

## **Spring 2020 Graduate Course Offerings**

### **ENGL 604: Topics in Digital Research TR 3:55pm-5:10pm with Dr. Earhart**

This is a course that will introduce graduate students to the digital humanities. A broad area of scholarly research, this course will focus on data analysis, digital textual studies, and cultural digital humanities, with a particular focus on race and gender. This course asks students to grapple with these crucial issues by tracing the historical development, theoretical roots, and emergent trends of digital scholarship within literary studies. Reading broadly through a range of historical and contemporary digital literary texts, we will develop a working definition of the field and reach an understanding of current scholarly areas of investigation. Students will examine several case studies and will complete a hands-on project that emphasizes both applied and theoretical approaches to digital humanities. In addition, the course will require students to write a traditional research paper.

### **ENGL 613: Readings in Early Modern Literature T 12:45pm-3:45pm with Dr. Perry**

Wide reading in English literature of the Early Modern period; introduction of major figures, genres, and issues in the period; introduction to current critical conversations in Early Modern literary studies, including historical and social contexts.

### **ENGL 638: Topics in 18th and 19th Century British Literature and Culture (Literary Environments in the Very Long Eighteenth Century) R 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. Ezell**

This seminar takes a book history approach, in its widest sense, to investigating the reading and writing environments created by competing literary media forms from the late seventeenth century through the early nineteenth century. Focusing in part on media shifts—oral / scribal / print—we will also consider how such media changes have been conceptualized using present-day discussions of print/ digital texts and their related reading practices; we will consider whether the scholarship of media can offer a new lens through which to explore 18th-century literary ecologies. We will consider literary environments not normally associated with the eighteenth century, such as interactive media, multimedia, silent reading and social reading, and texts not typically associated with the literary history of the period, including fan fiction and juvenilia. Finally, the course will also consider the limitations of new media models of authorship and reading, and will start with the simple question of what happens when we switch from reading a modern print format to the media contemporary of the times? What is the impact of using digital surrogates or using archival materials? based on your own experiences with reading materials on-line and at Cushing Library.

**ENGL/COMM 655: Contemporary Theories of Rhetoric**  
**W 12:40pm-3:40pm with Dr. DiCaglio**

Investigation of the major figures in rhetorical theory in the 20th and 21st centuries; analysis of the relationship between rhetoric and power; identifying new challenges for rhetoric in global, multicultural, technological age. May be repeated for credit.

**ENGL/FILM 658: Topics in Film History (Early Cinema & the Invention of Modern Life)**  
**R 12:45pm-3:45pm with Dr. McWhirter**

Focused on films dating from the origin of motion pictures in the late nineteenth century to the end of the silent period (roughly 1930), this course will examine the ways in which early cinematic productions simultaneously symptomatize, thematize, and shape modern culture and society. The rapid emergence of the movies as the dominant medium of the twentieth century is in part a reflection of the medium's entanglement with the rapid historical, social, scientific and technological developments that shaped modernity. Cinema, for example, was both an example and a reflection of a historical moment marked by the rise of multiple new technologies. The movies are closely tied to the increasing urbanization of ordinary lives, to the new experiences of time and space that big cities imposed on human subjects; indeed the movies helped make new forms of experience possible, helped structure new forms of distraction, attention, and consciousness—new ways of seeing and being in a newly structured or (some felt) fragmented world. What does it mean for our thinking about modern subjectivity that cinema and psychoanalysis come into being simultaneously? How do the movies both portray and produce changing understandings of gender, sexuality, and race, new modes of embodiment and abstraction? How does our perhaps first genuinely global medium—because of the absence of spoken dialogue, the silent film quickly achieved an unprecedented range and rapidity of international distribution—both contribute to and comment on the rapid globalization taking place in social, economic, and cultural spheres? Along with regular weekly viewings of a representative range of silent-era films from various national cinemas, work for the class will include extensive readings focused on the history of early film, and on the history, theory and analysis of cinema's relations to modernity. We'll also pay some attention to interactions between early cinema and literary/aesthetic modernism. The main work for the class will be a 20-25 page term paper.

**ENGL 669: Topics in African American and Africana Literature and Culture**  
**TR 11:10am-12:25pm with Dr. Collins**

This class will explore the theory and practice of African American and Africana literature, keeping in mind the fact that when an author begins to write, they have in mind ideas of what is to be produced that are informed by existing or incipient traditions.. African American and Africana literature has been formed in a special crucible of theory because it was not always thought possible that people of African descent could produce literature. Rather than allow themselves to be confined by other people's historiographies and aesthetics, writers of African descent have often sought to craft either their own counter-historiographies and counter-aesthetics or to write within existing traditions as a demonstration of equality.

In this class, we will explore some of the interrelationships between key texts by American writers and thinkers, and writers and thinkers from elsewhere in the African diaspora as they make choices between crafting counter-aesthetics and counterhistoriographies.

**ENGL 670: Topics in Latino/a Literature and Culture**  
**W 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. Mills**

Topics in the history, theory, interpretation of Latino/a 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 671: Readings in American Literature to 1900**  
**F 12:40pm-3:40pm with Dr. Dworkin**

Wide reading in American literature from its beginnings through the 19th Century; introduction of major figures, genres, and issues in the period; introduction to current critical conversations in pre-1900 American literary studies, including historical and social contexts.

**ENGL 673: Topics in Transnational Literature and Culture**  
**M 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. Tuhkanen**

Topics in theory and interpretation of transnational literature and culture; may focus on definitions of the transnational; on the relationships between the transnational and the global; on methods for study; on new configurations of literature and culture. May be taken three times for credit as content varies.

**ENGL/WGST 680: Theories of Gender**  
**T 6:00pm-9:00pm with Dr. Reddy**

Theories of gender, sexualities, feminism, embodiment, and difference with particular focus on their relationship to literary and cultural studies; emphasis on contemporary theoretical positions, discourses, and debates.

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

This course is designed to prepare you for the job search, primarily through guided preparation of the documents typically required (CV, cover letter, teaching statement, etc.). The course will also expose you to strategies beyond those involved in document preparation, such as asking you to consider what kind of job best reflects your strengths and interests, and how to identify what and where those jobs might be. Students should bear in mind that job seeking is often a complicated and frustrating process. This seminar aims to give you the tools to persevere in the search as you make incremental improvements to materials and planning for what may be a multiyear or repeated application cycle.

**ENGL 695: Publication and Professionalization**  
**M 12:40pm-3:40pm with Dr. Howell**

This course, for advanced doctoral students in English, focuses on how to publish scholarly writing. Students will learn how to choose a journal, how to navigate the publication process, and how to create helpful writing practices. We will consider the differences between articles and dissertation chapters and between the dissertation and the book. We will also examine how to write effective abstracts and book proposals. A substantial portion of the course will be devoted to workshopping student articles, with an eye toward producing and submitting publishable work. We will also consider other elements of professionalization, as determined by student interest.