

Fall 2021 Graduate Courses

ENG 789: Early African American Print Culture – Valerie Babb

Tuesday 1:00PM – 3:45PM

ENG 796: Survey of English: Histories, Theories, Methods – Deepika Bahri and Ross Knecht

Thursday 10:00AM – 1:00PM

ENG 712: Shakespeare and Early Modern Animal Studies – Pat Cahill

Thursday 2:30PM - 5:30PM

What does it mean that Shakespearean stages were in close proximity to sites of nonhuman animal gatherings, from bear-baiting to meat markets? What does it mean that animal blood and parts were commonly used as props and that animal skins and furs were routinely worn by the stage's all-male actors? In this seminar we'll consider such questions as we read a range of dramas by Shakespeare and his contemporaries (for example, Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Titus Andronicus*, and *The Winter's Tale*, and Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair* and John Webster's *The White Devil*). In reading these texts, we will explore how they conjure up animality (whether through figurative language, stage practices, or material objects) and how animality may be linked to early modern English narratives about gender, sexuality, and race. In addition, we will put these literary works in conversation with other early modern animal texts from such genres as the travel narrative, bestiary, hunting treatise, and dietary.

ENG 791/CPLT 735: Composition Practicum – Kathleen Leuschen

Wednesday 4:00PM – 6:45PM

ENG 789: Theorizing the Black Diaspora – Michelle Wright

Wednesday 1:00PM – 3:45PM

Taking as a truism that Blackness is not homogenous nor a monolith, this course will look at how the Black and African diasporas are constructed in a broad variety of geographies, cultures, histories, politics and social constructs. Beginning with theories of the diaspora that emerged in response to Paul Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic*, this class will look at how both scholarly work and fiction construct different forms of Blackness, and the implications these forms have on our theorizations of Blackness through gender, sexuality, and class. Upon completion of the course,

students will be able to speak to key differences that distinguish different Black collectivities from one another, as well as identify leitmotifs that can connect seemingly different communities. Students will also be competent in understanding contemporary debates on Black identities and their idioms in discourses that feature gender, sexuality and/or class as their primary analytic.

Readings may include but not be restricted to: Brent Edwards; Samantha Pinto; Jackie Kay; Zadie Smith; Peggy Piesche; Jean Rahier; Percy Hintzen; Kevin Quashie; Uri Dorchin; Edilza Sotero; Denise Ferreira da Silva; Dixia Ramirez; Helen Oyeyemi.

Course expectations: class attendance, weekly reader reactions, 1-2 class presentations on the reading, and one 20-25pp. due one week before final grades must be reported in.

CPLT 750-1: Literary Theories - Geoffrey Bennington

Thursday 1:00PM – 3:45PM

[4 seats CPLT/2 ENGLISH/3 FREN/3 PHIL/3 WGS] [Cross-listed with ENG 789]

The course explores some of the ways in which an influential way of thinking about language affected ways of thinking about literature and culture. After investigating the main tenets of structuralist theory, as derived from Saussure's *Cours de linguistique générale*, we go on to see how the internal logic of structuralism led to the proliferation of positions often referred to by the umbrella terms "post-structuralism" and/or "post-modernism", and to a questioning of the position and limits of "theory" itself.