

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2018

MASTER'S LEVEL

EGL 506.01 (94423) Studies in Literary Theory

Prerequisite: Enrollment in an English Graduate Programs, or Composition Studies Certificate Program

This course will explore works of contemporary literary theory and the array of critical concepts that animate them: embodiment, materiality, sexuality, power, representation, affect, and communication, to name only a few. The goal of this course, therefore, is not only to expose students to a range of recent literary and cultural theory, but also to give students the opportunity to fashion their own critical vocabularies or ways of interpreting texts, systems, and lived experiences. We will read literary criticism (for example, Caroline Levine, Lauren Berlant, Edward Said, Rita Felski, Rob Nixon, Sarah Brouillette, and Mark McGurl) as well as cultural and critical theory (for example, Sara Ahmed, Melinda Cooper, Paul Preciado, Lisa Lowe, Paul Amar, Anna Tsing, and Wendy Brown). Collectively, we will also generate an archive of sharable/teachable short works of fiction, TV episodes, podcast episodes, memes, news stories, and commercials that will help us illustrate and ground critical concepts in everyday texts.

LEC 01

WEDNESDAY

5:30-8:20

JUSTIN JOHNSTON

EGL 584.01 (88829) Topics in Genre Studies: Literature of 9/11

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA, Ph.D. or MAT Programs

This course will examine the literature of 9/11 with respect to four criteria: trauma, domestication, binarism, and representation. We will begin by exploring the degree to which 9/11 functions as cause or confirmation of trauma in fiction (e.g., Don DeLillo's *Falling Man*, Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, Jess Walter's *The Zero*). We then will turn to examples of works that approach 9/11 by way of indirection, specifically by way of domestic arrangements (e.g., Ken Kalfus's *A Disorder Peculiar to the Country*, Anita Shreve's *A Wedding in December*, Helen Schulman's *A Day at the Beach*, Jay McInerney's *The Good Life*.) From there we will consider the portrayal of the Islamic Other in works written by Muslim authors (e.g., Laila Halaby's *Once in a Promised Land*, Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Shaila Abdulla's *Saffron Dreams*) and non-Muslim authors (e.g., John Updike's *Terrorist*, Andre Dubus III's *The Garden of Last Days*, Amy Waldman's *The Submission*). Finally, we will explore the limits of language, as portrayed in novels that query the efficacy of words at a time when the government is opportunistically manipulating words (e.g., Lynn Sharon Schwartz's *The Writing on the Wall*, Paul Auster's *Man in the Dark*) and extending to those artifacts that presume from the outset that words alone are insufficient to convey the enormity of 9/11 (e.g., Art Spiegelman's *In the Shadow of No Powers*, Scott Blake's *9/11 Flipbook*, and Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colón's *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation*). Time permitting, we will examine some of the (relatively few) novels devoted to the war in Iraq (e.g., Kevin

Powers's *The Yellow Birds*, David Abrams's *Fobbit*, Ben Fountain's *Billy Flynn's Long Halftime Walk*) in order to consider the question of why the longest military conflict in US history has resulted in the publication of so very few works of fiction to date. NOTE: The titles listed above are intended as a sampling of the works that address the issues the course will cover; a final list of assigned texts will be available over the summer.

LEC 01 MONDAY 5:30-8:20 STACEY OLSTER

EGL 585.01 (94424) Topics in Cultural Studies: What is culture and how do we study it?

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA, Ph.D. or MAT Programs

This course is an introduction to the concepts and currents of the field of Cultural Studies. As such the class will be divided into sections based on a non-exhaustive set of genres of cultural artifact: 1) novel; 2) comics; 3) TV, film, and video); 4) Painting and Photography; 5) Performance; 6) Poetry. Each genre will be further divided into two distinct but highly contested categories: high culture and mass culture. Together we will read/watch two texts from each genre: one each from the high and low categories. Students will choose a genre to write about, and then further their scholarly reading in that particular genre, ultimately producing a final presentation and paper that analyses their chosen texts with a selection of applicable cultural theory. An edited anthology of cultural theory, and the generic exemplars for each section, will be required texts.

LEC 01 THURSDAY 5:30-8:20 MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN

EGL/WRT 592.01 (81808) Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA, Ph.D. or MAT Programs or Composition Studies Certificate Program

Advanced study of theories and approaches to the teaching of writing. Building on the understanding that writing is a recursive process (a cycle of planning, drafting, revising, and editing), students learn to analyze and problem-solve issues that become barriers for effective writing and communication. Students learn to understand and differentiate rhetorical, ethical, social justice, and political issues surrounding the mentoring of writers. There is extensive analysis of the differences among various approaches, debates, and ethical issues in a variety of rhetorical contexts and courses that involve writing. This course is designed for those who are, or will be, teaching courses that involve writing.

SEM 01 TUESDAY 5:30-8:20 PATRICIA DUNN

EGL 598 **Thesis Research**

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA

Writing a master's thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. Instructor permission and Graduate Director approval required. **Students who plan to take EGL 598 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

EGL 599 **Independent Study**

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA or Ph.D. programs

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Program Director. English majors only. Instructor permission and Graduate Program Director approval required. **Students who plan to take EGL 599 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

DOCTORAL LEVEL

EGL 600.01 (88484) Pro-Seminar: The Discipline of Literary Studies

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor

Pro-seminar: Introduction to critical analysis, including theoretical and methodological approaches, and an orientation to the profession both in the academy and other careers. Faculty members will speak on their own scholarship and professional experiences.

SEM 01 TUESDAYS 1:00-3:50 BENEDICT ROBINSON

EGL 606.01 (94425) Period and Tradition: Postcolonial Environmentalisms: Ecocriticism and World Literature

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor

This course explores the literary and cultural representations of what Elizabeth DeLoughrey has called “the postcolonial turn in the dominant fields of American and British ecocriticism” and what the environmental historians Alfred Crosby and Richard Grove have termed “ecological imperialism”— the historical embedment of ecology and the natural world in the Western imperial enterprise. By examining world literature from regions and countries of North America and the global south (Anglophone Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands, including Hawaii), we will explore how contemporary writers and artists from these regions represent environmental experience and depict place (home and origins) as fundamentally linked to the natural world in the contexts of colonialism and imperialism, postcolonialism (the aftermath of colonization), and diaspora (the global movement and refugeeism of people from the global south who are called “environmental migrants”). We will examine how these writers and artists critique current environmental crises, and their models of postcolonial environmentalisms and sustainability. We will investigate these concerns in relation to questions at the intersections of gender, sexuality, and race as they apply to discourses in eco-politics, environmental activism, and the social remembering of violence and human and nonhuman casualties that have occurred under colonialism, empire, and the aftermath of imperial enterprises. Some topics to be explored include epistemologies of nature, land and identity in the wake of forced relocation and displacement, theorizing human/nonhuman relations, the militarized environment, plantation monoculture, and the Anthropocene (our current epoch when human activities started to have a significant global impact on Earth’s geology and ecosystems). The course will address these and other topics through six world regions: India (South Asia), Africa, Caribbean, Hawaii, Asia, and North America.

SEM 01 THURSDAYS 1:00-3:50 JEFFREY SANTA ANA

EGL 608.01 (88831) Relations of Literature and Other Disciplines: Joyce and the Graveyard of Digital Empires

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor

A survey of digital media scholarship from 1970 to 2000 that takes as its focal point Joyce's 1922 novel, *Ulysses*—one of the most influential literary works of the 20th century—this seminar investigates major theories of media and literature in relation to the emergence of electronic media technologies. Drawing upon critical theory, media history, and specific artistic and scholarly projects in old and new media, the course asks how and why Joyce came to be used as a defining figure of the "golden age" of hypertext theory: both an exemplary artist and an ultimate editorial challenge. Of special interest to the course is the fate of scholarly projects that took Joyce as their subject, for the challenges of sustainability that the first wave of digital scholarly projects encountered—challenges that reflect on more general problems of preservation in the digital environment, like data corruption, memory failures, and link rot—give rise to important questions about loss, failure, and memory in the history of the digital humanities. Themes that the course explores include hypertext theory, poststructuralist theory, electronic scholarly projects, histories of computing, histories of the book, concepts of the "social text," and the history of predictions about the fate of traditional written forms in an electronic world. Authors and works include James Joyce, Marshall McLuhan, Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, George Landow, Jay David Bolter, Hans Walter Gabler, Michael Groden, Jerome McGann, and interactive digital texts.

SEM 01 MONDAY 1:00-3:50 J. ELYSE GRAHAM

EGL/WRT 614.01 (88491) Topics in Composition and Writing: Rhetor Response Theory
Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or Compositional Studies Certificate program.

This course (offered only online in fall 2018) crosses disciplinary boundaries in pursuit of theories that do not occupy a stable home in any one field, including reader-response criticism, ethical literary criticism, affordance theory, speech act theory, and autoethnography. Our aim is to develop working approaches to the question of what "literary" texts (broadly conceived) do rhetorically and, especially, what might be done with them pedagogically beyond interpretive treatments common to postsecondary and secondary classrooms. The backdrop consists of complicated politics between English and Composition Studies, as well as institutional labor issues and the burgeoning Writing about Writing movement. Course materials also derive from Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Ecological Psychology, and Cognitive Science. Assignments include low-stakes reading responses, autoethnographic research and writing, student-led workshops, and a final project. This course promises to be useful to English or Composition scholars seeking to expand their theoretical and pedagogical repertoires, and potentially to anyone interested in exploring how (unconventional) things are and can be done with literary texts.

SEM 30 FLEX ONLINE PETER KHOST

EGL 615 Independent Study

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA, Ph.D. or MAT Programs or permission of instructor

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Program Director. English majors only. Instructor permission and Graduate Director approval required. **Students who plan to take EGL 615 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

EGL 690 Directed Readings

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor

For G4 students studying for exams and working on the Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 690 (Directed Readings) must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permissions to enroll.

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EGL 695.01 (80985) Methods of Teaching English

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor

TUT 01

STAFF

EGL 697.01 (80986) Practicum in Teaching Literature

Prerequisite: English teaching assistants only

TUT 01

STAFF

EGL 699 Dissertation Research on Campus

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. Program or permission of instructor

Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab. Fall, Spring, and Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 699 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate**

Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

EGL 700 Dissertation off Campus Domestic

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5)

Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 700 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

EGL 701 Dissertation off Campus International

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5)

Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan. International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed. International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if the other plan is deemed comparable. All international students must receive clearance from an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. **Students who plan to take EGL 700 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form at the English department website. Full-time students need 9 credits. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

IF YOU PLAN TO REGISTER FOR EGL 599, 615, 690, 699, 700 or 701, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH A FACULTY MEMBER WHO IS TEACHING. DO NOT REGISTER WITH SOMEONE WHO IS ON LEAVE. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE REGARDING NEEDED FORMS AND PERMISSIONS.