**Literature Program**

**Department of English & Rhetoric**

**Fall 2017**

**Class Section Descriptions**

**ENGL 2120 Introduction to British Literature MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m.**

**Dr. Craig Callender Arts & Sciences 366**

Prerequisite: ENGL 2110. A survey of important works of British literature from the beginning through the twenty-first century.

**ENGL 2130 American Literature TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Bruce Gentry Arts & Sciences 368**

ENGL 2130 American Literature, required of English majors, is a survey course about highlights of American literature, early to recent. Besides bringing together a group of people who love to read and discuss ideas, this course covers fiction, nonfiction, and poetry by American authors including Charles Brockden Brown, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Sarah Orne Jewett, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Carson McCullers, Ralph Ellison, Truman Capote, and E. L. Doctorow, with variations each semester. Students read and respond to the literature, compose essays, and write a final exam essay based on an anthology of American poetry.

**ENGL 2150 Shakespeare MW 3:30-4:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Jennifer Flaherty Arts & Sciences 345**

As a general introduction to Shakespeare, this course will emphasize analyzing Shakespeare’s texts in their “infinite variety.” Rather than focusing on a specific genre, we will read comedy, tragedy, romance, and history. The texts we will read range from the beginning of Shakespeare’s career to some of his final plays. Our class discussions will balance close readings of the text with social context, theoretical approaches and performance issues from the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods to today. Assignments include three papers, a final exam, and a performance project. We will read six or seven plays, which have been grouped into thematic units. Frequently taught plays include *Macbeth, King Lear, Henry IV Part 1, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, Much Ado about Nothing, The Tempest*, and *The Winter’s Tale*. Past themes include parents and children, friends and family, power, love and gender, magic and theater, fools and madness, and nature.

**ENGL 2160 Studies in International Literature TR 11:00-12:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Eustace Palmer Arts & Sciences 243**

This course will discuss in detail representative samples of literature from various cultures and various parts of the world excluding Britain and America. Unlike the usual “world literature” course, this course is not just a survey course, but is built mainly around seven major texts to be studied in detail, although other texts have been added. The main objectives are to sharpen students’ critical skills and capacity for critical thinking, and to foster responsiveness to diversity of cultures and literatures. Thus, this course is one of those specifically designed to nurture an international perspective in students. The works to be discussed will be selected from Latin America, The Caribbean, The Middle East, the Far East, Africa, and Asia. Attention will be devoted, in introductory sections, to the social, intellectual, cultural, and political milieu from which these works emanated. The literary quality and reputation of the works will also be a major concern.

**ENGL 2200 Writing about Literature TR 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Mr. John Sirmans Arts & Sciences 368**

In ENGL 2200, open to various majors as an elective but required of all English majors, students become familiar with the academic conventions and “rules” of writing about a variety of texts. We enhance our understanding of literary devices such as plot, point of view, character, setting, metaphor, etc.; we explore the details of poetics, including the subtle complexities of meter; and we investigate methods of literary research. By drafting and revising essays and reading responses, students have opportunities to improve writing skills from word choice, sentence structure, and paragraph order to critical thinking applications. As members of small committees, students enhance their speaking and teaching abilities through oral presentations of writing issues related to grammar, mechanics, and punctuation. Students also begin experimenting with applying theoretical critical approaches to literature including, but not limited to, Reader Response, Psychoanalytical, Feminist, Topical Historical, Archetypal, Deconstructionist, and Queer Theory. Several quizzes and exams will test familiarity with literary terms, Modern Language Association documentation style, and application of concepts. Students can choose their own texts (with approval) for essay subject matter.

**ENGL 3900 Critical Approaches to Literature TR 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Alex Blazer Arts & Sciences 340A**

In this course we will survey many of the current theoretical approaches to literature: liberal humanism, New Criticism and Russian formalism; structuralism and semiotics; poststructuralism, deconstruction, and postmodernism; psychoanalytic criticism; and Marxist criticism. We may cover feminist criticism, lesbian/gay criticism, New Historicism and cultural materialism, postcolonial criticism, stylistics, ecocriticism, existentialism and phenomenology, and reader-response criticism, and cognitive criticism, depending on student selection. For each theory, we will first gain a critical overview and then read representative theoretical articles. Students will keep a critical reading journal applying the theories to a work of literature; and they will present a theoretical article summary and a critical reading. Exams will test students' comparative understanding of the theories as well as their ability to apply the method in literary interpretation.

**ENGL 4115 History of the English Language MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.**

**Dr. Craig Callender Arts & Sciences 366**

This course will introduce students to the changes that have shaped the English language, from its Indo-European roots to the present. Specifically, we will study changes in phonology, syntax, morphology and semantics that have gradually made the language what it is today. We will also examine the relationship of the Germanic languages to the rest of the Indo-European family, and the relationship of English to the other Germanic languages. Finally, we will discuss the external historical and political events that helped shape each stage of the language (Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English and Present-Day English), and the language internal changes that determined the course of English’s development.

**ENGL 4330 Restoration & 18th-Cent. Literature TR 9:30-10:45 a.m.**

**Dr. Eustace Palmer Arts & Sciences 340B**

This course is a fairly detailed study of the principal works of literature produced in England during the Restoration period and the eighteenth century. Significant attention will be given to the historical, political, economic and cultural contexts from which the works emerged; to the artistic accomplishments of the individual authors; and to the relevance of these works for our own times.

**ENGL 4338 19th-Century English Novel MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Eustace Palmer Arts & Sciences 353**

This course is a detailed study of some of the major works of English fiction written in the nineteenth century, paying some attention to the historical, social and intellectual background from which the fiction emerged. The topics covered will include the differences and similarities between eighteenth and nineteenth-century English novels; nineteenth-century social, cultural, and historical perspectives such as the position of women, the rise of urbanization and the decline of the countryside, the rise of Darwinism and religious controversy, the growth of technology and industrialization, class divisions, the distribution of wealth, the role of fate, free will and the relation between the individual and society; nineteenth-century literary and aesthetic trends such as the movement from the Romantic to the Victorian, varieties of narrative technique, naturalism and realism, methods of publication and the relationship between author and audience. The key texts will be studied against this background and artistically evaluated.

**ENGL 4446 Modern Poetry TR 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Martin Lammon Arts & Sciences 315**

A study of selected modern poetry in English.

**ENGL 4664 Flannery O’Connor R 5:00-7:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Bruce Gentry Arts & Sciences 368**

Flannery O’Connor told us to find her Catholicism in her fiction, but many readers see in her stories of dysfunction and violence the opposite of the comforts of religion. Studying O’Connor trains students to deal with battles between “true believer” critics and “apostate” critics as we discuss class and race in her fiction and apply cultural/historical, feminist, psychological, and yes, religious approaches to her grotesque art. By the time you finish this course, you’ll have read all of O’Connor’s major fiction and you have been introduced to all the local resources (her manuscripts at the GCSU library, her farm just north of town) that make Milledgeville the center of the universe for O’Connor studies.

**ENGL 4665 American Literature 1920-Present TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Alex Blazer Arts & Sciences 368**

In this course, we will study experimental, ironic, and metafictional postmodern literature from 1965-1995: creative non-fiction by writers like Mailer and Thompson, fiction by writers like Acker and Morrison and Barth and Pynchon, poetry by poets like Ashbery and Graham, and drama by playwrights like Albee and Parks. Possible assignments include a literary biography, a close reading paper, a comparison/contrast paper, a research paper, and an exam.

**ENGL 4671 Louise Erdrich MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Mary Magoulick Arts & Sciences 345**

We will focus on the works of Native American (Anishnaabe, a.k.a., Chippewa/ Ojibwe) writer Louise Erdrich. This prolific writer of fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, and children’s literature has published more than 25 books and has won numerous awards, including a National Book Award for fiction. Her work is lyrical, political, and moving, reflective of her Ojibwe and German/French heritage.

**ENGL 4850 Louise Erdrich MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

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**ENGL 4900 Seminar of Language & Literature** **TR 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Beauty Bragg Arts & Sciences 340B**

A culmination course reviewing the major figures of British and American literature and the basics of standard English.

**ENGL 4950 Jane Austen on Film TR 12:30-1:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Jennifer Flaherty Arts & Sciences 353**

This course will examine the practice of adapting Jane Austen’s novels from the page to the screen in film, television, and new media productions. We will examine the ways that filmmakers have appropriated Jane Austen as a cultural authority representing the romance of Regency England and adapted the plots to speak to their own cultures and generations. The course is both a Jane Austen class and an introduction to basic film analysis. We will watch a variety of films, and we will look closely at the ways that the different environments and agendas of the filmmakers have affected the ways they use Jane Austen. We will also look closely at genre, considering how Jane Austen can be “repackaged” as a TV mini-series, internet series, major motion picture, teen movie, or Bollywood film. Some prior knowledge of Jane Austen is encouraged, but it is not required. Potential texts include the Jane Austen novels *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*, films and miniseries based on both texts, as well as looser adaptations such as *Bride and Prejudice*, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*, and *Clueless*. Assignments may include papers, an annotated bibliography, a group presentation, a final exam, and a storyboard project.

**ENGL 4955 Berlin through the Ages MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.**

**Dr. Craig Callender Arts & Sciences 366**

This course introduces students to the literature of Eastern Germany, and is divided into four sections. First, we discuss the literature of the Weimar Republic, paying special attention to early signs of the horrors to come. Next, we move on to World War II and post-war literature, with particular focus on how German writers attempted to come to terms with the realities of WWII. Next, we will discuss East German socialism and its influence on the literature of the period. Finally, we will discuss Germany’s reunification and the literature of the post-reunification era. For each section, we will consider Berlin’s central role in what was happening more broadly in the country.

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**ENGL 5850 Louise Erdrich MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Mary Magoulick Arts & Sciences 345**

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**ENGL 6685 Harlem Renaissance TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
Dr. Beauty Bragg Arts & Sciences 353**

This graduate level course takes as its subject the Harlem Renaissance. The course is designed to help you theorize individual texts as well as the literary dimensions of the Renaissance as a whole. Focusing on the novelistic and poetic traditions, we will examine issues of race and national identity, gender and sexuality, and diasporic cultural consciousness. Such examinations will necessarily entail sustained attention to the historical contexts which inform the arts and attitudes of artists of the Harlem Renaissance.

**2.** **Other Degree Programs**

**AFST 2010 Introduction to African Studies MW 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
Dr. Eustace Palmer Arts & Sciences 340B**

This is an interdisciplinary survey course that will look at various aspects of the African experience with a view to enhancing students’ knowledge and understanding of Africa. It will discuss the rationale for African Studies and then look at African life during the various periods of the African experience: the pre-colonial, the colonial, and the post-colonial. It will pay attention to History, Political Systems, Social Systems, Religion and Worldview, Position of Women, Education, Economic Development, Health and the Environment, Literature, Music, and Art. In addition to the lectures, movies and videos will be shown. Chinua Achebe’s seminal novel *Things Fall Apart* will also be studied in the course to see how some aspects of the African experience are illustrated through the medium of literature.

**LING 2200 Human Language MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m.**

**Dr. Craig Callender Arts & Sciences 366**

This course will introduce students to the field of linguistics. We will study the various levels of linguistic description necessary to explain the properties of language, i.e. sound patterning, word formation, sentence structure, and meaning. In addition, we will examine language in its broader use, discussing topics such as language acquisition, language variation, contextually appropriate language use and language change (particularly the history of English).

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**Dr. Bruce Gentry Arts & Sciences 368**

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