

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**  
**Graduate Course Descriptions**  
**Fall 2023**

If you need permissions to enroll, please contact [theresa.spadola@stonybrook.edu](mailto:theresa.spadola@stonybrook.edu) and include your ID number in your email.

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**MASTER'S LEVEL**

**EGL 506.01 Studies in Literary Theory: From Formalisms to Forms of Life**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in an English Graduate Program or Composition Studies Certificate Program.*

This course serves as an introduction to literary and critical theory at the MA level. In the first part of the semester, we will survey some of the most influential critical schools of thought of the last hundred years—such as Formalism, Marxism, Psychoanalytic, Feminism, and Deconstruction, among others—through a close reading of key texts by a number of theorists, philosophers, and critics. The latter part of the course will introduce some current trends, thinkers, and concerns in critical theory that have, in one way or another, developed out of or in response to these earlier theories. To supplement these oft-challenging texts we will also read some short stories, poems, and view various cultural artifacts.

Overall, this course will trace the transformation from a formalist literary theory through the turn to the linguistic and the signifier and finally to contemporary concerns with affect, embodiment, the non-human, and forms of life. Primary readings may include works by: Bakhtin, Butler, Foucault, Agamben, Fanon, Cixous, Barthes, Deleuze and Guattari, Lauren Berlant, Lee Edelman, Kristeva, Lacan, Jane Bennett, Walter Benn Michaels, Spivak, Freud, Marx, Frank Wilderson, Althusser, and Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri.

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| <b>87466</b> | <b>LEC 01</b> | <b>WED</b> | <b>5:30-8:20</b> | <b>RALPH CLARE</b> |
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**EGL 509.01 Studies in Language & Linguistics: History of the English Language**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in an English Graduate Program or Composition Studies Certificate Program.*

The course explores the historical development of the English language. The focus is on Old and Middle English texts (e.g., Cædmon's Hymn, The Battle of Maldon, excerpts from Geoffrey Chaucer's General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales), which students will translate and analyze with an emphasis on grammar, syntax, and the development of English vocabulary. Students are expected to become familiar with earlier forms of the language and use linguistic and grammatical concepts necessary to understand the evolution of English. Two six-page papers are required, the first a translation and analysis of Old English, the second a translation and analysis of Middle English text.

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| <b>96659</b> | <b>LEC 01</b> | <b>ONLINE</b> | <b>FLEX</b> | <b>ED CURRIE</b> |
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### **EGL 584.30 Topics in Genre Studies: Chaucer**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in an English Graduate Program*

A close reading of the *Canterbury Tales* in Middle English, with a focus on the nature of irony, truth, evil, faith, and love in Chaucer's poetry. There will be reports, papers, an exam, and quizzes. No prior knowledge of Middle English is required.

**87094      LEC 30      ONLINE/THUR      5:30-8:20**

**STEPHEN SPECTOR**

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### **EGL 587.01 Topics in Race, Ethnic Studies: Theories of World Literature & Global Culture**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Graduate Program or Composition Studies Certificate Program.*

This course tracks the formation of world literature both as an idea and discipline, while considering how comparison underwrites the very idea of global culture. Our objectives in this seminar will be twofold. The first part of the course will focus on the intertwined history of world, postcolonial, and comparative literature, surveying foundational texts in these fields. The second part will address three major axes of critical debate facing world literature in the present moment: 1) Methods of comparison and translation, 2) Studies of the global, postcolonial, and non-western, 3) The place of world literature within institutional spaces and disciplinary systems. Readings include selections from: Walter Benjamin, Stephanie Black, Pascale Casanova, Pheng Cheah, Rey Chow, Edwidge Danticat, David Damrosch, Édouard Glissant, Moshin Hamid, Jamaica Kincaid, Franco Moretti, David Palumbo-Liu, Salman Rushdie, Edward Said, Tayeb Salih, and Rene Wellek.

**88932      LEC 01      MON      5:30-8:20**

**TIMOTHY AUGUST**

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### **EGL 592.01 Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Graduate Program or Composition Studies Certificate Program.*

This course explores the complex nature of writing pedagogy through the lens of both theory and practice. Writing is both a social and cognitive process and requires a shared understanding between readers and writers about its purposes and form, rhetorical modes, and language skills. Since much of writing is learned in schools, classroom practices are critical to the development of student writers. Learning to write involves engagement with authentic writing experiences that cultivate understanding of one's identity and prepare students to participate in the many discourses they will encounter outside the classroom. Schools are largely responsible for teaching students how to write, yet several factors can inhibit the implementation of effective writing instruction, most notably instructional practices, teacher preparation, and long-held beliefs about writing. Thus, in this course we will examine methods of writing instruction that work, exemplary teaching methodologies, and beliefs about writing that contribute to teacher effectiveness. Equity literacy, adaptations for English

language learners and students with disabilities as well as enrichment and remediation approaches are also addressed in the course.

81789

SEM 01

ONLINE

FLEX

KAREN BUECHNER

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**EGL 598**            **Thesis Research**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English MA. Permission Required.*

Writing a master's thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. Instructor permission and Graduate Director approval required. **Students who plan to take EGL 598 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

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**EGL 599**            **Independent Study**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Graduate Programs. Permission Required.*

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Program Director. English majors only. Instructor permission and Graduate Program Director approval required. **Students who plan to take EGL 599 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

STAFF

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**DOCTORAL LEVEL**

**EGL 600.01 The Discipline of Literary Studies: Proseminar**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program*

“Theories permit consciousness to ‘jump over its own shadow,’ to leave behind the given, to represent the transcendent, yet, as is self-evident, only in symbols.”

--Hermann Weyl, mathematician and physicist

This proseminar will be an inquiry into how our field has come to be, and, as such, will be the basis for an advanced understanding about what defines our profession and the disciplines and transdisciplines it encompasses. Partly, it will be an introduction to critical analysis, including theoretical and methodological approaches; and partly, it will be an orientation to the profession and its careers both in the academy and outside it. Faculty members will speak on their own scholarship

and professional experiences through the course of the semester. We will pursue the topic with the help of a textbook reader in literary and cultural studies. From there, variety will be our goal, as we will discuss poems, dialogues, letters, essays, journalism, film, documentaries, and a wide array of musical genres.

**88931**

**SEM 01**

**TUE**

**1:00-3:50**

**ERIC WERTHEIMER**

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**EGL 608.01 Relations of Literature and Other Disciplines:** Literature, Medical Humanities, and Disability Studies

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor*

Well or sick, functioning or beleaguered, it behooves us always to acknowledge and protect the humanity of the mortal human being in our midst. For caretakers, this means not seeing the one afflicted as merely suffering from a disease, per se (i.e. an objective pathogenic condition), but also as coping with an illness (i.e. the subjective distress, and possibly crisis, which ensues when one's world is disrupted by falling sick). An "ill-ness" refers to the state in which one's every relation to everything in one's life becomes imperiled after one falls ill. When we are sick we are most vulnerable, and arguably most ourselves. Correspondingly, "compassionate care" is anything but a redundancy. For, in order for care to be compassionate, the one rendering care must look directly at, and attentively to, the other in need, which is to say, relationally. Just what this entails, and how best to harness the virtues of "compassionate care," is the discipline of the medical humanities.

While we will all fall ill in our lives---and are guaranteed to know people we love who will fall ill---we are not all equally abled. In this respect, beyond our human existential predicament, there is an additional communal aspect to populations whose chronic experiences meeting the challenges of being variously abled is identity-forming for them while edifying for those who are fully abled. What assumptions about disability are revealed through literary analysis of fiction, memoir, and through the rhetorical analysis of published criticism of such texts? This further subset of issues, which both fall within and go beyond the field of medical humanities, constitute the discipline of disability studies.

With regard both to the medical humanities and to disability studies, throughout the semester we will examine literature which brings the reader into the room of the one acutely ailing or living with a chronic condition in order to investigate what life looks like from that person's perspective. To this end, we will look closely at the un-, or only partially solvable, moral dilemmas precipitated by scenarios in which difficult outcomes are imminent, and we will take a hard look at harmful stereotypes in an endeavor to understand the subtle manner in which they came to be. We will, finally, pay some attention to these issues within the context of the ongoing burden of having had to cope with life during the Covid-19 pandemic. We will read a number of classic and contemporary authors in this course, possible examples which include, but are not limited to: Paul Kalanithi, Albert Camus, Francis Peabody, George Bernard Shaw, Leo Tolstoy, Fang Fang, Annie Dillard, Atul Gawande, Margaret Atwood, Eva Kittay, Harriet McBryde Johnson, Michael Bérubé, Alice Wong,

Georgina Kleege, and John Lee Clark.

**88100**

**SEM 01**

**THUR**

**1:00-3:50**

**ANDREW FLESCHER**

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**WRT 614.30 Topics in Composition and Writing: Multimodal Rhetoric**

How do we define literacy—our own and others’—in a world that is infused with multimodal rhetoric? We will explore texts created in a range of modalities (visual, aural, linguistic, spatial, and gestural) that are meant to be consumed through either digital media or other innovative forms of media. We will also look at how multimodal rhetorics are used to build and maintain environments, especially online/virtual/hybrid spaces, within which engagement and persuasion may take place. Examples may include blogspaces, social media, installations, performance art, video games, augmented reality, and alternative reality games. Students will take turns leading on various assigned texts, and then draw from readings and discussion as well as their own independent research to produce a final project. Class members will have the opportunity to engage a specific issue in depth through a final project, which usually consists of a complementary essay and multimodal presentation. Readings include work from Jonathan Alexander's *Unruly Rhetorics*, Alexandra Hildago's *Camera Rhetorica*, Douglas Eyman's *Digital Rhetoric: Theory, Method, Practice*, and Foss/Griffin's texts on invitational rhetoric.

**86912**

**SEM 30**

**ONLINE/FLEX**

**CYNTHIA DAVIDSON**

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**EGL 615 Independent Study**

*Permission Required*

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Program Director. English majors only. Instructor permission and Graduate Director approval required. **Students who plan to take EGL 615 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**STAFF**

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**EGL 690 Directed Readings**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program. Permission Required*

For G4 students studying for exams and working on the Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 690 (Directed Readings) must download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permissions to enroll.

**STAFF**

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**EGL 695.01      Methods of Teaching English**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program. Permission Required*

**TUT 01**

**STAFF**

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**EGL 697.01      Practicum in Teaching Literature**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program. Permission Required*

**TUT 01**

**STAFF**

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**EGL 699      Dissertation Research on Campus**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program. Permission Required. Must be advanced to candidacy (G5)*

Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab. Fall, Spring, and Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 699 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**STAFF**

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**EGL 700      Dissertation off Campus Domestic**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program. Permission Required. Must be advanced to candidacy (G5)*

Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 700 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form at the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**STAFF**

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**EGL 701      Dissertation off Campus International**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in English Ph.D. program. Permission Required. Must be advanced to candidacy (G5)*

Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan..International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed. International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if the other plan is deemed comparable. All international students must receive clearance from an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. **Students who plan to take EGL 700 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form at the English department website. Full-time students need 9 credits. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director.** This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

## STAFF

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**IF YOU PLAN TO REGISTER FOR EGL 599, 615, 690, 699, 700 or 701, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH A FACULTY MEMBER WHO IS TEACHING.**

**DO NOT REGISTER WITH SOMEONE WHO IS ON LEAVE.**

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE REGARDING NEEDED FORMS AND PERMISSIONS.**