

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2025

EGL 506.30: Studies in Literary Theory

From the classical period to our present, the story of literary criticism and theory is, in the end, really all about you, the advanced literature student. It can tell us why you study what you study, how you can study it better, and how the literature we are so eager to understand shapes us as people. Put another way: this class will be about how literature and various other forms of writing enable us to think and act. And so, the class will serve as an introduction to advanced techniques of criticism and interpretation. We will pursue the topic with the help of a textbook reader in literary and cultural studies. From there, variety will be our goal, as we will discuss poems, dialogues, letters, essays, journalism, film, documentaries, and an array of musical genres. The readings for this course will be very manageable.

Prerequisite: Matriculation in a graduate program or the composition studies certificate.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes; Cross-listed as WRT 506

LEC 30

Online

E. WERTHEIMER

EGL 509.01: Studies in Language and Linguistic
Translation Studies

This module explores how translation has been conceived throughout history and it focuses on how translation practices impact and relate to theory. Students will develop a good knowledge and practice of different types of translation – including interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic translation –, and grasp the ethical dilemmas that translating entails.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT or Composition Studies Certificate programs.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

LEC 01

T 5:00-7:50 PM

S. BRIONI

EGL 585.01: Topics in Culture Studies
Television Studies

How does television shape our views of the world and our relation to it? What role has television played and what role does it still play in the formation of communities? And what do we, the viewers, do when we tune in? Do we simply accept the medium's inherent promise of viewing (vision) far (tele), or can we also imagine more

reflexive, critical viewing practices that will really help us to view farther, and to become more ethical viewing subjects?

The course addresses both the theory and practice of televisual culture, including such practical considerations as programming, policies, ownership, and institutionalization, as well as theoretical issues surrounding ideology, politics, narrative, and critique. We will address debates in television and media studies about the role TV has played in the shaping of our communities (whether local, national, or global) as well as our ideas about good citizenship and civil society. In doing so, this course will also familiarize students with the origins and foundational concerns of the discipline of Cultural Studies.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

LEC 01

W 5:00-7:50 PM

T. AUGUST

EGL 585.02:

Topics in Culture Studies

Black Cultural Studies

What does Blackness look and feel like? How do Black cultural producers convey anxieties about the world, our social experience, and human existence through film, literature, and theory? In this course, we will explore how Black cultural producers like Hortense Spillers, Christina Sharpe, bell hooks, Fred Moten, and Kara Walker (to name a few) express the condition/ feeling of Black life. We will read classic and emergent scholarship in Black cultural studies in order to chart the genealogy of the field, as well as explore how Black culture helps us theorize (among other things): historical consciousness, political transformation, the triangulation of the human/non-human/otherly human, and interpersonal and institutional antagonisms along the lines of race, class, gender, sexuality, dis/ability, and other axes of power, difference, and belonging. In the end, this course serves as an interdisciplinary study of the historical and contemporary importance of Black cultural studies in helping us engage entrenched forms of marginalization and state-sanctioned violence as well as proffer tactics and modes of living and imagining otherwise.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

LEC 02

ONLINE

C. OSADEME

EGL 586.30:

Topics in Gender Studies

Ecofeminism, Environmental Justice, Literature and Film

Ecofeminism, Environmental Justice, Literature and Film: In this class we will read essays on ecofeminism and environmental racism, and read contemporary literature

and watch films focused on environmental issues. We will study current environmental issues: toxic and radioactive pollution, climate change, animal rights, food justice, environmental justice, and ecofeminism. Students will give a presentation, create an annotated bibliography, and write a long essay.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

LEC 30

ONLINE

H. HUTNER

EGL 587.01: Topics in Race, Ethnic Studies

"Echoes of Empire: Colonialism, Postcolonialism, and Neocolonialism in Caribbean Literature"

This course takes students on an adventure into the rich and complex literary landscape of the Caribbean, focusing on the themes of colonialism, postcolonialism, and neocolonialism. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students will explore how Caribbean literature reflects and critiques the historical and ongoing impacts of colonial rule, the struggle for postcolonial identity, and the challenges posed by neocolonial influences. Students will engage with a diverse range of texts, including novels, poetry, essays, and oral traditions, alongside key theoretical works by influential thinkers such as Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. The course will cover topics such as language and creolization, migration and diaspora, and the role of race and ethnicity in shaping Caribbean narratives.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

LEC 01

R 5:00-7:50 PM

N. YOUNG

EGL 592.02: Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition

This course explores the iterative nature of writing pedagogies through both theory and practice. Throughout the term, we will engage in inquiry-based writing that is grounded in generative practices such as freewriting and metacognitive approaches, leading to longer pieces that are revised and presented to the class for feedback, discussion, and community building. In particular, we will generate a variety of individual and collaborative writing pieces, including personal narratives, multimodal pieces, and hybrid essays. Since this is a course that centers the teaching of writing, we will also generate pieces that explore teacher and student identities and discuss at length how writing can be used to develop critical literacies and critical consciousness.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT or Composition Studies Certificate programs.

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

LEC 01

M 5:00-7:50 PM

I. JIMÉNEZ

EGL 598:

Thesis Research

Writing a master's thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. Students who plan to take **EGL 598 must fill out the appropriate form from the Department of English website**. 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.

TUT

STAFF

EGL 600.01:

The Discipline of Lit Studies

Over the past decades, as English studies have increasingly embraced interdisciplinary approaches, the status of the discipline has been challenged. However, the effort to reevaluate the scope of English is not a recent development. Since the emergence of cultural studies and postcolonial studies as theoretical focuses in English programs in the late 1980s, scholars in English and literary studies have been expanding their inquiry beyond literary texts to examine socio-cultural phenomena, issues, and discourses. This seminar will begin with a reading of selected formative texts in literary and critical theory to understand the history of the discipline. It will then trace the evolution of English studies and explore its connections with other fields in the humanities and cultural studies, such as area studies, translation studies, gender studies, ethnic studies, and newer trends like affect theory, creolization theory, and relational theory. The seminar's primary goal is to explore literary, cultural, and critical theory as tools for teaching and research.

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

SEM 01

T 12:30-3:20 PM

E. K. TAN

EGL 603.01:

Problems in Lit Theory & Criticism

Literature, Memory, and Environment

This course focuses on some of the ways in which contemporary literature represents the environmental changes and losses that have already occurred, that are upon us, and those in the future. By reading history and criticism as well as narrative and

nonfictional prose, we will examine environmental experience and literary depictions of the environment as features of remembering in the contexts of postcolonialism and decolonization, human migration and diaspora, and gender and sexuality (queer) studies. We will address why and how the study of memory in literature and criticism enables us to consider environmental crisis as an injustice of colonial oppression, imperialism, poverty, and social marginalization. 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 collective memory of violence and human casualties that have occurred under colonialism, imperialism, and militarist and capitalist processes of extraction. Some of the questions we will address are: how do literary representations of environmental crisis and catastrophe help us to recover the suppressed bodies of colonial violence and extractivism? How do these writings “remember” centuries of Western imperialism as a decolonization critique of environmental degradation—of an environmental crisis caused by global climate change that is largely the consequence of Western powers? Environmentalist scholars have asked us to consider the elusive effects of climate change and ecological catastrophe, but how do we critically assess environmental crises that evade historical contexts in imperialism and span beyond readily imagined temporal periods? In what ways can our grief, memory, and memorialization drive visions and enactments of alternative futures? The course will address these and other questions through four thematic units: 1) Theorizing Memory in Literature and Environmental Criticism; 2) Memory and the Natural World in Postcolonial and Decolonial Contexts; 3) The Gender (Ecofeminist) Politics of Remembering and Environmental Apocalypse; and 4) Memory and the Natural World in a Queer Studies Context.

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

SEM 01

M 2:00-4:50 PM

J. SANTA ANA

EGL 615:

Independent Study

Students who plan to take EGL 615 must fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English website. 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.

0-9 credits graded S/U

TUT

STAFF

EGL 690:

Directed Readings

For PhD students preparing for General Exams and the Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. **Students who plan to take EGL 690 (Directed Readings) must fill out the enrollment form on the Department of English website.** 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.

0-9 credits graded S/U

TUT

STAFF

EGL 697.01: Practicum in Teaching Literature

For teaching assistants only. Interested students should speak with their advisor prior to enrolling.

3 credits graded S/U

TUT 01

APPT

S. BRIONI

EGL 699: Dissertation Research On-Campus

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 fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English 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.

0-9 credits graded S/U

TUT

STAFF

EGL 700: Dissertation Research Off-Campus Domestic

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 fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English 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.

0-9 credits graded S/U

TUT

STAFF

EGL 701: Dissertation Research Off-Campus International

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 a 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 the 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 701 (Dissertation Research) must first fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English 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.

0-9 credits graded S/U

TUT

STAFF

English Students: All students should meet with an advisor before they register for any courses

Taking courses outside of English:

If you are interested in taking a graduate course that is not EGL or not cross-listed with EGL, you must obtain written permission from the Graduate Program Director, the semester before the course begins. Just because SOLAR allows you to register for a non-EGL course does not mean that it can count toward your degree-get permission first.

Non-English MA/PhD/MAT Students:

Graduate English courses are open to all English students. Students outside of the English department who would like to take an English course should contact the instructor of the course and the graduate program coordinator for enrollment permissions.

