

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2024

MASTER'S LEVEL (500)

EGL 506.01

Studies in Literary Theory

From the classical period to our present, the story of literary criticism and theory is, in the end, really all about you, the advanced literature student. It can tell us why you study what you study, how you can study it better, and how the literature we are so eager to understand shapes us as people. Put another way: this class will be about how literature and various other forms of writing enable us to think and act. And so, the class will serve as an introduction to the basics and assumptions of the techniques of criticism and interpretation. 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 an array of musical genres. The readings for this course will be very manageable. Although this course is web delivered, it is neither automated nor completely self-paced. And although there are technically no assigned class times, I am asking that you observe the scheduled lesson tasks as I have them outlined in the schedule of readings and activities. You are expected to engage in all learning tasks.

Prerequisite: Matriculation in a graduate program or the composition studies certificate.

3 credits, graded A-F

LEC 01

ONLINE ASYNCH

E. WERTHEIMER

EGL/WRT 509.01

Studies in Language & Linguistics - Translation Studies

This module explores how translation has been conceived throughout history and it focuses on how translation practices impact and relate to theory. Students will develop a good knowledge and practice of different types of translation – including interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic translation –, and grasp the ethical dilemmas that translating entails.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT or Composition Studies Certificate programs.

3 credits, graded A-F

LEC 01

T 5:00 - 7:50 PM

S. BRIONI

EGL 585.01

Topics in Cultural Studies

Literature in the Age of Oil

Today the world is on fire, and fossil-fueled corporations keep raising the heat. But the planetary dilemmas bound up with oil and other fossil fuels are not only material. Our modern dependencies on oil have deep

imaginative roots in the fiction, film, and art of the petro-era. This course surveys stories devoted to what is arguably the most important, transformative, and misunderstood resource in human history. How did novelists conceive of oil as a foundation for modern life--for instance, in their depictions of the thrill of the road, the euphoria of flight, and the vertigo of sudden social transformation? What struggles did those writers encounter in trying to represent oil's vast global infrastructures? Can we discover, from classics of our petroleum-powered past, the blueprint for a more livable world yet to come?

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., or MAT programs.

3 credits, graded A-F

LEC 01

ONLINE ASYNCH

M. TONDRE

EGL/WRT 592.01 Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition

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.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT or Composition Studies Certificate programs.

Note: No adds after first week of classes.

3 credits, graded A-F

LEC 01

ONLINE

FLEX

TBA

EGL 598: Thesis Research

Writing a master's thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. **Students who plan to take EGL 598 must download the appropriate form from the English department website.** 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.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA program.

3 credits, graded A-F (1 credit on retake only)

TUT

STAFF

EGL 599: Independent Study

Students who plan to take EGL 599 must download the appropriate form at the English department website. 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.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA or Ph.D. program.

3 credits, graded A-F

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DOCTORAL LEVEL (600)

EGL 600.01

The Discipline of Literary Studies: Proseminar

This course is an introduction to graduate studies in English with an eye to situating the current state of the profession and its history. We will survey various methods, schools, and approaches to literary study, including new work on the history and uses of “close reading,” genre studies, cultural studies, eco-criticism, posthumanism, postcolonialism, affect studies, historical materialism, new materialism, queer theory, biopolitics, and feminist body theory, among others. Students will analyze and practice some of the genres of academic writing they will produce during their graduate school careers, including abstracts, conference papers, blogs, seminar papers, articles and proposals for various purposes. Regular participation and in-class presentations, several short papers, one longer paper and one “conference” presentation are required.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor.

3 credits, graded A-F

SEM 01

T 12:30-3:20 PM

J. JOHNSTON

EGL 608.01

Relations of Literature to other Disciplines:

Academic Humanism: Origins and Ends

This seminar takes the present sense of crisis in the academic humanities as occasion to revisit the interrelated histories of humanism and literary study. We will look closely at a series previous crisis moments in the history of humanistic discourse as a way to understand its present potentials and limitations in education at the university and beyond. At the center of our discussions will be the proposition, central to all version of humanism that we examine, that literature is an incomparably powerful instrument for education. Our focus will be three turning points or, arguably, moments of crisis, the first two resembling and thus bearing instrumental relevance to the third: our own. First we examine the most influential Greco-Roman second order writing about the nature of literature –“poetry” as they called it – and its roles in the world (Plato’s *Ion*, *Republic*, *Symposium*, and *Phaedrus*; Aristotle’s *Poetics*; Longinus’ *On the Sublime*; Augustine, *De doctrina Christiana*). Second, we look at a series of early modern authors who, in working to supplant scholastic method as the chief modality of humanistic inquiry, go furthest towards defining “the humanities” as we know them today and the roles of literature therein (Petrarch, Valla, Alberti, Erasmus, More, and Sidney). The third unit considers the current status of literary study, with reference to the Victorian educational theory concurrent with the invention and institutionalization of English literature as a field of study (especially Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy*). We will bring what we discover from these foundational texts to bear on a selection of more recent texts that again seek to theorize humanism’s place in the modern academy while

working to revitalize or reform it (works by Edward Said, for example, Donna Haraway, and John Guillory). The assigned work will include weekly primary and secondary readings, class presentations on the assigned primary texts, weekly postings, and a final research paper either on an historically contextualized account of one or more of the pre-twenty-first-century assigned texts or on an aspect of humanism or the humanities today as informed by the earlier material you will read over the course of the term.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor.

3 credits, graded A-F

SEM 01

W 2:00-4:50 PM

D. PFEIFFER

EGL 615

Independent Study

Students who plan to take EGL 615 must download the appropriate form from the English department website. 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.

3 credits, graded A-F

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EGL 690

Directed Readings

For PhD students preparing for General Exams and the Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. **Students who plan to take EGL 690 (Directed Readings) must download the enrollment form from the English department website.** 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.

Prerequisite: enrollment in the English Ph.D. program or permission of instructor.

1-12, credits graded S/U

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EGL 697.01

Practicum in Teaching Literature

For teaching assistants only. Interested students should speak with their advisor prior to enrolling.

3 credits graded S/U

TUT 01

APPT

S. BRIONI

EGL 699

Dissertation Research On-Campus

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 from 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.

0-9, credits graded S/U

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EGL 700

Dissertation Research Off-Campus Domestic

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 from 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.

Prerequisite: G5 Standing

0-9, credits graded S/U

TUT

STAFF

EGL 701

Dissertation Research Off-Campus International

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 a 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 the 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 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form from 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.

Prerequisite: G5 Standing

0-9, credits graded S/U

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NOTES:

English Students:

All students should meet with an advisor before they register for any courses.

Taking courses outside of English: If you are interested in taking a graduate course that is not EGL or not cross-listed with EGL, you must obtain written permission from the Graduate Program Director, the semester before the course begins. Just because SOLAR allows you to register for a non-EGL course does not mean that it can count toward your degree-get permission first.

Non-English Students:

Graduate English courses are open to all English students. Students outside of the English department who would like to take an English course should contact the instructor of the course and the graduate program coordinator for enrollment permissions.