

English Courses

ENG 209 Survey of American Literature (3 credits)

An overview of American literature from Colonial times through the present. (Required for the English and Creative Writing major).

ENG 211 Masterpieces of English Literature (3 credits)

A survey of major works of English literature from the Medieval period through the 19th century. Readings will generally be drawn from Beowulf, Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Donne, Pope, Johnson, Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, Tennyson and Browning. Special attention will be given to the themes of perennial interest such as love and death, man and woman, freedom and servitude. (Required for the English and Creative Writing major).

ENG 230 Legends of King Arthur (1.5 credits)

This course will feature an investigation of the medieval legends surrounding King Arthur and his court. Class discussion and readings will focus on Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*, the Lancelot-Guinevere romances, and the legends of the Holy Grail. Students will be encouraged to explore modern versions of the Arthurian legends to complement the medieval focus of the course materials.

ENG 221 Shakespeare's Comedies (3 credits)

This course will focus on five comedies by William Shakespeare. Students will read and discuss plays chosen from among the following: *Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Tempest*. The class will view at least one film version of each play studied and read examples of modern literary analysis. All students will write response papers.

ENG 241 Survey of African American Literature (3 credits)

This course will offer a survey beginning with the earliest African American writers and continuing through contemporary works and scholarship. Selected African American fiction, drama, poetry, and essays will be studied in cultural and historical contexts. Writers studied may include Wheatley, Douglass, Harper, Chesnut, Larsen, Hughes, Hansberry, Ellison, Morrison, and Gaines among others.

ENG 252 Modern Poetry (3 credits)

Readings from a wide selection of modern poets. Special attention will be given to Hopkins, Yeats, Frost, Pound, Williams, Eliot, Laughlin and Kizer. (Required for the concentration in Creative Writing)

ENG 267 Contemporary Poetry (1.5 credits)

This course will provide an overview of poets writing since World War II, using Auden as a primary transitional poet. The primary text will be *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*. Poets to be studied will include William Stafford, Carolyn Kizer, James Merrill, Elizabeth Bishop, Murial Rukeyser, Gwendolyn Brooks, Philip Larkin, Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath, and Lucille Clifton. Each student will do a concentrated report and a critical commentary comparing two or more poets.

ENG 278 Intro. to Critical Analysis and Literary Theory (3 credits)

Literary theory roughly refers to the debate over the nature and function of reading and writing; it is a shared commitment to understanding how language and other systems of signs provide frameworks which determine how we read, and more generally, how we make sense of experience, construct our own identity, and produce meaning in the world. This course will require reading a substantial amount of conceptually complicated texts, writing in a variety of discourse modes, and developing one or several theoretical approaches to literature. (Required for the English and Creative Writing major)

ENG 280 Topics in American Popular Culture (3 credits)

An intensive study of a variety of "texts" (both written and otherwise) in American pop culture. Topics might include the world of Disney, the romance novel, the Western, the detective story and film, and others.

ENG 281 Children's Literature (3 credits)

An introduction to the vibrant range of literature and film for children and adolescents: fairy tales, novels, poetry, picture books, illustrated texts, and animated movies. The course will focus primarily on British and American texts from the last 150 years.

ENG 282 Introduction to Pound Studies (1.5 credits)

A study of the person, philosophy, poetry and criticism of Ezra Pound, “The Father of Modern Poetry,” the course will utilize Hugh Kenner’s *The Pound Era* and Pound’s *Selected Poems* as primary texts. One research paper will be required, along with outside readings. Usually offered Demi-semester 1 of spring semester; required of those anticipating study at Brunnenburg.

ENG 308 Victorian Literature (3 credits)

A study of the poetry of Tennyson, Browning and the pre-Raphaelites and of selected prose writings of Thomas Carlyle, Matthew Arnold, Thomas Huxley, and Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy. Special attention will be given to the continuing human problems which these authors addressed in the Victorian world. Prerequisite: ENG 211 or junior standing.

ENG 311 The American Renaissance (3 credits)

A study of the literature of the American Renaissance with particular emphasis on Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Hawthorne, Melville, and Mark Twain. Prerequisite: ENG 209 or junior standing.

ENG 317 Literature of the Romantic Period (3 credits)

A study of the chief poets and critics of English Romanticism. Prerequisite: ENG 211 or junior standing.

ENG 322 Shakespeare’s Tragedies (3 credits)

This course will focus on five of William Shakespeare’s major tragedies. Students will read and discuss the following plays: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, and *King Lear*. The class will view at least one film version of each play studied and read examples of modern literary analysis. There will be a culminating research project. Prerequisite: ENG 211, ENG 221, or junior standing.

ENG 325 Medieval Literature (3 credits)

This course will offer students the opportunity to explore the literature of the High Middle Ages. Readings will include selections from Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, medieval drama, Arthurian romances, lyric poetry of love and faith, and the works of medieval women mystics. Prerequisite: LIT 210 or ENG 211 or junior standing.

ENG 334 American Fiction of the 20th Century (3 credits)

A study of representative American fiction of the 20th century from a variety of traditions and ethnic perspectives. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of the instructor.

ENG 340 T.S. Eliot (3 credits)

A detailed study of the plays and poems of this 20th century mover and shaker. Eliot’s social and literary commentary will also be examined. Prerequisites: ENG 209 or ENG 252, or permission of the instructor.

ENG 359 Renaissance Literature (3 credits)

Students will explore the works of the major English poets and dramatists of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, excluding Shakespeare. Themes such as the triumph and tragedy of marriage, the quest for love and faith, the delights of the simple life, and the role of the poet as a courtier, lover, visionary, and satirist will help focus discussions of works by Spenser, Sidney, Webster, Jonson, Donne, Herbert, and Marvell. Prerequisite: English 211 or junior standing.

ENG 362 Saints and Heroes of the Middle Ages (3 credits)

An introduction to some of the major epic cycles and legends of the Middle Ages and their iconography as reflected in works of art in Tyrolean castles, churches, and museums. Readings will include *The Niebelungenlied*, *Tristan*, *Ywain*, *The Song of Roland*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. This course is only offered overseas as part of the Brunnenburg program.

ENG 371 The Cantos: American Epic (3 credits)

A study of Ezra Pound’s “Cantos” in relation to the poetry, politics, and philosophy of the 20th century. Attention will be given to other major poets of the time. This course is only offered overseas as part of the Brunnenburg program.

ENG 372 Myth and Agro-Archaeology (3 credits)

An academic and field study of mythology and agriculture as the roots of culture, government and the fine arts. This course is only offered overseas as part of the Brunnenburg program.

ENG 376 Anglo-Irish Literature (3 credits each)

An intensive study of the Anglo-Irish importance to the canon of literature in English, emphasizing the contributions of Shaw, Wilde, Yeats, Joyce, and Beckett. Prerequisites: ENG 211, ENG 252 or junior standing.

ENG 377 Whitman/Dickinson (3 credits)

Perhaps no two writers have so dominated and changed the course of the 19th century of American letters as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Often juxtaposed, Whitman and Dickinson seem to provide perfect foils for the work of each other. This course will take up these two poets as sites of contending practices of prosody and vision. Our investigation will focus primarily upon their poetry, but we also make brief forays into their unique biographical histories, approaches to prosody, and ranges of critical interpretation. There will be a variety of discourse opportunities, including journal work, creative expression, and expository writing. Prerequisite: ENG 209 or junior standing.

ENG 378 Southern Literature (3 credits)

A study of the writers and literary traditions of the American South from the colonial period to the present, but with special emphasis on the twentieth century. Authors might include Byrd, Jefferson, Poe, Kennedy, Chestnut, Jacobs, Chopin, Glasgow, Chesnut, Faulkner, Caldwell, Warren, Wolfe, Percy, Hurston, O'Connor, Welty, Styron, Walker, Betts, Smith, and others. Prerequisite: ENG 209, Junior standing or permission of instructor.

ENG 379 Women Writers (3 credits)

A study of women's writings within a variety of cultures, historical periods, and literary traditions. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

ENG 384 North Carolina Literature (3 credits)

This course will provide students the opportunity to study the novels, short stories, and poems produced by North Carolina writers during the literary renaissance of recent decades. Writers may include Gibbons, Chappell, Edgerton, Frazier, Smith, and McCorkle among others. Prerequisite: ENG 209.

ENG 385 Major Southern Authors (3 credits)

This course will provide students with an opportunity for detailed study of the works of one or two specific influential authors of the American South in the 20th and/or 21st century. The course will examine thematic and stylistic aspects of the fiction, drama, and poetry of the major author(s) in question, and will include a critical exploration of the current scholarship available. Possible authors to be the focus of this detailed study might include Faulkner, O'Connor, Welty, and Wolfe among others. Prerequisite: ENG 209.

ENG 401 Milton (3 credits)

Intensive reading of Milton's poetry with major emphasis on *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*. Collateral readings from the prose. Prerequisite: ENG 211 or junior standing.

ENG 453 Senior Portfolio & Review (1 credit)

This course will provide an opportunity for senior English majors to collect and reflect upon samples of their skills in written literary analysis, to receive faculty evaluation of their work, and to prepare their postgraduate reading list. Required of senior English and Creative Writing majors with a concentration in English literature.

ENG 497 Academic Honors (3 credits)

Open by invitation of the faculty only. Exceptional work done by the student, working independently under faculty supervision, in traditional, comprehensive, systematic research over an extended period of time resulting in a senior thesis or project of high merit.