

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2020

MASTER'S LEVEL

EGL/WRT 506.01 Studies in Literary Theory: Queer Ecologies: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and the Environment in Literature and Culture

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

This graduate seminar uses ecocriticism and queer theory as its critical lens to explore the concept of queer ecologies in relation to race, gender, sexuality, and the environment in recent literature and culture. As understood and defined in ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, the term queer ecology refers to interdisciplinary scholarly practices that reimagine nature, biology, and sexuality in light of queer theory. As Catriona Sandilands explains, “queer ecology currently highlights the complexity of contemporary biopolitics [as conceptualized by Michel Foucault], draws important connections between the material and cultural dimensions of environmental issues, and insists on an articulatory practice in which sex and nature are understood in light of multiple trajectories of power and matter” (“Queer Ecology” in *Keywords for Environmental Studies*). Queer ecology upends and resists heterosexist concepts of nature and the natural, drawing from a diverse array of disciplines, including the natural and biological sciences, environmental justice, ecofeminism, and queer studies. At its heart, queer ecology deconstructs various hierarchical binaries and dichotomies that exist particularly within Western human notions of nature and culture. This seminar examines literature and prose (fiction and nonfiction), films, TV shows, and comics/graphic narrative that feature a variety of modern and contemporary representations of human and nonhuman or more-than-human relations in the context of race, gender, sexuality, and the environment. We will examine and explore cultural works (our course’s textual and visual materials) through a queer ecologies critical lens to reimagine nature, biology, and sexuality in light of queer theory. Our goal will be to produce new critical understandings through the lenses of ecocriticism and queer theory as we read and discuss the cultural works for our class. By the end of this course, you should be able to: 1) Understand the methods of and major debates within ecocriticism and queer theory; 2) efficiently locate and comprehend the main arguments in a scholarly work; 3) analyze a variety of cultural works (both textual and visual) from our course’s critical/theoretical perspectives; 4) engage in an intellectually productive and collaborative manner with your fellow seminar members; and 5) produce your own quality scholarly work that both reflects and expresses your own unique voice.

LEC 01

TUESDAY

6:30-9:20 (ONLINE)

JEFFREY SANTA ANA

EGL 584.01 Topics in Genre Studies: Poetic Criticism

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Graduate Program

"The Romantics and their Descendants," beginning with Wordsworth and moving through Byron, Keats, Arnold, Tennyson, Browning, Hopkins and into the twentieth century, concluding with the multi-faceted work of Tony Harrison. The through-lines of the course will be the extended autobiographical or first-person poem, and the sonnet, as they change shape over time. Intrinsic to the discussion will be the changing notion of the language(s) of poetry.

Harrison makes a rich conclusion because he is a northern poet, like Wordsworth, but the issues of class and empire are far sharper in his work. From a largely uneducated background he becomes a classicist, translating Aeschylus for a brilliant National Theatre production, and a writer in residence at the Metropolitan Opera, translating Janacek; his translations and adaptations of Molière (The Misanthrope) and of Racine (Phaedra Britannica) were theatrical successes. He teaches in Africa, travels to Cuba, lives in Prague, Florida, and New York, and wins the inaugural Pinter prize for his political outspokenness. The talk he gave on the occasion is titled "The Inky Digit of Defiance." He is British--he is international. He is a poet--he is a maker of films for television.

LEC 01

MONDAY

6:05-8:55 (ONLINE)

PETER MANNING

EGL 585.30 Topics in Cultural Studies: Victorian Literature & Science

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Graduate Program

This course examines the Victorians' electric, mind-altering fascination with science by sampling poetry and fiction throughout the period. The rise of science marked a radical reorganization of the world—material, psychic, and religious—impacting every element of intellectual life and culture. Central to our purposes will be the technology of the realist novel. We will think carefully about the novel's investment in controlled observation, detection, and the defamiliarization of the everyday. In addition, we will look at innovations in poetics and versification, life writing, and social commentary. Rather than simply apply scientific "contexts" to literary "texts," we will attempt close readings of both scientists and non-scientists, tracing their shared structures of thought, feeling, and belief. Key concerns include the growth of medical and sexual knowledge, new categories of race, gender, and ethnographic difference, the threat of religious apostasy and the problem of moral and social decline.

LEC 30

FLEX

ONLINE

MICHAEL TONDRE

EGL/WRT 592.01 Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Graduate Program 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

THURSDAY

6:30-9:20(ONLINE)

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 Pro-Seminar: The Discipline of Literary Studies

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

This course provides an introduction to graduate studies in English--at Stony Brook and at this moment in the history of the profession. We will survey various historical and emerging approaches to literary study, including textual criticism, the history of the book, critical race theory, affect theory, digital humanities, public humanities and more. Faculty members from English and closely related departments will speak on their own scholarship, methodologies and professional experiences. Students will analyze and practice some of genres of academic writing they will produce during their graduate careers, including abstracts, conference papers, blogs, seminar papers, articles and proposals for various purposes. Regular participation and in-class presentations, several short papers, one longer paper and one "conference" presentation are required.

SEM 01 TUESDAY 1:15-4:05(IN PERSON) SUSAN SCHECKEL

EGL 608.01 Period and Tradition: Theories of World Literature & Global Culture

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

This course tracks the formation of world literature as a discipline, while considering how comparison underwrites the very idea of global culture. Our objectives in this seminar will be twofold. The first part of the course will focus on the intertwined history of world and comparative literature, surveying foundational texts in the field. The second part will address four major axes of critical debate facing world literature in the present moment: 1) Methods of comparison and translation, 2) Studies of the global, postcolonial, and non-western, 3) The cultural turn and the changing status of the "literary," and 4) The place of world literature within institutional spaces and disciplinary systems. Readings include selections from: Apter, Auerbach, Bakhtin, Benjamin, Casanova, Cheah, Chow, Damrosch, Eagleton, Felski, Glissant, Goethe, Jameson, Kristeva, Moretti, Ngũgĩ, Palumbo-Liu, Posnett, Said, Saussy, Wellek, Zhou & Tong.

SEM 01 MONDAY 1:00-3:50 (IN PERSON) TIMOTHY AUGUST

EGL 611.01 Critical Theory: Bakhtin, Benjamin, and Barthes

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

Not just "the three B's". Three very different critics, one Russian, one German, one French, all concerned in their own way with the relationship of an individual text to the culture in which it emerged. We may say Marxist, Frankfurt School, and (post)structuralist, but all three are distinctive writers who escape confinement in the theories with which they are associated. Two papers, and short responses throughout the term.

SEM 01

THURSDAY

1:15-4:05(ONLINE)

PETER MANNING

EGL/WRT 614.01 Topics in Composition and Writing:

Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or Advanced Graduate Certificate in Teaching Writing program and completion of either EGL/WRT 592 or WRT/EGL 698.

SEM 30

FLEX

ONLINE

MICHELLE WHITTAKER

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.

STAFF

EGL 695.01 Methods of Teaching English

Prerequisite: Permission in English Ph.D. program AND permission of instructor

TUT 01

STAFF

EGL 697.01 Practicum in Teaching Literature

Prerequisite: English teaching assistants only

TUT 01

STAFF

EGL 699 Dissertation Research on Campus

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5)

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.