

August 2022 Intersession

ENGL 4603 / ENGL 5243, Pit Lit

Teacher: Bryan Hurt

Textbooks Required: TBA.

Description: In this class we're going to study underground literature—literally! We'll read books about pits, holes, and underworlds in order to better plumb the depths of a long-held and often-used literary conceit that sends characters underground. We'll look at examples from classical texts like the *Inferno*, Orpheus and Eurydice, and the Polyphemus episode in the *Odyssey* where Orpheus and his crew descend into a cave and are eaten by the cyclops one-by-one. We'll also read contemporary novels like Kōbō Abe's *Woman in the Dunes*, Helen Phillip's *The Need*, and Hiroko Oyamada's *The Hole* in order to better understand the way the conceits of descent, submersion, and entrapment are used to explore recurrent themes like transformation and subconscious desire.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: This course is not an easy ride but should be a stimulating and challenging one. We'll use our study of an “underground” genre of literature as a chance to try new things, experiment, and grow. In addition to daily readings and short responses, this class will require you to write a final essay on one of our course texts or submit your own work of pit lit.

ENGL 5173/FREN 5703, Old French

Teacher: Annie Doucet

Textbooks Required: TBA.

Description: We will survey the history of the French language, focusing on Old French grammar with the ultimate goal of building reading proficiency for medieval French works. While literature is not the focus of this course, we will examine short pieces, such as the fabliaux, for reading practice.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: TBA.