

English Department

Graduate Newsletter

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appointment

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REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 1998

The Schedule of Classes for spring 1998 will give you detailed information on how to register for next semester's courses. Please plan to register as early as possible; the budget will again be tight and underenrolled seminars may be canceled early in the registration process. If you have questions about your schedule for the spring, please get in touch with me.

CONDITIONALLY CLASSIFIED GRADUATE STUDENTS

Conditionally classified students must complete their required undergraduate course work before enrolling in graduate seminars. A list of upper-division literature courses approved for conditionally classified students is available in the rack outside the English department. Be sure to take only courses from this list. When you are eligible for classified status, the change is not automatic; you need to see me to file the necessary form.

APPROVED COURSES FOR THE ENGLISH M.A.

Except for undergraduate courses you may have to take if you are a conditionally classified student and aside from certain upper-division courses required in the writing

emphases, it is assumed that your graduate work will be in 200-numbered English classes. Courses taken outside the department will not count except in unusual circumstances. Get prior approval from me before you take such courses. Similarly, upper-division English course work will not count unless you have convincing reasons to take undergraduate courses. Again, check with me in advance.

ENGLISH GRADUATE SEMINARS FOR SPRING 1998:

- 204. Modern Approaches to Lit. W 1900-2145 (Keesey)**
- 211. 20th-Century Poetry R 1900-2145 (Maio)**
- 216. Medieval English Lit. R 1200-1445 (Stork)**
- 217. English Renaissance T 1900-2145 (Grant)**
- 226. Tragedy R 1600-1845 (Birenbaum)**
- 233. Victorian Literature R 1900-2145 (Wilson)**
- 253. Early American Literature T 1900-2145 (Engell)**
- 254. 19th-Century American W 1600-1845 (Douglass)**
- 255. 20th-Century American M 1600-1845 (Shillinglaw)**
- 257. History of Rhetoric M 1900-2145 (Cullen)**

(Seminars offered in Fall 1998 will probably include 200, 201, 216, 225, 229, 230, 232, 240, 255, 256 and 259.)

Course Descriptions:

201. Materials and Methods of Literary Research (Prof. Haeger):

This course will introduce graduate students to the resources and techniques of literary research. The work will comprise activities ranging from readings and discussions on the kinds, uses, and values of research to specialized problems in the methods of research. Students will become familiar with various bibliographies, indices, checklists, concordances, and periodicals covering English, American, and world literature and other areas of English study. Whenever practicable, reports and projects will be adapted to the individual student's specialization. In pursuit of the general objective of demonstrating how research can be helpful and interesting, revealing possibilities rather than stultifying interest, the course will give students the means for becoming fully equipped and fully aware researchers and scholars. Assignments will be designed to ensure understanding of research and bibliographical terms, of formats for writing style and documentation in the field, and of such basic skills as organizing research reports and essays, reviewing current research on a particular author or subject, compiling annotated bibliographies of primary and secondary materials, and observing the research techniques of currently practicing scholars. Ideally, then, English 201 will give the graduate student of English the preparation to undertake any of a large variety of activities which may become necessary in later courses and in later professional life.

English 201 is required of all English graduate students and should be taken as soon as possible after achieving classified standing.

204. Modern Approaches to Literature (Prof. Keeseey):

This course will explore some of the main contemporary approaches to literature, including versions of genetic, reader-response, formal, mimetic, intertextual, feminist, Marxist, poststructural, and cultural criticism. We will read essays by prominent modern critics explaining and defending each type of criticism as well as essays applying some version of each approach to a few target texts. By this plan we will try to strike a useful balance between the "practical" and the theoretical aspects of criticism, and the format will also allow us to compare the different approaches by seeing what they can show us about the same literary texts. Essays from David Richter's *Falling Into Theory* will supplement these readings and further illustrate the current debates.

216. Medieval English Literature (Prof. Stork):

The heart of this course is reading Chaucer in the original. This will involve translation in class and attention to the linguistic difficulties of Middle English. A background of medieval sermons, saint's lives, lais, and chronicles will inform our understanding of selected *Canterbury Tales*. We will also read a selection of medieval English lyric poetry. If time permits, we may also read selected Middle English romances such as *Sir Orfeo* or *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

217. English Renaissance (Prof. Grant):

A study of lyric poetry and drama, of Platonism and passion, a study of the courtier and the poet and their attitudes towards women, language, and reality. We begin with *The Courtier* by Castiglione and end with *'Tis a Pity She's a Whore* by John Ford. Students who have had little background in Renaissance literature should read or review "The Sixteenth Century" as well as the works of Donne, Jonson, and Webster in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Students should buy this anthology if it is not already in their personal library. The instructor refers to it frequently and it is our text for Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*. There will be one midterm and a seminar paper.

226. Tragedy (Prof. Birenbaum):

We'll start with Aristotle (what he did and didn't really say, as it seems and as it were) and a comparison of the three Greeks. The rest of the course will be split into two special topics. The first, the *Tragedy of Evil*, will follow classical and medieval backgrounds leading up to Shakespeare's *Richard III* and beyond, including some Seneca, Kyd's *Spanish Tragedy*, Marlowe's *Jew of Malta*, and Webster's *White Devil*. The second unit will probably be on *Tragedy, Romance, and Romanticism*, starting with the medieval *Tristan*, and including Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, perhaps some Shelley and Byron, and some works of fiction.

233. Victorian (Prof. Wilson):

A study of significant literary texts of the Victorian Age. We will read *Great Expectations*, *Middlemarch*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, the poetry of Tennyson, Browning, Arnold, the Pre-Raphaelites, and others. Art, music, and critical prose will supplement the above readings.

253. Early American Literature (Prof.Engell):

The working title of this seminar is "The American Novel, 1780-1855." We will read the following novels: *Charlotte Temple* (Susanna Rowson), *Female Quixotism* (Tabitha Tenney), *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Harriet Beecher Stowe), *Edgar Huntly* (Charles Brockden Brown), *Arthur Gordon Pym* (Edgar Poe), *Moby Dick* (Herman Melville), *Hope Leslie* (Catherine Maria Sedgwick), *The Pioneers* (James Fenimore Cooper), and *The Scarlet Letter* (Nathaniel Hawthorne). Discussions will focus on the development of various kinds of novels in the new nation and on a variety of historical, cultural, economic, political, and aesthetic factors influencing this development. Each member of the seminar will give several oral presentations and will write a research essay of 20-25 pages and present a summary of that essay to the seminar.

254. Nineteenth-Century American Literature (Prof. Douglass):

"The Genres of American Writing." This seminar will examine the wide variety of nineteenth-century American genres of writing, including rustic and tall tales, local color, the self-consciously American Novel (in its romantic and "realistic" forms), domestic and children's literature, adventure literature, environmental literature, mystery fiction, naturalism and reform literature. In what ways are genres gendered? How do the various genres reflect the great racial, regional, and ethnic conflicts of the era? How do the genres relate to social, economic, or technological change? These are some of the questions we will address as we read Alcott, Cable, Dickinson, Cooper, Whitman, Twain, James, Poe, Stowe, Melville, and other major writers of the period.

255. Twentieth-Century American Literature (Prof. Shillinglaw):

"More than Enduring, Faulkner Prevails" read a recent headline in the *New York Times*. Reporting on the Faulkner centenary on September 25, the article posed the question: Who reads Faulkner? He's tough; "he sets up roadblocks with his endless interior monologues and sudden changes in point of view"; he needs to be reread. In this seminar we will attend to Faulkner's words: "The aim of every artist is to arrest motion, which is life, by artificial means and hold it fixed so that 100 years later, when a stranger looks at it, it moves again since it is life." Through discussions, short weekly presentations of two-page papers, and brief lectures, we will explore "life" in Faulkner's greatest works: *The Sound and the Fury* (1929); *As I Lay Dying* (1930), *Light in August* (1932), *Absalom, Absalom!* (1936), *The Hamlet* (1940), *Go Down, Moses* (1942). Requirements: two-page papers for presentations (6 total); seminar paper.

257. History and Theories of Rhetoric (Prof. Cullen):

This course provides a brief survey of rhetoric from Plato to the present and an introduction to current issues in the field, including: -Composing Processes -Heuristics & Pre-Writing -Arrangement & Argument -Revision -Discourse Theories -Collaborative Learning -Gender and Writing -Basic Writing -Writing Across the -Evaluation Curriculum Major assignments will include a research paper and an oral presentation. Other assignments may include an abstract of a theoretical article, a textbook review, and model lesson plans or syllabi.

PH.D. APPLICATIONS

The department would very much like to know which students are applying to Ph.D. programs and what success you are having. Please drop a note or give me a call to let me know where you are applying and how things are working out.

GRADUATE ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

If you will not be taking classes next semester but would like to receive the Newsletter, send me a note with your address and I'll put you on the mailing list.

GRADUATE BULLETIN BOARD

Important dates and other useful information will be posted on the English Graduate Bulletin Board in the first-floor hall of the Faculty Office Building. New information will be posted as we receive it. So make a point to check the bulletin board frequently.

ENGLISH GRADUATE GROUP

Interested students should contact [John Brinckwirth](#) (924-4475). Meeting dates and times will be posted and circulated in the seminars.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT POSITIONS FOR SPRING 1998

The department will have a few new Graduate Assistant positions for spring 1998. Duties will include working as an assistant to a professor or tutoring in the writing lab. If you are interested, write me a brief letter of application sketching your background and listing your graduate school courses and grades. Also include the names of three professors who will be supplying letters of recommendation and be sure to add your current phone number and address. Get this letter to me by Dec. 1, and have your referees send their letters directly to me by the same date.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov.17: Last day for December graduates to submit theses to Graduate Studies Office, WLN 125

Feb. 2, 1998: Last day for August or December 1998 graduates to submit approved programs to Graduate Studies. You must see me to fill out the appropriate form. To be safe, do it before the end of this fall semester.

Feb. 27, 1998: Last day for May 1998 graduates to file application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office

Mar. 11, 1998: Departmental foreign language exams, FO 104, 3:30-5 p.m.

Apr. 13, 1998: Last day for May 1998 graduates to submit thesis to Graduate Studies Office

