

Course Descriptions for Undergraduate English Classes January Intersession 2015

ENGL 3283, Topics in Popular Culture and Popular Genres: Postmodernist Film / Advanced Studies in Film and Media: Postmodernist Film

Teacher: Keith Booker

Texts Required: M. Keith Booker, *Postmodern Hollywood*. (digital copy provided to students without charge)

Description: This course will provide a survey of postmodern film, with an emphasis on American postmodern film. Much of the course will simply involve viewing films. In order to provide a structure within which to view and discuss the films, a brief introduction to theories of postmodernism will also be provided. Topics (and associated key films) will be as follows, though actual films to be viewed as part of the class may still be subject to change.

I. Introduction to Postmodernism

Pulp Fiction

II. Fragmentation in Postmodern Film

Fight Club

Lola rennt

Memento

Timecode

III. Nostalgia and the Postmodern Loss of Historical Sense

Inglourious Basterds

Marie Antoinette

Moulin Rouge!

IV. Pastiche and Genre in Postmodern Film

Drag Me to Hell

The Man Who Wasn't There

Mulholland Drive

The Player

V. Television, Media, and Postmodern Film

Being There
Gamer
Natural Born Killers
Pleasantville

Undergraduate Requirements: A take-home examination, handed out on the first day of class, will be due on the final day of class. Each student will be expected to make at least one post on the class blog each class day and to participate in the on-line comment thread on these posts and the posts of other students.

Graduate Requirements: A take-home examination, handed out on the first day of class, will be due on the final day of class. Each student will be expected to make at least one post on the class blog each class day and to participate in the on-line comment thread on these posts and the posts of other students. Each student will make a brief presentation to the class on a film viewed outside the syllabus, relating that film to the material covered on the syllabus.

ENGL 3713, Topics in Medieval Literature and Culture: The Contest for Criseyde

Teacher: William A. Quinn

Texts Required:

Stephen A. Barney, ed. *Troilus and Criseyde* (New York: Norton, 2006)
 modern English

<http://machias.edu/faculty/necastro/chaucer/translation/tr/tr1.html>

Henryson's "Testament"

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/pdrhtcn.htm>

"Epistle"

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/appendix.htm>

Shakespeare:

http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=troilus&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl

Description:

This course will be an intense study of conflicting characterizations of an unfaithful woman as portrayed by three of the greatest European authors (and a few lesser lights). Our common inquiry will be the conflicting perspectives of medieval vs. modern writers and male vs. female readers. See schedule below.

Undergraduate Requirements:

Participation (graded A-F based on the basis of attendance and active contributions to class discussion) = 75% ; In-Class Final Exam = 25%

Honors and Graduate Requirements:

Undergraduates enrolled for honors credit and graduate students will be required to write an extra 5 pp. research or critical paper assignment as part of the “participation” grade.

ENGL 3753, J.R.R. Tolkien's Shorter Works

Teacher: J.B. Smith

Textbooks Required:

J.R.R. Tolkien. ———. *Smith of Wootton Major and Farmer Giles of Ham*. ISBN 0345336062

———. *The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays*. ISBN 026110263X

———. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo*. ISBN: 0345277600

———. *The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrún*, ed. Christopher Tolkien

Beowulf: A Translation and Commentary, trans. J.R.R. Tolkien. ISBN: 0544442784

Description:

This course examines the shorter works of J.R.R. Tolkien. In particular, we will study the critical reception of Tolkien’s work, his status as a post-war writer, adaptations of his work, and his use of medieval literature in creating his own fictional universe. We will also read a sampling of his professional scholarship as an Oxford professor of medieval languages and literature. The pace of this course is rigorous, and it assumes knowledge of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, so you may want to reread a few of your favorites before the course begins

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for undergraduates:

Short papers; quizzes; final project.

MA advisory code:

Course Descriptions for Undergraduate World Literature Classes January Intersession 2015

WLIT 3983, Topics in Medieval Literature and Culture: The Contest for Criseyde

Teacher: William A. Quinn

Texts Required:

Stephen A. Barney, ed. *Troilus and Criseyde* (New York: Norton, 2006)

modern English

<http://machias.edu/faculty/necastro/chaucer/translation/tr/tr1.html>

Henryson's "Testament"

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/pdrhtcn.htm>

"Epistle"

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/appendix.htm>

Shakespeare:

http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=troilus&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl

Description:

This course will be an intense study of conflicting characterizations of an unfaithful woman as portrayed by three of the greatest European authors (and a few lesser lights). Our common inquiry will be the conflicting perspectives of medieval vs. modern writers and male vs. female readers. See schedule below.

Undergraduate Requirements:

Participation (graded A-F based on the basis of attendance and active contributions to class discussion) = 75% ; In-Class Final Exam = 25%

Honors and Graduate Requirements:

Undergraduates enrolled for honors credit and graduate students will be required to write an extra 5 pp. research or critical paper assignment as part of the "participation" grade.