the back of honored language, to a memorable end. I encourage you to speak of such things or any things with the same honoring of language; to subdue the moment’s shyness so as to raise expression higher than you ever thought possible. Attend class regularly and complete the assignments fully and conscientiously... to find the light that shines on this worthy pursuit. The poems speak to you and to me.
This course counts toward the English major category C(Methods/Genre) and elective credit, GenEd 1b, and the English minor.

Engl 2413W: The Graphic Novel
Professor Hannelore Moeckel-Rieke
Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-12:40 p.m.

The graphic novel is originally an American art form that has emerged from popular culture, and has enriched the world with superheroes and heroines that provide youth culture around the globe with quasi-mythical figures, but also fuels stereotypes about America. The intriguing combination of image and text has long outgrown the realm of popular fiction, however, and the genre has become a powerful medium for the discussion of a broad range of topics including gender, violence, social class, international conflict and genocide. Authors in countries including Israel, Rwanda, Iran, Colombia and France have used the medium to explore such international issues. Because of the graphic elements, these narratives have also become cutting edge in exploring the boundaries of traditional book and online narrative, raising questions about authorship, literary market and copyright. The course will explore some of the classical and acclaimed graphic novels as well as a selection of online art and explore the social and economic issues connected to these publications. In this interdisciplinary course, we would also be able to interact with a young author of one of these texts.

Engl 2413W counts for elective credit for the English major and minor, GenEd 1b, and GenEd W competency.

Engl 2600: Introduction to Literary Studies
Professor P. Morgne Cramer
Thursdays 5:30-8:00 p.m.

This course introduces students to how literary scholars read, argue, and research. This course is required for all English majors and prepares students with skills fundamental to literary studies. These include close textual readings; basic research tools (e.g., OED, MLA); and literary terminology. Students will also be introduced to different schools of critical theory; genres (e.g., poetry, prose, drama); and major movements in British and American literature.

This course is organized around “classic,” influential statements about the nature and aims of literature and literary studies. Your most important task is to read these essays closely, make meaningful comparisons among these position papers, and respond in writing and in class from your own point of view.

*50% 5 Outlines & abstracts + quotations*
1) author, title -- outline – abstract of main argument -- response/evaluation
2) bring 3-5+ typed quotations to class for each reading

*10% Skills & style exercises
Individual and group work on skills, style, MLA notation: Throughout the class, your group will organize class presentations; assist each other on learning sentence and style mechanics; proofread; and help each other learn new material.

*20% 3 Mini-exams & quizzes

*20% 4-page essay(thesis presented in class)
Your position statement on questions of importance to you in relation to literary studies.

*Engl 2600 is Requirement A for the English major and should be taken as early as possible in progress to degree. It also counts for the English minor.*

English 3003W: Advanced Expository Writing -- Business Writing
Professor Fran Shaw
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.

Writing clear and effective letters, memos, proposals, reports, press releases, and other business documents. Strengthen your proofreading skills for error-free work.

*Engl 3003W counts towards the English major and minor as elective credit and the Concentration in Teaching of English, and satisfies a GenEd W requirement.*

Engl 3318: Literature and Culture of the Third World
Topic: “Global Jewish Literature – Exile and Home”
Professor Frederick Roden
Tuesdays 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Jewish writings from prehistory have been preoccupied with the idea of “home,” a sense of place. The earliest Jewish story in the Bible begins with a quest for a new land. Throughout antiquity, in both expulsions and determined dispersions (the first diasporas, “scatterings across”), Jewish literature has simultaneously looked back and forward: to where one came from and where one was going. To “be” Jewish is an active verb. This narrative is not a simple precursor of some temporal and geographical European relationship to ancient Israel as a foundational culture. Rather, Jewish life has been global beyond the Judean Middle East for more than two millennia, including Africa and Asia as well as the Mediterranean world.

In this course, we will study what it means to create an identity and self whose single constant is complex location. Global Jewish literature (beyond “western”
culture, Europe and North America) encompasses not only ancient Africa and Asia but also Early Modern Latin America and modern Australia. The journeys of diaspora are not limited in origin to the destruction of Jerusalem in the first century of the Common Era, but rather are inherent to Jewish literature, often leading to mixed and conflicted “belongings” across space.

As we study this literature and culture, we will pay particular attention to the tensions of home. Who are my neighbors and how do I relate to them? What is my nation; how must I belong (across time and place) to more than one simultaneously? Where is my home, and where might I feel at home, even if in literary imagination rather than geography? We will compare Jews with other “foreigners” in lands. We will also consider Jewish identity (however it is defined) through an intersectional repertoire, focusing not only on time and place (premodern to postmodern), but also gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, class, language, social change, and especially questions of diversity both within and beyond “peoplehood.”

**Engl 3318 counts for English major B3, for major elective credit, for the English minor and as a GenEd 4-International requirement. For pre-2017 major plans of study, it satisfies a diversity requirement. Engl 3318 may be repeated for credit with a change in topic.**

English 3422: Young Adult Literature
Professor Serkan Gorkemli
Wednesdays 6:20-8:50 p.m.

This course examines literary constructions of adolescence. We will explore questions such as: What constitutes a young adult text? Can or should there be a canon of young adult literature? How does young adult literature cross boundaries of audience and genre? How does young adult literature differ from children’s literature? And how do social and political contexts influence the construction and reception of young adult texts? We will investigate issues of collective and individual identity formation, dimensions of young adult texts (like violence and sexuality) that rupture conventions of children’s literature and kindle censorship, and problems of generic boundaries and border crossings. We will pay particular attention to the origins of young adult literature as a genre, as well as to race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in contemporary books. We will be sensitive to the historical and cultural context for each text. Our readings will include critical and theoretical texts in addition to primary sources. (Note: this is a course in literary criticism rather than pedagogy. Practical classroom applications will not be our main concern.)

**Engl 3422 counts for the English major and minor as an elective, the Concentration in Teaching English, and as a Related Field to the HDFS major.**