

LIT 99/English Department Orientation Seminar **0 course unit**
(fall)

LIT 200/Introduction to Poetry **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisite: Reserved for English students

This course is designed to provide students with an overview and basic comprehension of the diverse forms and devices of poetry; in particular, students will develop a fundamental understanding of poetry's rhetorical structures and conventions.

LIT 201/Approaches to Literature **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisite: Reserved for English students

An introduction to the various approaches and theories employed by professional literary critics and scholars to enhance students' understanding, evaluation, and appreciation of literary works. The course has an intensive focus on helping students think critically and write skillfully about literature.

LIT 202/Cultures and Canons **1 course unit**
(formerly LIT 217/Multicultural Literature)
(every semester)

Prerequisite: Reserved for English students

An exploration of how cultural values, aesthetics, and social constructions of race and ethnicity shape literary texts and literary production. Students will engage in debates involving aesthetic value, disciplinary politics, universality, and canonicity, and examine the role of power, categories of difference, and intersectionality.

LIT 226/Genre Studies: The Film **1 course unit**
(annually)

Provides students with an overview and basic comprehension of the diverse forms and functions of film as an art form; in particular, students will develop a fundamental understanding of the history, structure and conventions of film, by analyzing films that adhere to and/or challenge this generic tradition.

LIT 227/Global Animated Film **1 course unit**
(same as CMP 227)
(annually)

This course introduces students to the fundamental aspects of animation as an art form in a global context. Students will develop a fundamental understanding of the history, structure, and conventions of animated film by analyzing a range of works within this broad tradition.

LIT 230/The Classical Tradition **1 course unit**
(same as CMP 230)
(occasionally)

Introduces students to a literary tradition that originates in the classical period. The course will put readings into literary and historical context by focusing on a pivotal literary moment or text. The course will explore literary and historical relations - the textual "ancestors" and "progeny" that make up the particular classical tradition under consideration, as well as the surrounding philological, social, and political contexts of the selected pivotal moment in that tradition. The course will also draw upon at least two distinct cultures, at least one of which must be classical.

LIT 231/World Literature to 1700

1 course unit

(same as CMP 231)

(occasionally)

Introduces students to selected literary traditions before 1700. The course will put readings into literary and historical context by focusing on a pivotal literary moment or text. The course will explore literary and historical relations—the textual “ancestors” and “progeny” that influenced or rewrote the pivotal text of the course, as well as the surrounding philological, social, and political contexts of the selected literary moment. The course will also draw upon at least two distinct cultures or traditions, at least one of which must be non-English-speaking.

LIT 232/ World Literature Since 1700

1 course unit

(same as CMP 232)

(occasionally)

Introduces students to selected literary traditions since 1700. The course will put readings into literary and historical context by focusing on a pivotal literary moment or text. The course will explore literary and historical relations—the textual “ancestors” and “progeny” that influenced or rewrote the pivotal text of the course, as well as the surrounding philological, social, and political contexts of the selected literary moment. The course will also draw upon at least two distinct cultures or traditions, at least one of which must be non-English-speaking.

LIT 233/World Drama

1 course unit

(same as TTR 233)

(annually)

Scholarly study of plays from the classical to contemporary periods as literary texts. Readings, lecture, discussion, and papers also examine aspects of theatrical production, thus providing a broad background in the theory, history, structure, terminology, conventions, and subgenres of drama and theatre. Emphasis is on western drama but examples of nonwestern comedy and tragedy are included.

LIT 251/British Literature to 1700

1 course unit

(annually)

In this course, students take a close look at specific literary techniques and genres, and at aspects of British culture, in selected examples of pre-1660 British literature. The course is designed to engage students in the analysis and interpretation of texts in their diverse historical, aesthetic, cultural, and theoretical contexts; and to lead to an understanding and appreciation of the development of literary traditions, cultural values, modes of thought, and uses of language.

LIT 252/British Literature since 1700

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Introduces students to British and Anglophone literary traditions since 1700. The instructor may choose to focus the course on a pivotal literary moment, text, or theme. At least half the course will be devoted to literature before Modernism. The course will also draw upon at least two distinct cultures or traditions, at least one of which will be outside the British Isles.

LIT 270/Topics in Literature

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This is a topics course with no prerequisites, offered primarily for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It may not be appropriate for freshmen.

LIT 272/Literature of the United States

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to acquire a broad-based, foundational knowledge and understanding of American literature since 1800. Emphasis will be placed on formulating a coherent understanding of the texts, contexts, concerns, and problematics which have influenced the American literary tradition since the early nineteenth century.

LIT 280/Literature, Film, and the Art of American Politics

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An exploration of the relationships between writers, filmmakers, and American political culture. The course examines the many ways in which creative artists have historically engaged such issues as individualism, rights, public opinion, citizenship, and the responsibilities of democracy.

LIT 310/Literature for Younger Readers

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Reserved for junior and senior English Education students or by permission of instructor. This course focuses on canonical and contemporary works of literature written for children and young adults within the context of literary theory.

LIT 315/Men and Masculinities: Literary Perspectives

1 course unit

(same as WGS 320)

(annually)

This course focuses on representations of men and masculinity in literary texts, although we may also look at film, video, television, advertising, and music. Some of the issues we will be thinking about include: the construction of modern male identities, the diversity of men's lives, the complex dynamics of men's relationships, and questions of power and social justice within the contemporary gender order.

LIT 316/Global Women Writers

1 course unit

(same as WGS 376)

(every semester)

This course will explore various literatures from around the world, encouraging students to examine the politics of gender, culture, and nation as well as the intersections of those systems of power. In exploring everything from arranged marriages to women in war, Global Women Writers will provide students—especially those students who have spent much of their lives within the borders of the U.S.—with one of the most challenging and rewarding courses of their college career. Common themes include feminist politics, post- and neo-colonialisms, reproductive rights, translation, globalization, and activism.

LIT 317/The Witch in Literature

1 course unit

(same as WGS 317)

(occasionally)

Exploration of the socio-historical constructions of the witch through a wide spectrum of literary texts: from medieval religious expositions to Puritan legal treatises, from German fairy tales to modern day films, from children's literature to critical theory, from 17th-century courtroom narratives to 21st-century propaganda.

LIT 321/Shakespeare: Sources and Contexts

1 course unit

(occasionally)

The course reconstructs the literary "horizon of expectations" for Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies at the time of their first performance. This will not be a course in Shakespeare per se but rather a course in the literary, dramatic, and cultural texts that shaped the literary expectations, perceptions, and tastes of Shakespeare and his audience.

LIT 334/Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women

1 course unit

(same as WGS 360)

(occasionally)

A comparative study of Latina and Latin-American women's literature in English. Open to a wide range of literary traditions, nations, time periods, and genres, including those specific to non-Western and post-Colonial cultures. The focus varies by semester.

LIT 335/Caribbean Women Writers

1 course unit

(same as AAS 335)

(occasionally)

Anglophone and English translations of Hispanophone and Lusophone writings by Caribbean women writers of African descent will be examined. Post Colonial and Africana feminist literary criticism will be used to explore the intersectionalities of race, gender, class, and sexuality on this literature as well as its connection to the writings African and other Diaspora women.

LIT 336/Nomads, Warriors, Poets: The Literature of Central Eurasia

1 course unit

(same as CMP 336)

(occasionally)

This course will focus on the literature and literary history of the poetic and epic traditions of Iran and Central Eurasia, paying particular attention to the interrelationships between nomadic and sedentary societies and the literature that they produce.

LIT 337/Postcolonial Literature

1 course unit

(same as CMP 337)

(occasionally)

This course studies Anglophone literature in the wake of decolonization. With a focus on works produced in or about former European colonies, as well as an emphasis on postcolonial theory, this course equips students to think critically about the intersections between western and non-western traditions, imperialism, and globalization. Students will study fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and/or film from at least two different postcolonial sites such as Nigeria, the Caribbean, Australia, India, etc.

LIT 340/The Bible as Literature

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An examination of the major elements and conventions of the literature of the ancient Hebrews and early Christians as exemplified in the Bible. Emphasis will be placed on influential motifs and images, narrative technique, poetic style, genre, and cultural and historical context.

LIT 342/Mythology

1 course unit

(same as CMP 342)

(occasionally)

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to study significant myths and legends which have influenced the shape and content of both Eastern and Western literature and to acquaint them with the shifting and conflicting ways in which mythology has been transmitted and studied from the ancient world to the contemporary, from the East to the West.

LIT 343/Late Medieval Writers

1 course unit

(same as CMP 343)

(occasionally)

An examination of the flowering of vernacular literature that occurred in western Europe in the fourteenth century. Emphasis will be placed on reconstructing how and why fourteenth-century writers, such as Dante, Juan Ruiz, Boccaccio, Froissart, Petrarch, Chaucer, and Christine de Pizan, came to create a

vernacular tradition that transcended national and linguistic boundaries. Topics in the course may include fourteenth-century literary theory, marginalized and competing voices in the century, classical and vernacular precursors, material production of books in the period, social and political change in late medieval Europe, international relations of the period, and theories of literary influence.

LIT 346/Romanticism

1 course unit

(same as CMP 346)
(occasionally)

This course will explore the phenomenon of Romanticism in Great Britain, the United States and Europe from a comparative perspective. Emphasis will be placed on analyzing how Romanticism intersects with other literary trends of the period and on how it develops as a reaction to the classical ideals of the European Enlightenment and the eighteenth century.

LIT 347/Modern European Drama

1 course unit

(same as TTR 347)
(occasionally)

Scholarly study of modern continental, British, and Irish drama from the late 19th century to the present. The course examines select plays within contexts of modern European movements in philosophy, psychology, science, and the arts; theater and drama in Western civilization; and the human condition. Study of representative works by major European playwrights such as Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekhov, Shaw, Synge, Pirandello, Lorca, Brecht, Ionesco, Beckett, Pinter, Stoppard, and Churchill.

LIT 354/Middle English Literature

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An examination of the difficulties inherent in reconstructing a literary tradition out of extant writing in English from the 12th to the 15th centuries. The course will focus on one or more literary genres (e.g., romance) and will focus on gaps in the historical development and definition of the chosen genre(s), as well as on attempts to fill those gaps to create a tenuous “native English” tradition. In addition, the course examines the social nature of the texts studied, based, as they are, on oral performance and appealing to a range of social milieux.

LIT 357/Early Modern British Literature

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An exploration of a variety of texts from 16th century England, a period that has been traditionally referred to as “the Renaissance” and more recently, the “Early Modern period.” We will consider the implications of both of these terms in our examination of a wide array of texts from this exciting, tumultuous, chaotic, and productive age.

LIT 358/British Literature and Religion: 1550-1700

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An exploration of literary strategies used by British writers of the late 16th and the 17th centuries as they question what it means to be a person of faith when the very nature of faith is undergoing challenges. What does a bright, ambitious Catholic gentleman do when university degrees are available only to Protestants? Do Puritans sin if they write fiction, since a “fiction” is a lie? Who should be allowed to interpret Scripture? How do people of faith maintain their integrity when they disagree with those in power? As they cope with these and other questions, British writers create compelling and innovative literature.

LIT 359/The 18th Century British Novel

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An exploration on the ways in which the newly emerging genre of the novel registers the various forms of reaction, revolution and social “leveling” that occurred in the course of the eighteenth century in Great Britain. By examining the many aesthetic permutations and ground-breaking transformations which characterize the genre during this period, the course will provide students with a broad-based understanding of and exposure to the texts, ideologies and aesthetics which structured and influenced the development of the British novel of the eighteenth century.

LIT 360/British Literature, 1700–1820: Augustanism and Its Rivals

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Explores tensions between rival groups of eighteenth-century British writers-most notably the Augustan satirists and their Baroque adversaries-as they address important cultural, political, philosophical, and religious issues of the times. Special attention is given to defining the distinguishing characteristics of “Augustanism” and how this aesthetic used satire to supplant the Baroque only to be supplanted itself by Romanticism.

LIT 361/British Romanticism

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course will look at the literary world in Britain from about 1789 (The French Revolution begins) to about 1837 (Victoria’s reign begins). Neither of these is a literary event, but both seem to usher in new eras in Europe and Britain. Students in this course will read lyric and narrative poetry, letters, contemporary literary criticism, novels, and secondary critical essays about the authors and the period.

LIT 362/Victorian Era

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course examines intersections between literature and culture during the British Victorian era (1837-1901). Since both the era and its literary output are far too vast to be treated comprehensively, the course will be organized around several literary/cultural topics. Students will become familiar with key social, political, and technological changes during the Victorian era and their impact on literature.

LIT 363/The 19th-Century British Novel

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course is designed to provide students with a broad-based understanding of and exposure to the texts, ideologies and aesthetics which structured and influenced the development of the British novel of the nineteenth century, including, but not limited to, the Romantic, Gothic, and Victorian periods. Instructors may choose to focus on a specific form or subgenre or on a theme relevant to a broad-based study of the nineteenth-century novel in Great Britain.

LIT 366/The 20th-Century British Novel

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course is designed to provide students with a broad-based understanding of and exposure to the British novel of the twentieth century including, but not limited to, the pre-war, post-war, and contemporary periods. Instructors may choose to focus on a particular period, subgenre or formal issue, or on a theme relevant to a broad-based study of the twentieth-century novel in Great Britain.

LIT 367/British Drama

1 course unit

(occasionally)

The course meets in the United Kingdom during the January term. Students will examine six to eight British plays both in performance and as texts and will tour sites and institutions important to British literary history.

LIT 370/Studies in Literature

1 course unit

(annually)

Focuses on a different topic for each version of the course. Recently offered sections of LIT 370 have included: U.S. Satire, World Film, and Creative Non-Fiction Workshop. Course may be repeated up to three times with different topics.

LIT 373/American Drama

1 course unit

(same as TTR 373)

(occasionally)

Scholarly study of selected American plays representing the most important experiments in dramaturgy and theatrical style, as well as those treating the prevailing American social issues of the 20th century. The course will examine attempts by American playwrights to raise American drama to the literary level of modern European drama which had been infused with the modern sensibility informed by changes in philosophy, psychology, science, and the arts; and/or to return drama and theatre to the literary level of classical Greek tragedy and Shakespeare. Toward the end of the course emphasis is given to the opening up of the American theatre to marginalized groups previously excluded from the stage.

LIT 374/American Literature to 1800

1 course unit

(annually)

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to acquire a broad-based, foundational knowledge and understanding of early American literature. Emphasis will be placed on formulating a coherent understanding of the texts, contexts, concerns, and problematics which influenced American literature before 1800 and which continue to structure interpretations of the period.

LIT 375/U.S. Literature, 1800–1900

1 course unit

(annually)

An examination of American literary culture beginning with the early national and antebellum periods and ending with the Civil War and age of realism. The course considers the problems involved in writing literary history and in forming (and expanding) a national canon. The course considers the cultural and historical pasts that inform these works, as well as the shifting notions of American identity that emerge in the texts.

LIT 376/ U.S. Literature Since 1900

1 course unit

(annually)

This course explores the diversity of U.S. literature in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics may include modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, the emergence of 1930s protest literature, mid-century experimentation, and post-modernism.

LIT 377/African-American Literature to 1920

1 course unit

(same as AAS 377)

(fall)

A study of selected African American Literature from the colonial period through Reconstruction, this course will build students' knowledge and confidence as readers and critics of African American culture and society in the United States. We will look at these texts through a lens focused on the effects produced by struggles with American fictions of race, class and sex and their intersections with categories of gender, ethnicity and nation. The course will also explore the canon of African American Literature, its literary tradition, and the connection to and diversions from the canon of American Letters.

LIT 378 /African American Literature, 1920 to the present

1 course unit

(same as AAS 378)

(spring)

A study of literature in the African American tradition, focusing on the realist and naturalist writings of the this period, as well as the prose, poetry, essays and speeches of the Harlem Renaissance and Black Arts Movement. We will interrogate how the social matrices of competing definitions of black identity are reflected in and through writing produced by African Americans, while we trouble notions of authenticity, representation, and essentialism. Works by Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Morrison, and others will be included. The course will also explore the canon of African American Literature, its literary tradition, and the intersections with and diversions from the canon of American Letters.

LIT 379/Asian American Literature

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course examines how issues of identity (class, race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity) have intersected with debates about literary history and tradition (aesthetics, canonicity, and questions of cultural “value”) in Asian American literature. Although the selected course materials and assignments may vary from semester to semester, each offering of this course focuses on the issues, contexts and representations that have shaped Asian American literature over a period of at least 50 years. In particular, this course focuses on how the Asian American literary tradition and its surrounding contexts have changed in response to, among other things, new patterns of immigration and new debates about the scope, definition and value of the overarching term “Asian American.”

LIT 380/ Representations of the Holocaust

1 course unit

(same as HGS 380)

(annually)

Elie Wiesel wrote that only a text written by a witness or survivor can be about the Holocaust; otherwise, it is not about the Holocaust. Is the Holocaust so sacred that its representation should be limited? What should the limits be? To consider these and other controversial issues, students will study a range of Holocaust representations and theories.

LIT 381/The Literary History of Nature

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course takes an ecocritical approach to literary history by examining varying literary constructions of the relationship between humans and their natural environment. By providing insight into historical development of modern ideas about nature and the earth, the course equips students to think ecocritically about literary and non-literary texts in the contemporary world.

LIT 385/Literature of Literary Journalism

1 course unit

(same as JPW 385)

(occasionally)

This course is designed to explore and problematize the competing claims of literary journalism on the realms of both fact and fiction; in particular, it is designed to offer students an opportunity to study both the origins of the form in the mid-nineteenth century and its contemporary practice. Ultimately, students will be exposed to the problems, paradoxes and politics of the contemporary distinction between “fiction” and “non-fiction” (or “literature” and “journalism”) in order to question the aesthetic assumptions and historical circumstances that have fueled that distinction.

LIT 388/Contemporary Literature

1 course unit

(spring)

Surveys post-1960 poetry and fiction. Emphasis is placed on introducing students to the aesthetic range of contemporary literature. Students will read and discuss authors and poets who represent major developments in traditional and non-traditional aesthetics.

LIT 391/Independent Study

variable course units

(every semester)

Intensive study of a literary or linguistic problem chosen through consultation between student and mentor.

LIT 393/Independent Research

1 course unit

Prerequisite: LIT 201

Students work with a faculty member on a discrete literary research project.

LIT 394/Topics in Comparative Literature

1 course unit

(same as CMP 370)

(occasionally)

Themes and content will vary from semester to semester and from instructor to instructor. However, all offerings of this course will seek to cultivate students' skills in comparative literary and cultural analysis and to foster a level of intellectual engagement with texts, contexts and traditions that recognizes the benefits to be derived from pursuing advanced study of literary works in their original languages.

LIT 396/Studies in Film

1 course unit

(occasionally)

History, aesthetics, and theory of the film medium. Each semester, a different aspect of film will be explored; e.g., the Russian and German silent film, contemporary cinema.

LIT 421/Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories

1 course unit

(spring)

An in-depth study of selected comedies and histories within their generic classifications and within their historical, cultural, and critical contexts.

LIT 422/Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances

1 course unit

(fall)

An in-depth study of selected tragedies and romances within their generic classifications and within their historical, cultural, and critical contexts.

LIT 427/Major Writers Before 1900

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to focus their critical attention more narrowly on the life and work of a selected literary figure, as chosen by the instructor. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing the influence of the surrounding social, political, historical, aesthetic and cultural contexts on the literary development of the selected writer and on obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the range and depth of the chosen author's work and a familiarity with the relevant critical, biographical and textual scholarship.

LIT 428/Major Writers After 1900

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to focus their critical attention more narrowly on the life and work of a selected literary figure, as chosen by the instructor. Emphasis will be

placed on recognizing the influence of the surrounding social, political, historical, aesthetic and cultural contexts on the literary development of the selected writer and on obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the range and depth of the chosen author's work and a familiarity with the relevant critical, biographical and textual scholarship.

LIT 476/Honors Project in English

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: By application only

Special projects for students writing an Honors thesis in English. For more information consult the department website or see the Associate Chair of the department.

LIT 477/Honors Project in English

2 course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: By application only

Special projects for students writing an Honors thesis in English. For more information consult the department website or see the Associate Chair of the department.

LIT 497/Seminar in Critical Theory
course unit

1

(same as CMP 497, ENGL 505)

(fall, spring)

Prerequisites: successful completion of LIT 201 (C or better), junior status, and permission of instructor

This course will offer a broad-based introduction to the discipline of literary theory including, but not limited to, New Criticism, reader-response criticism, psychoanalytic criticism, feminism, postcolonialism, deconstruction, poststructuralism, Marxism, cultural studies and New Historicism.

LIT 499/Seminar in Research and Theory

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: successful completion of LIT 201 (C or better) and junior status

Small classes that focus on specific topics in literary or linguistic research and theory. Formal seminar presentations and several papers, including completion of a major research essay. To be taken twice by English majors – typically once in the junior, and once in the senior year.