

Brandeis University
English Department Courses: Spring 2008
(tentative)

Introductory Courses

11a Introduction to Literary Method

Section 1	Ulka Anjaria	TF 9-10:30
Section 2	Mary Campbell	TF 3-4:30
Section 3	William Flesch	MW 3:30-5

The course's purpose is to train students in the critical reading of literary texts. There will be frequent assignments of writing that involve literary analysis.

Courses Pre 1850

33a Shakespeare Ramie Targoff
TF 12-1:30

A survey of Shakespeare as a dramatist. From nine to twelve plays will be read, representing all periods of Shakespeare's dramatic career.

40b Birth of the Short Story John Plotz
MW R 10-11

How old is the short story? It may go back to the Stone Age, Aesop's fables, or medieval saints' lives, but some credit Edgar Allan Poe and the Scottish shepherd James Hogg. This class takes an in-depth look at three key centers of the genre: Edinburgh, New York, and Moscow. Authors include Melville, Hawthorne, Dickens, Gogol, and Chekov.

50a

Love Poetry from Sappho to Neruda

Ramie Targoff
TF 9-10:30

This course explores the relationship between love and poetry. Starts with the ancient Greek poet Sappho and proceeds through the centuries, reading lyrics by Catullus, Ovid, Propertius, Petrarch, Dante, Shakespeare, Donne, Rossetti, and others.

125a

Romanticism I

Laura Quinney
MWR 12-1

Examines the major poetry and some prose by the first generation of English Romantic poets who may be said to have defined Romanticism and set the tone for the last two centuries of English literature.

132b

Chaucer

Mary Campbell
TF 12-1:30

In addition to reading Chaucer's major work, *The Canterbury Tales*, in Middle English, pays special attention to situating *The Tales* in relation to linguistic, literary, and social developments of the later Middle Ages. No previous knowledge of Middle English required.

Courses Post 1850

7a

American Literature 1900-2000

John Burt
TF 10:30-12

Focuses on literature and cultural and historical politics of major authors. Prose and poetry. May include Eliot, Frost, Williams, Moore, Himes, Cather, and Faulkner as well as contemporary authors.

28a

Nature Writing

Caren Irr
MWR 11-12

Explores literary responses to the natural environment from Thoreau to the present. Several genres of creative non-fiction will be discussed, such as memoir, manifesto, science writing, natural history, exploration narratives, and disaster stories.

167a Intro to Postcolonial Literature

Ulka Anjaria
TF 1:30-3

An introduction to basic concepts in postcolonial studies using selected literary works from South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Specific themes covered include the colonial encounter; colonial education and the use of English; nationalism; gender, violence, and the body; and postcolonial diasporas.

197b
Rahman

Within the Veil

Aliyyah
Abdur-
TF 10:30-12

In 20th –century U.S. culture, the Veil has become a powerful metaphor, signifying initially the interior of African American community and now the lives of Muslims globally. This course investigates issues of identity, imperialism, cultural loyalty, and spirituality by looking at and linking contemporary writings by African American and Muslim women.

Creative Writing Courses

109a

Directed Writing: Poetry

Olga Broumas
W 2-5

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Signature of the instructor required. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably four to seven pages of poetry. Samples should be submitted to the English department office, Rabb 144, no later than two days before the first meeting of class. May be repeated for credit. A workshop for poets willing to explore and develop their craft through intense reading in current poetry, stylistic explorations of content, and imaginative stretching of forms.

109b

Directed Writing: Short Fiction

Thisbe Nissen
T 1:30-4:30

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Signature of the instructor required. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably four to seven pages of poetry. Samples should be submitted to the English department office,

Rabb 144, no later than two days before the first meeting of class. May be repeated for credit. An intermediate/beginning level workshop based on the study of technique. Assignments in Short Fiction, first, second and third person narratives, autobiographical impulse, voice, etc. will be used to generate writing. Students will workshop their writing, read widely from offered examples of accomplished fiction, and serve each other as a reading community. Required: Up to 100 pages of reading a week and completion of a weekly short writing assignment.

119a
McCauley

Directed Writing: Fiction

Stephen

R 2-5

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Signature of the instructor required. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably four to seven pages of poetry. Samples should be submitted to the English department office, Rabb 144, no later than two days before the first meeting of class. May be repeated for credit. An advanced fiction workshop for students primarily interested in the short story. Students are expected to compose and revise three stories, complete typed critiques of each other's work weekly, and discuss readings based on examples of various techniques.

119b

Directed Writing: Poetry

Franz Wright
T 4:30-7:30

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Signature of the instructor required. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably four to seven pages of poetry. Samples should be submitted to the English department office, Rabb 144, no later than two days before the first meeting of class. May be repeated for credit. For those who wish to improve as poets while broadening their knowledge of poetry. Half the semester will be devoted to prosody, with formal exercises as preparation for later "free-assignments." Student poems will be discussed in a "workshop" format with emphasis on revision. Remaining time will cover assigned readings and issues of craft.

129a

Writing Workshop

Melanie Braverman
R 2-5

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably 4-7 pages. Samples should be submitted to the department office (Rabb 144) no later than two days before the first class meeting. A workshop for writers.

139b
Weinberg

Intermediate Screenwriting

Marc

R 2-5

Prerequisites: ENG 129b or ENG 79a. Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing of no more than five pages. Samples should be emailed to the instructor no later than one week before the first class meeting.

In this writing-intensive course, students build on screenwriting basics and delve more deeply into the creative process. Participants read and critique each other's work, study screenplays and view films, and submit original written material on a biweekly basis. At the conclusion of the course each student will have completed the first draft of a screenplay (100-120 pages). Usually offered every second year.

