

AUGUST 2023 INTERSESSION

ENGL 3283, Topics in Popular Culture and Popular Genres: Meaningful Mundanity in American Prison and Reentry Films

ENGL 3843, Topics in Modern and Contemporary American Literature and Culture: Meaningful Mundanity in American Prison and Reentry Films

Teacher: L. Sparks

Reading Materials Required: Assigned readings will be made up of articles or book chapters, available to class members through Blackboard.

Possible Films To Be Viewed (final list TBD):

Apart (documentary film)

Beyond the Wall (documentary film)

The IF Project (documentary film)

Life after Lockup (documentary film)

O.G. (dramatic film)

Orange Is the New Black (select episodes from dramatic series)

Oz (select episodes from dramatic series)

Shakespeare Beyond Bars (documentary film)

Shawshank Redemption (dramatic film)

The Unforgivable (dramatic film)

In addition, students will be asked to view a number of short videos available online through *The New York Times* or PBS.org.

Description: The first several class meetings will focus on relatively recent dramatic films that portray life in both women's and men's prisons, as well as life after incarceration. Class members will watch these films while also reading journalistic, scholarly, and autobiographical texts connected to the course topic. Early class discussions, then, will focus on where these dramatic films may accurately portray life in prison but also where they may rely upon generalizations and storytelling strategies, shaping public narratives regarding justice-impacted individuals in the process. The last class meetings will focus on documentary films dedicated to reporting on the more mundane and individual experiences of prisoners and those returning to society from prison in the U.S., though likewise relying upon certain storytelling strategies to engage and perhaps persuade audiences. These latter films will also be viewed while class members are reading relevant and authoritative sources connected to the course topic, but class discussions will shift to considering how effectively films versus written texts

communicate the severe and complex barriers being faced on a daily basis by U.S. prisoners and returning citizens.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: Students will regularly submit short responses, through Blackboard, which focus on the films and readings assigned for the course. There will be a final exam.

ENGL 5083, Professional Topics: Article and Dissertation Writing Workshop

Faculty: Dr. Lissette Lopez Szwydky

Textbooks Required: Wendy Laura Belcher, *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (2nd Edition, 2019), ISBN 978-0226499918.

Most readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Description: This 2-week intersession will cover the ins-and-outs of academic writing—from planning to publication. The course is designed for advanced graduate students, especially PhD students who are in the early stages of dissertation writing. In addition to readings on scholarly research, writing, editing, and publishing, students enrolled in this course will workshop a piece of scholarly writing of their own. This course is designed for students in humanities PhD programs, especially English and Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. Students will be required to circulate and workshop an expanded seminar paper or dissertation chapter (25-30 pages) that is a full draft and ready for revisions, ideally with the aim of publication in a peer-reviewed venue. Although the workshop will primarily focus on traditional forms of academic publication, alternative/digital dissertation projects are welcome and will be accommodated. The goal of the course is to leave with a complete, polished piece of writing that is ready to submit for publication and/or ready to include in a doctoral dissertation or dissertation project.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: article or dissertation chapter workshop and revision (25-30 pages submitted at the start of semester); participation in peer review workshops; project abstract and keywords (1 page); several shorter, professional documents/correspondence related to academic publishing (call for papers, submission letter, professional bio, research description for grant/fellowship/award application, etc.); active participation.