

Spring 2019 Graduate Course Offerings

ENGL 603: Bibliography and Research Methods

MW 4:10pm-5:25pm with Dr. Ross

Required for MA Students

Bibliography and Literary Research will introduce you to the research methods you will need to build your scholarly career. You will become familiar with the discipline of textual studies; learn how to build analytical and descriptive bibliographies and how to find and use subject bibliographies; optimize the searching habits through which you locate and evaluate sources; and learn common citational schemes and tools for composing and generating citations. Considerable time will be given to considering the special case of digital resources, databases, and productivity tools; this will include a comprehensive introduction to the digital humanities (the instructor will therefore seek DH certificate accreditation for this course). We will also cover enriching research practices like archival visits, skills workshops, and copyright and permissions access for third-party materials (e.g., images), with a particular eye to locating A&M resources.

You will choose one topic or text, related to your research field and interests, for which you will complete hands-on homework. This homework will require you to try out the techniques that are explained by the day's course reading. Type and print out a short reflection of one single-spaced page that summarizes what you found. Three times during the semester, you will also convert a research paper that you have written (or someone else's) into multiple citational formats and participate in peer grading of these citational conversions. Finally, with one or two partners, you will identify a problem in your field that could be addressed by bibliography and propose a digital project that will enact it. All assignments must be turned in by hard copy (printed out).

ENGL/LING 610: Topics in the History of the English Language (Beowulf)

M 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. Mize

Literature, pre-1880; Language Requirement

This intermediate course in the Old English language and its literature carries forward the work begun in the first semester of ENGL/LING 610. By dedicating an entire semester to the longest surviving poem in the classical Old English poetic meter, successful students will continue to develop their reading ability and linguistic knowledge of Old English; gain a more intimate familiarity with the poetic idiom and aesthetics of Anglo-Saxon England; and join the community of a few tens of thousands of living humans (not a large number, really) who have confronted this tour-de-force poetic performance in its challenging original language.

Considerable attention will continue to be given to reading and translation of Beowulf's 3182 lines, with ongoing linguistic instruction as needed. Literary and cultural topics will arise continually in free discussion.

ENGL 611: Topics in Early Modern Literature and Culture
TR 3:55pm-5:10pm with Dr. Warren

Topics in the history, theory, interpretation of Early Modern literature and culture; may focus on authors, groups of authors, themes, movements, genres, cultural contexts and/or theoretical framing. May be taken three times for credit as content varies.

ENGL 618: Readings in 18th Century British Literature
T 12:45pm-3:45pm with Dr. Ezell
Literature, pre-1800

Wide reading in British literature of the 18th Century; introduction of major figures, genres, and issues in the period; introduction to current critical conversations in 18th Century literary studies, including historical and social contexts.

ENGL 642: Topics in Genre
T 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. O'Farrell

Topics in selected genres and subgenres of literary and cultural production; may focus on historical development and/or context, generic conventions, theoretical approaches. May be taken three times for credit as content varies.

ENGL 650: Readings in 20th and 21st Century Literature and Culture
W 12:40pm-3:40pm with Dr. Johansen

Wide reading in 20th and 21st Century literature; introduction of major figures, genres, and issues in the period; introduction to current critical conversations in modern and postmodern literary studies, including historical and social contexts.

ENGL 653: Topics in 20th and 21st Century Literature and Culture
R 12:45pm-3:45pm with Dr. McWhirter
Concepts, themes; Literature, post-1800

This course will focus on the work of two American women modernist regionalist writers, more or less contemporaneous, whose fictions offer radically different responses to the social modernization processes that transformed both national and regional American cultures in the early twentieth century. Cather and Welty, though often lumped together in traditional accounts of American women's regionalism and American literature, in fact exemplify different modernist aesthetic practices as well as distinct apprehensions of and reactions to historical modernity--changing attitudes towards gender, sexuality, class, race and ethnicity; the new transportation and communication technologies, new media and mass cultural currents (cinema, radio, the popular press), and increasing connection of local, regional cultures to national and

even global economic circuits and mediascapes that were transforming the U.S. and its regions in the early twentieth century. Where Cather increasingly rejects modernity and embraces an ideology exemplified in charged representations of pre-modern cultures (pre-Columbian native cultures or the antebellum south), Welty embraces modernity, mass and consumer culture as means of resistance to and transformation of a traditional southern culture.

In particular, the course will focus on issues of gender and sexuality in these two writers' fictions, written mostly in the first half of the twentieth century during a period when traditional gender norms and roles, and accepted scripts and narratives of sexual experience and development, were undergoing significant challenges and transformations. We will, in each case, consider the complex ways in which the author's concerns with issues of gender and sexuality (the position of the woman writer in modernism; Cather's queerness and conservative anti-feminism; Welty's status as a single woman in the south and career-long interrogation of overdetermined southern gender roles) are intertwined with questions of race and ethnicity. The reading list include Cather's *My Antonia*, *One of Ours*, *A Lost Lady*, *The Professor's House*, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, and *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*, and Welty's *A Curtain of Green and Other Stories*, *The Wide Net and Other Stories*, *Delta Wedding*, *The Golden Apples*, *The Bride of the Innisfallen and Other Stories*, and *Losing Battles*.

ENGL 665: Topics in Cultural/Interdisciplinary Studies (Literature and Science Studies)
F 12:40pm-3:40pm with Dr. Howell

This course will use contemporary critical debates in interdisciplinary literature and science studies to frame our reading of the key literary texts that galvanize these debates. We will read about the history of specific fields, including astronomy, geology, anthropology, biology and medicine, and discuss how these histories inform literary scholarship and methodologies. In addition, students will practice interdisciplinary research methods by investigating primary texts from the sciences and applying their insights to the close analysis of literary works.

ENGL 667: Topics in the History and Theory of Rhetoric
M 12:40pm-3:40pm with Dr. J. DiCaglio
Theory

Issues and topics in the history and theory of rhetoric; may focus on rhetorical analysis of literature and other written and oral texts; theoretical issues in rhetoric and culture; social and historical contexts for rhetorical analysis; historical periods, themes, methods or genres. May be taken three times for credit as content varies.

ENGL 681: Placement Seminar
T 4:00pm-5:00pm with Dr. Jackson

Presentations by faculty, students and visiting scholars based on current research. May be repeated for credit.

ENGL 683: Topics in Theory (Poststructuralism and After)
R 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. Griffin

Paul De Man once clarified what he meant by theory: it was the movement that began with the introduction of linguistic terminology. He was referring to the methodological revolution that Ferdinand de Saussure's linguistics had brought about in fields such as poetics, anthropology, psychoanalysis, Marxism, history, and philosophy. The conceptual language that emerges from the encounter of linguistics with these disparate fields should be understood as a technical vocabulary that has been indispensable to the production of critical insights about the nature of language, culture, and the human subject. Loosely unified by overlapping concerns, this critical tradition is frequently referred to as "poststructuralism."

This course offers the student both a conceptual vocabulary, and a historical perspective on a methodological tradition that touched nearly every aspect of twentieth-century thought in the humanities and social science. The historical sequence functions not simply as a survey, but itself constitutes a critical perspective on each writer by understanding their antecedents and their subsequent reception. The student should emerge from the course with a broad knowledge of the contemporary critical tradition and the ability to recognize and employ concepts and methodologies.