

Course Description Packet, Summer 2022
(Both undergraduate and graduate summer course descriptions are included here.)
(updated 4/26/22)

ENGL 1213-012, Introduction to Literature

Teacher: D. Stephens

Textbook Required:

Norton Introduction to Literature, e-book, Shorter 14th Edition, ISBN 978-0-393-88628-3

*** Do not order either the “Portable” or “High School” edition.***

Description: Anyone who loves to read, has an inquiring mind, and is comfortable with writing paragraphs in clear and accurate English is ready for this course.

We’ll begin with some questions: what is literature? (Given that literary scholars have published essays about tweets, what *isn’t* literature?) What’s the point of reading fiction when we could be reading history, science, and other factual writing? How can we analyze literature without losing the pleasure of it? What hope is there for people who are secretly scared of poetry?

Among others, our selections will include “Why I Live at the P.O.” (a short story about family in-fighting, fried chicken, and the world’s most snarky narrator), “We Real Cool” (a poem that creates its own jazz and then makes us stumble), “Jesus Shaves” (an essay about the goofy awkwardness of translating religion into another language), *The Yellow Wallpaper* (a hair-raising short novel based on the infamous “rest cure” of physician Weir Mitchell), and “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun” (in which the author celebrates his girlfriend’s dull hair and bad breath).

Controversial Content: This course will include literature that mentions sexual acts of which some students may not approve, torture, murder, and religious and political controversies. We’ll read for understanding instead of imposing our own values on the texts. Please do not take the course unless you intend to engage with all course content. You will not be asked to agree personally with any particular beliefs expressed in the literature, but you must endeavor genuinely to hear what the authors are saying instead of jumping to judgment.

Requirements: Students will write frequent reading responses of one-half to one page each. There will be a midterm and a final, with study guides for preparation. Discussion and attendance will count for a large part of the grade. Even shy students usually end up feeling comfortable talking in my classes, and “stupid” questions are encouraged.

ENGL 3283, Topics in Popular Culture and Popular Genres
ENGL 5933, Advanced Studies in Popular Culture and Popular Genres

Teacher: M. K. Booker

Textbooks Required:

Digital textbook will be supplied free of charge.

Description: This course is intended to provide an advanced survey of science fiction film, with an emphasis on American science fiction films from the 1950s to the present. We will pay special attention to the cultural history of this important genre and to the ways in which it resonates with trends in American history and society as a whole. In particular, we will focus on films that have addressed existential threats to the survival of the human race, with special emphasis on films inspired by the Cold War nuclear arms race and on films inspired by the growing threat of global climate change.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: All students will be required to write brief informal responses to the material presented in each class and one formal critical essay on some topic related to science fiction film. There will be a final examination.

ENGL 3853, Topics in African American Literature and Culture: Octavia's Brood: Octavia Butler and the Afro Futurist Aesthetic

ENGL 4853, Studies in African American Literature and Culture: Octavia's Brood: Octavia Butler and the Afro Futurist Aesthetic

ENGL 5863, Advanced Studies in African American Literature and Culture: Octavia's Brood: Octavia Butler and the Afro Futurist Aesthetic

Teacher: C. Bailey

Textbooks Required:

Butler, Octavia. *Wildseed*. ISBN 978-0446676977

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. ISBN 978-0807083697

Butler, Octavia. *Parable of the Sower*. 978-0446675505

Butler, Octavia. *Bloodchild*. ISBN 978-1583226988

Due, Tananarive. *The Between*. ISBN 978-0060927264

Hopkinson, Nalo. *Brown Girl in the Ring*. ISBN 9780446674331

Jemisin, N.K. *Fifth Season*. ISBN 978-0316229296

Okorafor, Nnedi. *Akata Warrior*. ISBN 978-0670785612

Description: Octavia Butler has often been called the “grand dame” of science fiction and with this in mind, this course seeks to explore some of her most critically acclaimed and most popular novels. In addition to unearthing the importance of Butler’s contributions to science fiction,

African American literature, and modern American literature more generally, the course also will explore some of the major characteristics of the Afrofuturist movement and its influence on literature, music, fashion, and art. Finally, the course will introduce students to contemporary black women writers whose writings have been influenced by Octavia Butler's oeuvre.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: One article critique, one multimodal project and presentation, weekly response papers

ENGL 4723/4603, Shakespeare and the Law

ENGL 5223, Advanced Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture: Shakespeare and the Law

Teachers: Joseph Candido and Carl Circo

Textbooks Required:

Richard II

Henry V

Julius Caesar

The Merchant of Venice

Measure for Measure

Description: In this course we will read and discuss five plays of Shakespeare from a literary point of view, emphasizing matters such as theme, style, structure, characterization, and the like, but with special attention to those issues in the plays that suggest moral, legal, or ethical problems of interpretation. In a certain sense, each of these works is a "problem play," and we will explore the full range of "problems" in them. There will be a dual focus: (1) on the plays as works of literary art, and (2) on the important ethical, legal, and moral issues they raise.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: One 15-page paper on a subject of the student's choice, to be approved by the instructor, due after the completion of the course.

ENGL 5453 Technical Writing in Healthcare

Teacher: Adam R. Pope

Textbooks Required:

For all students of the course

Rhetorical Work in Emergency Medical Services by Elizabeth Angeli

The Well-Crafted Sentence by Bacon

Online Texts by various authors. Provided via Library

Description: In this course, we tackle technical writing as a skillset for professional healthcare workers, covering both grammar, style, and writing practices alongside specific discussions of writing as it relates to healthcare practitioners.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for graduate students at the 5000 level: Three major papers.

MA advisory code:

Specialist 9: satisfies Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy requirement.

ENGL 5533 Technical Writing Praxis

Teacher: Adam R. Pope

Textbooks Required:

For all students of the course

Plain Language and Ethical Action: A Dialogic Approach to Technical Content in the Twenty-First Century

by Russel Willerton. ISBN: 978-0415741040

Participation and Power: Civil Discourse in Environmental Policy Decisions

by W. Michele Simmons. SUNY UP 2007.

Rhetorical Grammar 7th Edition

by Martha J. Kolln and Loretta Gray. Longman 2012.

Track-Based Readings

Only for students enrolled in the respective track

Grant and Proposal Writing

- **Writing Proposals (2nd Edition)**

by Richard Johnson-Sheehan. Longman 2007. (Grant and Proposal Writing)

Writing, Style, and Persuasion

- **Rhetorical Style**

by Jeanne Fahnestock. Oxford UP 2011. (Writing, Style, and Persuasion Track)

Report and Organizational Writing

- **Tracing Genre through Organizations: A Sociocultural Approach to Information Design**

by Clay Spinuzzi. MIT Press 2003. (Report and Workplace Writing Track)

Description: Technical Writing can be described as the rhetorical presentation of information within a situated context to gain a particular effect. Being a skilled technical writer means being able to apply the relevant theory to a given situation, adapting to the needs of local audiences and constraints as needed. This course will prepare you for such work by giving you a broad foundation in technical writing before then shifting to the act of mixing theory with practice, creating a theory-driven practice, or praxis.

This particular course will be broken down into two major units. The first unit will be shared between all students, and focus on the history, role, and skills of technical writers. The second unit will consist of three separate tracks, with each student choosing one track to specialize in. The tracks available for the course are as follows:

Grant and Proposal Writing: Students in this track will learn the process and steps behind creating effective grants and proposals, delving into the process of researching calls for proposals, putting together a narrative for a grant or proposal, and successfully crafting final text for submission. While in this track, students will write and submit a grant or proposal.

Writing, Style, and Persuasion: Students in this track will focus extensively on style and persuasion, developing a deeper understanding of the way texts are written in a particular style. Part of this track will involve crafting an extended text that uses a situated style, such as that of an academic journal.

Report and Organizational Writing: Students in this track will focus on the way documents evolve with and shape organizations, with a particular focus on understanding how different document genres are created and modified over time. In this track, students will craft a workplace-ready report or other informational text.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for graduate students at the 5000 level: Two major papers (one broken into three steps).

MA advisory codes:

Specialist 9: satisfies Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy requirement.

(T): satisfies Theory requirement.

M.A. Advisory Coding

The advisory codes indicate what course distribution requirement will be satisfied by the designated listing. If more than one code is listed in the description for a particular class, a student may satisfy only one of those distribution requirements with that class, unless the code is T, for Theory.

For M.A. Students with the Generalist Concentration

Generalist A: satisfies Medieval Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist B: satisfies Renaissance Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist C: satisfies Restoration and 18th-century Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist D: satisfies 19th-century British Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist E: satisfies British Literature and Culture After 1900 requirement.

Generalist F: satisfies American Literature and Culture Before 1900 requirement.

Generalist G: satisfies American Literature and Culture After 1900 requirement.

Generalist H: satisfies World Literature and Culture Written in English requirement.

For M.A. Students with the Specialist Concentration

Specialist 1: satisfies Comparative Literature requirement.

Specialist 2: satisfies Cultural Studies requirement.

Specialist 3: satisfies Environmental Literature, Writing, and Culture.

Specialist 4: satisfies Ethnic and Regional Literatures requirement.

Specialist 5: satisfies Gender and Sexuality requirement.

Specialist 6: satisfies Medieval Literature requirement.

Specialist 7: satisfies Modern American Literature requirement.

Specialist 8: satisfies Religion and Literature requirement.

Specialist 9: satisfies Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy requirement.

For All M.A. Students

(T): satisfies Theory requirement. (A course can satisfy the theory requirement while also satisfying one of the other requirements in the lists above.)