ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
MAYMESTER 2010

All English courses 300 and above require ENGL 101, 102, and one course between ENGL 270-292

ENGL 360M-001 CREATIVE WRITING MTWThF 2:00-4:45 BARILLA

This course will function primarily as a workshop in several genres of creative writing, in which students will share work in progress with other members of the course. We will work with poetry, short fiction and narrative nonfiction, with emphasis on fiction and poetry. The course will also involve reading and discussing published work in these genres, as well as numerous in-class and out-of-class writing exercises. Students will produce original work in each genre, which they will turn in as a portfolio at the end of the course for a final grade.

ENGL 419M-001 TOPIC/WONDER, WAR&OPIUM MTWThF 2:00-4:45 JARRELLS
(Meets with ENGL 650)

The “East” was a subject of great anxiety and great literature in Romantic-period Britain. Sometimes it was an exotic place of wonder and romance; other times it was a hostile, foreign place that threatened western ideas of civilization and self. Often it was both. In this class, we will examine various ways the East gets mapped and represented in British writing and film from the late eighteenth century to the present. We will start with a couple of early statements about the politics of globalization (by Edmund Burke and William Wordsworth). We will then proceed to some of the many popular works of the period that feature eastern settings, characters, and that substance of both wonder and war: opium. Authors studied will include Samuel Coleridge, Lord Byron, Mary Shelley, Felicia Hemans, Thomas De Quincey, and Irvine Welsh. We also will look at a number of films (in clips or in full), including Stephen Frears’ My Beautiful Laundrette, Danny Boyle’s Trainspotting and Slumdog Millionaire, and Siddiq Barmak’s Opium War.

ENGL 431M-001 CHILDREN’S LITERATURE MTWThF 8:00-10:45 JOHNSON

This course is a broad introduction to the world of contemporary American children’s literature. Students will examine texts which are in some way related to central ideas of and about America and Americans of various ethnicities and backgrounds. Discussion topics will include the meaning of “excellence” in children’s book-writing and illustration, the cultural politics of the children’s book publishing world, and current issues and controversies in the field.

ENGL 437M-001 WOMEN WRITERS MTWThF 11:00-1:45 DAVIS
(Cross-listed with WGST 437M)

The novels, short stories, poetry, essays, and various forms of media that we’ll examine in this course will help to illustrate the pleasures and dangers of growing up female in the United States over time. Readings will range widely from Little Women to Twilight, from Dickinson to Plath, from Jacobs to Morrison, from Yeizerska to Allison, and from “Cinderella” to “The Paper-Bag Princess.” We'll study magazines and advertising and watch YouTube clips, documentaries, and films including “Thirteen.” You’ll be asked to take daily quizzes, contribute to a group presentation, write two papers, and submit a final project.

ENGL 439M-001 TOPIC/BOB MARLEY, LYRIC MTWThF 8:00-10:45 DAWES

Using the lyrics of Bob Marley, video footage, and several texts that engage with Marley the artist and figure, along with close analysis of his music paying attention to issues of politics, religion, race, sexuality and identity, this course will introduce students to one of the most important musical icons of the twentieth century. The course will combine lecture, discussion and an innovative journaling system to connect students with the music of Bob Marley.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS  
Summer I 2010

ENGL 102-001  Rhetoric & Composition  MTWTh 1:00-3:15  GREER  
(Prereq: ENGL 101)
A course offering structured, sustained practice in researching, analyzing, and composing arguments. Students will read about a range of academic and public issues and write researched argumentative and persuasive essays.

ENGL 102-002  Rhetoric & Composition  MTWTh 10:30-12:45  FRIEND  
(Prereq: ENGL 101)
English 102 is designed to build on English 101 to help prepare you for the writing you will do in future college courses and beyond. While English 101 honed your ability to critically read and closely analyze texts, English 102 emphasizes helping you to write well-reasoned argumentative papers that draw on multiple sources and viewpoints. During the semester, you will learn to identify the elements of an effective argument, and then you will apply those principles in composing researched essays about academic and public issues. This course will also strengthen your information literacy skills, by teaching you strategies for finding, assessing, using, citing, and documenting source materials.

ENGL 270-276 Designed for Non-majors.

ENGL 283-001  Themes in British Writing  MTWTh 8:00-10:15  GWARA  
(Designed for Non-majors)  
The British Bestsellers. Major themes of status, loss, and passion in British fiction bestsellers. We read five novels in this course:


Grading based on class participation, attendance, and five short reaction papers on each novel.

ENGL 285-001  Themes in American Writing  MTWTh 10:30-12:45  STEELE  
(Designed for Non-majors)  
This course will look at the widely varying ways that Colonial and American writers have responded to nature -- in its widely varying forms -- over the past five centuries. Readings will take us from the howling wilderness to the picturesque landscape to the wild frontier and beyond. Throughout, we will consider the metaphorical and material roles played by nature in U.S. nationalism and cultural politics. Readings will include works by Bradstreet, Cooper, Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson, Cather, Hurston, Wright, Erdrich and others. There will be a midterm, a final, and a short critical paper.

ENGL 287 Is Required for English Majors

ENGL 287-001  American Literature  MTWTh 1:00-3:15  GLAVEY  
This course will serve as an introduction to important themes in American literature from Benjamin Franklin through the twentieth century, paying particular notice to the tensions that arise between historical injustices and the nation’s ideals of democracy and freedom. Our goal will be to attend to the specific artistic means by which writers respond to these tensions, and to think about what their responses can teach us about America and its history as well as its literature. Our readings will be drawn from a diverse range of authors and from multiple genres including fiction, memoir, and poetry. The course is designed for English Majors.

ENGL 405-001  Shakespeare's Tragedies  MTWTh 1:00-3:15  RHU  
This course will focus on the tragic element in Shakespearean drama, especially as it appears in such major tragedies as Hamlet and Othello. We will also consider how Shakespeare's late plays, the romances or tragicomedies such as The Winter's Tale, seek to recover from the irreversible losses of tragic experience; how his earlier comedies, like The Merchant of Venice and Much Ado about
Nothing, express and contain the possibility of such loss; and how the tragedies themselves, like Antony and Cleopatra, verge upon comedy.

ENGL 432-001 ADOLESCENT LITERATURE  MTWTh 8:00-10:15  JOHNSON
The subject matter of this course is contemporary American young adult literature. Students will examine texts which are in some way related to central ideas about America and Americans of various backgrounds and experiences. Discussion topics will include the meaning of literary excellence in the YA literature world, the politics of the children’s book publishing industry, and current issues and controversies in the field, including awards, censorship, gender, authorship, and race.

ENGL 460-001 ADVANCED WRITING  MTWTh 1:00-3:15  MUCKLEBAUER
This course approaches advanced writing through genre. We’ll begin with some theoretical readings that will help us think of genre in more complex ways than traditional definitions of the concept allow. We will then survey different “families” of genres, including minor genres (e.g., jokes, ads, recipes, music) and more complex genres such as those found in academic, scientific, and digital communication. You will be given substantial reading and writing assignments for every class and will also complete 3-4 major papers.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS  Summer II 2010

ENGL 101-001 CRITICAL READING & COMPOSITION  MTWTh 10:30-12:45  WOERTENDYKE
How do different genres authorize different kinds of reading? What do poems do, that say, newspaper articles, short stories, blogs, and films do not? In this course, we will ask how different forms of writing and multi-media ask us to read in different ways, and by extension, encourage various kinds of written responses. Materials will likely include essays, poetry, short fiction, newspaper editorials, film, and the graphic novel. Assignments will include three analytical essays (including drafts), a short research project, a class blog, and frequent, brief close reading and argumentative writing assignments. The course will emphasize careful reading and clear writing. Expect generosity, rigor, and lively debate.

ENGL 102-001 REHORIIC & COMPOSITION  MTWTh 10:30-12:45  SMITH
(Prereq: ENGL 101)
A course offering structured, sustained practice in researching, analyzing, and composing arguments. Students will read about a range of academic and public issues and write researched argumentative and persuasive essays. For more information, please contact the instructor.

ENGL 270-286 Designed for Non-majors.

ENGL 282-001 FICTION  MTWTh 1:00-3:15  RICE
(Designed for Non-majors)
Description: An introduction to the genre of fiction and to theories of interpretation, through in-depth reading of short stories by five international masters of the form: Anton Chekov, Katherine Mansfield, James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, and Jorge Luis Borges. This class will concentrate on close reading, analysis, and interpretation of individual stories, on the cultural contexts of the works, and on theories of narrative.

ENGL 283-001 THEMES IN BRITISH WRITING  MTWTh 1:00-3:15  SHIFFLETT
(Designed for Non-majors)
We shall study several examples of heroic narrative in British literature from its prehistoric beginnings to the early twentieth century. Emphasis will be placed on the cultural values expressed in those works regarding ultimate human achievement and on the increasingly critical stances that British writers have taken towards such values. Class meetings will involve informal lectures, group discussions, and daily quizzes on the assigned readings. A ten-page research paper will serve in place of a final exam.

ENGL 286-001 POETRY  MTWTh 8:00-10:15  RICE
(Designed for Non-majors)
An introduction to poetry, this course will emphasize the reading, understanding, and analysis of English-language poetry, ranging from the 16th century to the present. Students will learn to discern
how poets use form, sound and rhythm, and figurative language to communicate their meanings, and to advance their skills in deciphering this highly-compressed form of communication.

ENGL 428B-001  AFRI-AMER LIT II 1903-PRE  MTWTh 10:30-12:45 WHITTED
Our study of twentieth-century African-American literature combines major and lesser-known texts with cultural criticism and analysis. Questions of racial representation, vernacular traditions, intertextuality, and social responsibility will shape the way in which we read and evaluate the imaginative works of African-American writers. In an effort to facilitate more focused and in-depth analysis, our goal will be to highlight a single theme, trope, and/or scholarly debate surrounding each work through written assignments and student-led discussions. Reading units will include the New Negro Renaissance, Realism, the Black Arts Movement, Black Women’s Writing, and Contemporary Poetry. Required Texts: African American Literature, edited by Gilyard and Wardi (Penguin) and James Sturm’s graphic novel, Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow. Grades will be based on regular quizzes, a close reading essay, and a final examination.

ENGL 450-001  ENGLISH GRAMMAR  MTWTH 8:00-10:45  DISTERHEFT
(Cross-listed with LING 421)
An intensive survey of English grammar: sentence structure, the verbal system, discourse, and transformations. Also discussed are semantics, social restrictions on grammar and usage, histories of various constructions, etc. Please read Chapter 1 of the textbook before the first class meeting. TEXT: Dorothy Disterheft, Advanced Grammar: a manual for students. Prentice-Hall. REQUIREMENTS: one midterm, one final.