

Department Of English, Spring 2022 Undergraduate Course Offerings
Select Course Descriptions

This is a selective list only, meant to help you navigate enrollment through MyUNLV, where the full Spring 2022 schedule appears.

ENG 232-1004: World Literature II

(M/W 1:00 pm -2:15 pm)

Professor Amy Green

ENG 232-1004: This section of World Literature focuses on the following theme: constructions of dystopian worlds across global literature. Playing the video games BioShock and BioShock Infinite is a required component of the course. PC versions or console versions are both fine. We will consider and analyze how a diverse group of authors envision a dystopian future and how dystopian fiction expresses concerns about society, history, and oppression. Please contact me at greenam@unlv.nevada.edu if you have questions about the course.

Required Readings and Video Games:

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro ISBN 9780593318171

Who Fears Death by Nnedi Okorafor ISBN 9780756407285

The Stories of Ibis by Hiroshi Yamamoto ISBN 9781421534404

Brave New Worlds, 2nd Edition, Ed. John Joseph Adams ISBN 9781597804547

BioShock PC or Console Versions Are Fine

BioShock Infinite PC or Console Versions Are Fine

ENG 261-1001: Introduction to Poetry

(Web-Based)

Professor Christopher Decker

ENG 261-1001: This is a course for people who wonder whether they could enjoy being an English major if being an English major meant reading quite a lot of poetry. It is also for English majors who would like to enjoy poetry intelligently or who already do. The purpose of this course is to nurture your understanding of how poems are put together and how, once put together, they work. This course will also develop your ability to talk and write about these poems as poems and not as though they might just as well have been some other kind of writing. Some general and varied experience of life will be helpful in reading poetry but not always strictly necessary, since poetry puts into words imagined experiences that haven't ever, or haven't yet, taken place just as often as it translates experiences that the poet has imagined that she or he has actually had. Through readings and class discussions this course will strengthen your grasp of what T. S. Eliot called the chief tools of a critic: comparison and analysis. It will also help you become more intelligently sensitive to words as they are used in the rest of everyday life.

ENG 271-1001: Introduction to Shakespeare

(T/Th 11:30 am- 12:45 pm)

Professor Scott Hollifield

ENG 271-1001: This section of English 271 will expand students' knowledge of William Shakespeare beyond his formidable reputation, rethinking a sometimes abstract literary celebrity into a working poet. Through individual study and collaborative discussion of Shakespeare's poems and plays, we will attempt to sound the depths of one who, according to his contemporary Ben Jonson, "was not of an age but for all time!" Students will explore potential stylistic and thematic connections among the genres in which the poet-playwright worked, cultivate a working knowledge of early modern English drama and, for a better sense of the sound and feel of Shakespeare in performance, encounter and engage recent Shakespeare's Globe productions of the plays.

Syllabus texts, required in official course editions, include selected sonnets, the narrative poem *Venus and Adonis*, and a cross-section of dramas (*The Comedy of Errors*, *Titus Andronicus*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Henry IV Part 1*) composed prior to 1600.

ENG 298-1002: Writing About Literature

(Web-Based)

Professor Timothy Erwin

ENG 298-1001: English 298 is the milestone course in the English department. It will help you to become a better reader and writer and will provide the tools you'll need to succeed in upper-division literature courses. We'll learn the basic terms and strategies for effective interpretation of the three major literary genres of poetry, drama, and the novel. The course is writing-intensive and may include both formal and informal writing projects. Among the authors we'll read are Shakespeare (*Romeo and Juliet*), Sandra Cisneros (*Caramelo*), and Javier Zamora (*Unaccompanied*). There will be quizzes at the end of each four-week unit in addition to several writing assignments, including a term paper, and a final exam.

ENG 298-1003: Writing About Literature

(M/W 2:30 pm -3:45 pm)

Professor Amy Green

ENG 298-1003: This section of Writing about Literature focuses on increasing your skills in writing and analyzing literature and stories in other formats and providing the tools you will need to succeed in upper-division literature classes. We will cover the basic terms and strategies for effective interpretation of all three major literary genres — poetry, drama, and fiction. We will also consider digital storytelling. Our readings focus on a diverse range of authors' voices.

Required Readings and Video Game:

Blues Poems Ed. Kevin Young ISBN 9780375414589

Aiiieeeee! An Anthology of Asian American Writers, 3rd Edition ISBN 9780295746487

Ruined by Lynn Nottage ISBN 9781559363556

Disgraced by Ayad Akhtar ISBN 9780316324465

Not on Fire, but Burning by Greg Hrbek ISBN 9781612196060

Circe by Madeline Miller ISBN 9780316556323

Final Fantasy XIV – *Final Fantasy XIV* is an online, MMORPG available for PC and game consoles. Please start here <https://freetrial.finalfantasyxiv.com/na/> to read through the process of setting up a Square Enix account, downloading the game, and starting the free trial being offered by Square Enix.

Please contact me at green@unlv.nevada.edu if you have questions about the course.

ENG 409A-1001-: Visual Rhetoric

(M/W 1:00 pm – 2:15pm)

Professor Melissa Carrion

ENG 409A-1001: This course explores how visual texts—ranging from print and online documents to photographs, artwork, and even physical spaces and bodies—function as persuasive tools for communicating information, ideas, and values. You will be introduced to a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to studying this process and will draw from these to both analyze existing visual texts and create your own. We will explore the role of visual rhetoric in everything from politics to science to popular culture, and we will pay particular attention to how we can design both effective and ethical visual texts. All assigned course readings are available for free to students through UNLV's library and/or as PDFs/links on the course Canvas site.

ENG 411B/611B-1001: Principles of Modern Grammar

(Web Based)

Professor Edwin Nagelhout

ENG 411B/611B-1001: This course will introduce students to the patterns of English grammar and their influence on sentence structure, punctuation, and style. The course focuses on analytical methods for understanding more fully the structure of the English language and explore the relationship between grammar and writing, reading, and thinking. By the end of the semester, students in English 411B will be able to:

1. Describe fully English words, phrases, and clauses
2. Distinguish between the form and function of words, phrases, and clauses
3. Analyze a sentence for grammatical elements
4. Recognize how phrases and clauses function in a variety of sentences
5. Understand rhetorical choices for sentence structure and punctuation

Through a variety of activities, students of English 411B will achieve the five course outcomes by exploring the complexity of English language, discussing the grammatical structure of English in a sophisticated manner, and learning to reach consensus on grammar-related problems in different rhetorical situations.

ENG 416C/616C-1001: What is a Book? Collecting, Libraries, and the Materiality of Texts

A Book History Workshop

(Tuesday 4:00 pm-6:45 pm)

Professors Beverly Rogers and Jessica Teague

ENG 416C/616C-1001: What is a book? How has book production evolved over the centuries? What role have book collectors played? And what do books mean today within the context of a digital multimedia ecosystem? These questions and more will be explored in

a special collaborative workshop taught by book collector Beverly Rogers and English Professor Jessica Teague in conjunction with UNLV Libraries and Special Collections. Each class will explore a new tantalizing question related to the materiality of texts and their circulation. If you've ever wondered why Dickens' books are so long, or what a book jacket has to do with the story, or why some books are worth a fortune, this class is for you! As we'll see, the packaging and marketing of a text at any particular point in time is a part of its history. The course will feature guest speakers, field trips to bookstores and private collections, and in-depth explorations of book collecting—it's all about experiencing books as cultural objects. The class meets once a week, Tuesdays 4:00-6:45pm. Assignments may include weekly reflection papers and the curation of a library exhibit.

ENG 425A-1001: Popular Culture & Native Americans

(M/W 11:30 am- 12:45 pm)

Professor Steven Sexton

ENG 425A-1001: Indigenous people struggle against negative and inaccurate images of Native people held by the general population. How Indigenous people are imagined is highly influenced by how they are portrayed in popular culture. In this course, we will explore the various imagery of Indigenous people as conveyed in popular culture while exploring the sway popular culture has. We will also consider how such imagery affects Native people socially, culturally, and politically, and explore the role such imagery plays in U.S. settler colonialism.

ENG 425A/625A-1002: The Literature of Authoritarianism

(Wednesday 4:00 pm -6:45 pm)

Professor David Morris

ENG 425A/625A-1002: A charismatic, outsider politician incites a march on the Capitol but declines to participate. Disillusioned veterans in military paraphernalia attack government buildings claiming to be "patriots." Hours after the attack, conservative lawmakers begin working with violent extremists, hoping to harness their passion for their own political ends. Screen shots from the current news cycle? In fact, the above events happened one-hundred years ago in Italy with Mussolini's "March on Rome." In this class we will explore the inner logic of authoritarianism. Why does it happen? Why are people drawn to dictator-daddies? How do authoritarian regimes use language to control people? What role does technology play in the rise of authoritarian societies? How do authoritarian regimes use gender and sexual anxiety to promote their agendas? Is American consumer capitalism a form of totalitarianism? Readings will include Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Isabel Allende's *A Long Petal of the Sea*, Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Allan Moore's *V For Vendetta*, Peter Pomerantzev's *This Is Not Propaganda*, and Marguerite Feitlowitz's *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*.

ENG 425A-1003: Themes of Literature: Medicine and Literature

(M/W 11:30 am-12:45 pm)

Professor Katherine Walker

ENG 425A-1003: How does literature relate to issues of health? This class is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of medical humanities through a focus on stories of

illness and healing. We will consider how authors engage with questions of social justice in medical care alongside studying medical philosophy and ethics. Through readings of William Shakespeare, Mary Shelley, Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, Kazuo Ishiguro, and many others, we will explore how different literary genres and periods can prompt important questions about language, narrative, health, and power.

ENG 426A-1001: Religion and Literature, Hebrew Bible and Gender

(T/Th 11:30 am – 12:45 pm)

Professor Roberta Sabbath

ENG 426A-1001: The need for Hebrew Bible gender discourse begins with silenced agency. Several puzzling narrative moments occur that are otherwise inexplicable without the assistance of that informed interpretive work. The lens of contemporary gender discourse, which includes feminist, queer, and trans perspectives, provides readers and interpreters with a diverse, inclusive, and lively biblical conversation.

ENG 426B-1002: Mythology

(Tuesday 1:00 pm-3:45 pm)

Professor Amy Green

ENG 426B-1002: ENG 426B focuses on world mythology. We will learn about world myths and sacred systems of belief, including tales of heroes, creation, and destruction, among many topics. We will also consider modern iterations of myth. We will analyze how a diverse range of myths function within the cultures that produce them and explore how the analysis and interpretation of global myths reflect cultural struggle and historical patterns of domination and oppression

Required Readings and Video Game:

Introduction to Mythology, 4th ISBN 978-0190262983 Edited by Eva M. Thury and Margaret K. Deviney OR the older 3rd edition ISBN 978-0199859238

The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell ISBN 978-0385418867

Final Fantasy XV: The Royal Edition. You may choose to play either the console or PC version of the game. Please note that the PC version of the game is called the Windows Edition, but this is the same as the Royal Edition for gaming consoles.

Please contact me at greenam@unlv.nevada.edu if you have questions about the course.

ENG 426B-1003: Mythology

(T/Th 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm)

Professor Roberta Sabbath

ENG 426B-1003: Our class will focus on the diversity and breadth of world mythology, with an emphasis on understanding both how sacred texts functioned in their own time, and how they might be interpreted by modern readers. We will also consider the intersection of history, culture, and politics with sacred texts. Finally, we will also focus our attention on numerous modern iterations of mythology.

In addition to the main text, we will be studying the Chinese myth, [Monkey: Journey to the West, using the using the David Kherdian version](#)

ENG 427B/627B-1001: Gender and Literature: LGBTQ+ Literatures

(T/R 2:30pm -3:45pm)

Professor Beth Rosenberg

ENG 427B/627B-1001: The vocabulary used to talk about gender and sexuality is no longer as simple as traditional heterosexual binaries of man/woman and masculine/feminine. What does it mean to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or nonbinary? We will investigate historical representations of queer identity by reading novels from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. The course starts with Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*—where a Renaissance prince wakes up one day to find himself a woman—and follow it with another from the early twentieth century, Djuna Barnes' *Nightwood*, a brilliant novel about gender fluidity in Paris. E. M. Forster's posthumous novel *Maurice* takes us into the world of aristocratic England and the intersectional nature of gender, sexuality, and social class. Another intersectional model introduced is that of race, gender, and sexuality with the reading of James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room* and Audre Lorde's *Zami*. The course ends with a newly published novel, *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters, that explicitly addresses the difficulties experienced by a transgender protagonist. By the end of the semester, we will have a more nuanced and detailed sense of what we mean when we use the acronym, LGBTQ+.

ENG 430A/630A-1001: Major Figures in British Literature: James Joyce and Virginia Woolf

(T/R 11:30 am- 12:45 pm)

Professor Beth Rosenberg

ENG 430A/630A-1001: This course will introduce you to the work of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf, two of the most significant writers of the twentieth century. These two modernist writers and the experimental style they both develop are influenced by the Aesthetic movement of the late 19th century and are representative of what is called "high modernism." Both writers have influenced a long line of international writers throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Come join me, as I guide us through Joyce's *Dubliners*, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and selected chapters of *Ulysses*. We will also look at some of Woolf's essays about the modern novel, women and literature as well as her experimental short stories and trace these narrative styles and themes in her classic novels *Mrs. Dalloway* and *To the Lighthouse*.

ENG 432A/632A-1001: Chaucer

(Web-Live)

Professor John Bowers

ENG 432A/632A: This class pursues a careful study of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the original Middle English. Class discussion focuses on the biography of the author, the narrative contents of twenty-two tales, and the psychologies of characters such as the Wife of Bath and the Pardoner. Historical materials are provided to construct a context of the social, political and theological backgrounds during Chaucer's career during the reign of King

Richard II. Particular attention is given to the themes of gender constructions, social conflicts, economic identities, and religious dissent. This class will be taught “web live” online. Grade: six quizzes, term paper (revision required), final examination. Text: Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*. Ed. Robert Boenig and Andrew Taylor. 2nd edition.

ENG 434B-1001: Shakespeare

(T/TH 10:00 am-11:15 am)

Professor Donald Revell

ENG 434B-1001: This course will focus upon the roles of music and of magic in the comedies of Shakespeare, with particular emphasis on the ways in which they combine to form a Shakespearean spirituality.

ENG 440A-1001: Medieval English Literature

(T/TH 1:00 pm-2:15 pm)

Professor Philip Rusche

ENG 440A-1001: This course will focus on Arthurian literature from the 12th through the 15th centuries. In these centuries of both outward expansion and internal strife, the figure of Arthur became of central importance to the political, historical, ethnic, and social troubles of Britain. The stories of Arthur's exploits and those of his knights were used by kings to solidify their authority to rule, by dissenters to criticize their misguided policies of colonialism and empire building, and by others to bolster the status of the lower classes and ethnic minorities, often portrayed as barbarians and savages by those in mainstream culture. They revealed the norms of polite behavior which the elite men and women of the age were to emulate, and the death and destruction brought about by failure to adhere to these rigorous standards. We will start with the courtly romances from the 12th century before moving on to texts on the various adventures of Sir Gawain and finish up with stories of the death of King Arthur.

ENG 442A-1001: The Seventeenth Century: Renaissance True Crime

(M/W 2:30 pm-3:45 pm)

Professor Katherine Walker

ENG 442A-1001: In Renaissance England, punishment was a spectacle. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, upon the Roman Road junction at Tyburn, a pair of gallows regularly displayed the corpses of those who had committed a range of crimes. Many of transgressions were printed in cheap pamphlets and subsequently inspired theatrical performances. In this course, we will read early modern drama on poisonings, treasons, witchcrafts, and other cases of lawlessness. Importantly, these stories rely upon many of the same narrative elements that feature in the true crime podcasts and docuseries today—investigative impulses, scapegoating onto religious, racial/ethnic, and sexual identities, and cultural formulations of the categories of “victim” and “perpetrator.” Our class will ask why criminal narratives intersected with historical and social anxieties, alongside why the stage in particular was the perfect venue for enfoldng audiences into the role of amateur detectives.

ENG 451A-1001: American Literature I

(Tu/Th 11:30 am -12:45 pm)

Professor Jessica Teague

ENG 451A-1001: This course surveys American literature from its Indigenous origins and colonial period to the Civil War in order to interrogate the role literature has played in the creation of America. Authors may include: Anne Bradstreet, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, William Apess, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edgar Allan Poe, Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, and Emily Dickinson among others. Over the course of the semester, we will track chains of intellectual and artistic influence across generations in order to inquire about the general characteristics of "American" literature. We will also discuss which texts from America's past might be most relevant to our contemporary social, intellectual, and cultural moment. Required Texts: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (9th ed.), vols. A & B (ISBN 978-0393264548)

ENG 451B-1003: American Literature II

(Web-Based)

Professor Brenden Oliva

ENG 451B-1003: This online asynchronous course examines the major figures and movements in American Literature from the Civil War to present-day. The goal of this course is to broaden what exactly constitutes "American Literature." In order to recast American Literature as an inclusive cultural form, we'll explore many different genres and forms from a diverse community of writers and scholars. In addition to some of the more well-known authors typically covered in an American Literature course, we'll also read texts that, because of their form or subjects, have seldom been taught (such as graphic narratives, Native American folk tales, Spanish corridos, prison writing, responses to September 11, 2001, and spoken word poetry). Course requirements include *The Concise Heath Anthology of American Literature* (vol. II), weekly discussion assignments, and a series of formal analysis essays.

ENG 460A/660-1001: Heroic Epic: Tolkien, Scholar and Storyteller

(Web-Live)

Professor John Bowers

ENG 460/660-1001: This class surveys the English tradition of the "heroic epic" from the perspective of J. R. R. Tolkien by studying works that he edited, translated, and taught at Oxford. These will include *Beowulf*, *Sir Orfeo*, *Pearl*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Also included is Tolkien's edition of Chaucer's *Reeve's Tale* in his own souvenir copy from 1939. We will spend much of the term studying Tolkien's 20th-century heroic epics *The Silmarillion*, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Term grade is based on six quizzes (60%), a term paper with revision required (20%), and a final examination, (20%). This class will be taught "web live" online.

ENG 476A-1001: Studies in British Film/ Jane Austen and Visual Culture

(Web-Live)

Professor Timothy Erwin

ENG 476A-1001: Jane Austen is arguably the most accomplished of early British novelists. Each of her six courtship novels from *Northanger Abbey* to *Persuasion* knows exactly where it is going, even if none of her heroines could be so certain of her direction in life. Most of the novels have been filmed within the last few decades. Emma Thompson's *Sense and Sensibility* and Roger Michell's *Persuasion* are remarkably successful adaptations, intelligent and popular. The recent *Emma* with Anya Taylor-Joy was also well-received. Beginning with the 1940 *Pride and Prejudice* with Greer Garson as Elizabeth Bennet and Laurence Olivier as Darcy, we are reading the films in part for their interest as visual adaptations of verbal narrative, and in part as expressions of the British heritage industry. Mid-term exam, class presentations, and a longer-term paper.

ENG 481B/681B-1001: Modern Comparative Literature: Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Poetry

(Web-Based)

Professor Christopher Decker

ENG 481B/681B-1001: This course introduces poetry in English written on both sides of the Atlantic between 1798 and 1928, covering a varied field from William Wordsworth to Thomas Hardy (in Britain) and from Joel Barlow to Emma Lazarus and Eugene Field (in the USA). On either side of the water, we will try to achieve a panoramic view of the diversity of themes, forms, and styles attempted in the period. In this course we will treat each poem not as a found object, estranged from the person who made it and helplessly subject to the critic's enhanced interrogation techniques, but as a made object about which it is pertinent to ask (while not interrogating): Why was it put together in this way? Why might someone choose these words and not others in their place? Why is this poem here, how did it get here, and what is it here to do? We will consider the historical value of certain poems or books of poems as social documents, but we will more often direct our attention to what makes a literary work literary and not simply one more kind of text for striking attitudes, minting opinions, proffering views, or persuading others.

ENG 494A: Native American Literature

(M/W 2:30 pm- 3:45 pm)

Professor Steven Sexton

ENG 494A-1001: Louis Owens says that stories make the world knowable and inhabitable. An important way in how we understand the world and imagine who we are as individuals, as communities, and as a people is through the stories we tell. Through their fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, we will examine how Indigenous people express self-imagination, the act of imagining oneself, through their literatures. Given the pervasiveness of Euroamerican culture, society, and politics—a reality of settler colonialism—we should also consider how settler colonialism has influenced how Indigenous writers imagine themselves and how they resist it. We will look at how Indigenous people confront issues brought by settler colonialism that include identity, history, and politics.