ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE OFFERINGS: Spring 2015

For more information, please visit the Department website.
http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/english/courses/index.html

Gateway Course

ENG 1a    Intro. to Lit. Studies    David Sherman    MWTh 12-12:50

This course is designed to introduce students to basic skills and concepts needed for the study of Anglophone literature and culture. These include skills in close reading; identification and differentiation of major literary styles and periods; knowledge of basic critical terms; definition of genres.

Courses Pre-1800

ENG 53b    The Poetics of Plague Writing    Jodie Austin    MW 5-6:20

This course examines the origins of the plague narrative in early modern literature, comparing 17th century depictions of the pestilence (from Shakespearean plays to medical treatises) to representations of plague in contemporary literature and popular media, including video games.

ENG 64b    Pleasure and the Theater    Tom King    TF 11-12:20

Investigates the exchange between performance texts and contemporaneous discussions of class, nationality, and political party. Emphasizes the emergence of modern gender and sexual roles and the impact of the first professional women actors.

ENG 132b    Chaucer    Mary Baine Campbell    TF 12:30-1:50

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-1800

ENG 36b    Fiction of Merit and Mobility    Scott Moore    MW 3:30-4:50

Explores the vexed relationship between talent and class mobility in U.S. literature and culture. Engages historical and contemporary debates surrounding meritocracy, with focus on a counter-tradition in the fiction of 19th-century American Romantic and Realist periods. Authors include Cooper, Melville, Hawthorne, Douglass, Stowe, Davis, Twain, and Chesnutt.
ENG 88a  European Encounters  Kathy Lawrence  TTh 5-6:20

This class explores the dynamic interchange between American genius and European tradition as great minds grappled with the tension between newness and a weighty cultural inheritance. We will examine novels and autobiographies of travel, paintings, sculptures, and photography created under the influence of Paris, Rome, Florence, and Venice by Hawthorne, James, Wharton, Fitzgerald, Sargent, Whistler, and St. Gaudens, among others.

ENG 48a  Trash  Mary Baine Campbell  TTh 3:30-4:50

What can we do with trash and garbage? What have we done to living beings in their name? Examines films, novels, poems, installations, essays, and critical theory to examine the matrix of possibility and reuse, its physical and biological dimensions, and its metaphoric reaches. Students will produce discussion questions, short papers, and a major project that will include artwork, poetry, fiction, short film, problem-solving and an analytical essay. 
(Now open to all undergrads!)

ENG 117b  Faulkner  John Burt  TF 11-12:20

A study of the major novels and stories of William Faulkner, the most influential American novelist of the twentieth century.

Film/Media

ENG 20a  Bollywood  Ulka Anjaria  TTh 3:30-4:50

An introduction to popular Hindi cinema through a survey of the most important Bollywood films from the 1950s until today. Topics include melodrama, song and dance, love and sex, stardom, nationalism, religion, diasporic migration, and globalization.

ENG 60b  Disney  Caren Irr  MWTh 11-11:50

Surveys Disney narratives from early shorts to recent features. Includes discussion of studio style, concept of the child viewer, social impact, and responses to changing world technologies.

ENG 160a  Digital Media and Culture  Jodie Austin  TTh 5-6:20

Studies the history and development of digital media, with an emphasis on modes of literature and entertainment. We will examine the digital revolution's effect on such concepts as narrative, politics, aesthetics, identity, knowledge, and humanism.
A study of thirteen films covering the whole trajectory of Hitchcock's career, as well as interviews and critical responses.

**Theory**

ENG 111a  Narrative Theory       Susan Lanser       MW 2-3:20

We will explore the forms and functions of fictional narrative, emphasizing the workings of plot, narration, character, time and point of view, and studying the variety of effects produced by the diverse, historically shifting practices of short stories and novels.

ENG 111b  Postcolonial Theory    Ulka Anjaria      TF 12:30-1:50

Seminar in postcolonial theory with relevant background texts, with an emphasis on the specificity of its theoretical claims. Readings from Spivak, Said, Bhabha, Appiah, Mudimbe, Marx, Lenin, Freud, Derrida, Césaire, and Fanon, among others.

**Multicultural Literature / World Anglophone**

ENG 20a       Bollywood       Ulka Anjaria       TTh 3:30-4:50

An introduction to popular Hindi cinema through a survey of the most important Bollywood films from the 1950s until today. Topics include melodrama, song and dance, love and sex, stardom, nationalism, religion, diasporic migration, and globalization.

ENG 32b       Black Transnational Romance  Gina Pugliese    TF 9:30-10:50

Explores the romance in black diaspora fictions spanning the 20th and 21st centuries, including writers such as McKay, Kincaid, and Dangarembga. Theoretical approaches will frame our understandings of the making and unmaking of diaspora and genre.

**Electives**

ENG 10b       Poetry: A Basic Course   Paul Morrison    MWTh 10-10:50

Designed as a first course for all persons interested in the subject. It is intended to be basic without being elementary. The subject matter will consist of poems of short and middle length in English from the earliest period to the present.

ENG 68b       Anne Frank       Dawn Skorczewski  MW 8:30-9:50

Explores how *The Diary of Anne Frank* has been represented in different media over time. Students participate in an international digital learning environment with students
from Amsterdam. Includes short lectures, discussions, team projects, diary-writing, archival research and web tours.

C/E 140b  Children’s Literature  Robin Feuer Miller  MW 2-3:20

Explores whether children’s literature has sought to civilize or to subvert, to moralize or to enchant, forming a bedrock for adult sensibility. Childhood reading reflects the unresolved complexity of the experience of childhood itself as well as larger cultural shifts around the globe in values and beliefs.

C/E 148a  Fiction of WWII  John Burt  TTh 2-3:20

Studies novels of the Second World War from Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, the Soviet Union, Hungary and Japan (all readings in English).

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Creative Writing Core Courses

ENG 1a  Intro. to Lit. Studies  David Sherman MWTh 12-12:50

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Creative Writing Foundational Courses

ENG 10b  Poetry: A Basic Course  Paul Morrison  MWTh 10-10:50

Designed as a first course for all persons interested in the subject. It is intended to be basic without being elementary. The subject matter will consist of poems of short and middle length in English from the earliest period to the present.

ENG 132b  Chaucer  Mary Baine Campbell  TF 12:30-1:50

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.

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Creative Writing Courses

*Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably four to seven pages. Please refer to the*
Schedule of Classes for submission formats and deadlines within registration periods. May be repeated for credit.

**ENG 79b From Memory to Craft Elizabeth Bradfield W 5-7:50**

Prerequisite: ENG 19b is recommended. This course may not be repeated by students who have taken ENG 129a in previous years. Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis.

This combination workshop and contemporary literature course explores the process by which prose that engages with place moves from simple accounting into art. Texts include work by writers such as Christine Byl, James Galvin, Rebecca Solnit, Craig Childs, and Zadie Smith. Usually offered every second year.

**ENG 109a Directed Writing: Poetry Sharon Bryan T 2-4:50**

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.

**ENG 109b Directed Writing: Short Fiction Michelle Hoover Th 2-4:50**

A workshop for motivated students with a serious interest in pursuing writing. Student stories will be copied and distributed before each class meeting. Students' stories, as well as exemplary published short stories, will provide the occasion for textual criticism in class.

**ENG 119a Directed Writing: Fiction Stephen McCauley M 2-4:50**

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.

**ENG 119b Directed Writing: Poetry Elizabeth Bradfield W 2-4:50**

For those who wish to improve as poets while broadening their knowledge of poetry, through a wide spectrum of readings. Students' poems will be discussed in a "workshop" format with emphasis on revision. Remaining time will cover assigned readings and issues of craft.

**ENG 139b Intermediate Screenwriting Marc Weinberg T 6:30-9:20**

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.
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).

**Graduate Courses**

*Signature of dept. representative required for enrollment in all 200-level English courses.*

**ENG 201b**  
**Gender and Sexuality Studies**  
**Thomas King**  
**T 2-4:50**

Investigates sex assignment, genders, and sexualities as categories of social knowledge and modes of social production. Reading recent critical discussions and crossing disciplinary boundaries, this course explores gender, desire, and pleasure in everyday and formal performance, literary and other written texts, and visual representations.

**ENG 238b**  
**Lit. Between History and Memory**  
**David Sherman**  
**M 2-4:50**

Explores literature in the space between history and memory, as counter-history, with theoretical readings on temporality and philosophy of history. Issues include the role of the witness, collective memory, the imagination in historical knowledge, and politics of memorialization practices.

**ENG 277b**  
**Childhood and the Modern Novel**  
**Caren Irr**  
**W 2-4:50**

Considers depictions of children and childhood in fiction for adults. Explores modern Anglophone fiction from the UK, the US, Africa, India, the Caribbean, Canada and Australia.