

ENGL 3083: Professional Topics: Humanities at Work
HUMN 3083: Humanities at Work

Humanities at Work: or, How to Get a Job with an English/Humanities Degree

Faculty: Dr. Lissette Lopez Szwydky

Course Description

What are the professional options for liberal arts and humanities majors outside of the conventional paths of teaching and publishing? This workshop will focus on preparing students to develop professional profiles and effective job application materials for a range of careers, including graduate school (for those interested). Readings will include book-length career guides and shorter web articles and blogs. We will cover strategies to make the most of academic time-to-degree in order to diversify career options. This course is for undergraduate students in all fields, but especially arts and humanities. MA and MFA students can enroll with special permission from the instructor. The course will focus on job applications for careers outside of traditional teaching jobs as well as (optional) graduate school applications. (This course does not cover the academic job market for MFA or PhD students.) All arts and humanities majors are welcome—similar advice and strategies apply for English, History, Philosophy, Theater, Communications, Art, and other liberal arts majors.

Required Texts

Katharine Brooks, *You Majored in What?: Mapping Your Path from Chaos to Career* ISBN 978-0452296008.

Blythe Camenson, *Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors* ISBN 978-0071482141.

Sheila Curran and Suzanne Greenwald, *Smart Moves for Liberal Arts Grads* ISBN 978-1580087094.

Now, Discover Your Strengths: The revolutionary Gallup program that shows you how to develop your unique talents and strengths (Gallup 2020). ISBN 978-0743201148.

Assignments/Requirements

Drafting and revising several job application documents including multiple cover letters and résumés with (3) different professional focus areas (optional graduate school application may be used as 1 professional focus area); active peer review feedback; 2 presentations; professional web/social media presence; 2 reflective blog posts.

ENGL 3213 / 3903 Introduction to Fiction, cross-listed with Special Topics: “Literary Non-realisms.”

Teacher: P. Viswanathan

Required Texts: TBD Please email professor for details.

Description: This is a course on how to read like a writer, a special focus on nonrealist fiction. We will read fiction from various eras and countries, and parse their elements: narrative voice, characterization, structure, the handling of time, plot creation, the evocation of a geographic and historical moment etc. All fiction is the stuff of invention, but the stories we will read trade in illogic, magic, the invisible and the unknowable. How do such works convince us? How do authors get us to believe in, even relate to, fairies, or genies, or people who transform into plants or animals, or who become the opposite sex? What makes these stories so irresistible, to read and to write? All our discussions will circle this question: what constitutes “truth” in an imagined work? Students should come away 1. better able to develop and defend a personal canon based on their own reading tastes, 2. with a stronger understanding of how stories and their effects are constructed, and 3. better able to employ all this knowledge in their writing.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements: Daily reading responses; take-home test; creative paper.

ENGL 5703, Advanced Studies in American Literature and Culture Before 1900: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson

ENGL 5273, Craft of Poetry: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson

Teacher: G. Brock

Textbooks Required:

Ackman, Martha, *These Fevered Days: Ten Pivotal Moments in the Making of Emily Dickinson*. ISBN 978-0393867534

Dickinson, Emily, *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*. ISBN 978-0316184137

Dickinson, Emily, *Envelope Poems*. ISBN 978-0811225823

Description: This course will examine the peculiar poetry and prosody of Emily Dickinson, in the context of her life and times.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for graduate students at the 5000 level: one oral presentation, one final exam (multiple choice and short answer).

MA advisory code:

Generalist F: satisfies American Literature and Culture Before 1900 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 Cultural Studies requirement.
Specialist 2: satisfies Environmental Literature, Writing, and Culture.
Specialist 3: satisfies Ethnic and Regional Literatures requirement.
Specialist 4: satisfies Gender and Sexuality requirement.
Specialist 5: satisfies Medieval Literature requirement.
Specialist 6: satisfies Religion and Literature requirement.
Specialist 7: 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.)