

Fall 2025 Graduate Courses

ENG 489W / ENG 752 Studies In 20th Cent. American Lit: William Faulkner -- Barbara Ladd

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00AM-11:15AM

Description:

Faulkner was an artist (his mother painted), a poet (influenced by French and British poets of the late 19th century, among others), a writer of short stories, a novelist, a screenwriter, an essayist, and one of the most widely translated and influential writers of the 20th century, a Nobel Laureate. In this course, we will undertake a study of his work, with attention to his modernism and aesthetic experiments, the social and literary worlds that shaped his work, his global reception, and his continuing significance for readers and writers in the 21st century.

Texts: Some texts provided by professor, including stories and sketches from *New Orleans Sketches* (ed. Collins); and *Collected Stories of William Faulkner*. Bring print copies of the required novels, preferably in the following editions. It is important for us to have the same editions so that we can find passages easily for discussion.

The Sound and the Fury (ISBN: 9780679732242)

As I Lay Dying (ISBN: 9780679732259)

Light in August (ISBN: 9780679732266)

Absalom, Absalom! (ISBN: 9780679732181)

Go Down, Moses. (ISBN: 9780679732174)

This is a seminar, so reading lists can be, to some extent, individualized to reflect the research interests of participants.

ENG789-1 Special Topics in Literature: Close Reading -- Dan Sinykin

Thursdays, 1:00PM – 3:45PM

Description:

Close reading is having a moment. As a comprehensive bibliography by Scott Newstok demonstrates, more scholars are writing about close reading now than ever before. This includes high profile studies such as Jonathan Kramnick's *Criticism and Truth* and John Guillory's *On Close Reading*. This course's professor, Dan Sinykin, has completed an edited volume with Johanna Winant that provides a pedagogy and theoretical intervention into close reading today. In addition to Kramnick, Guillory, and Sinykin and Winant, readings include pairings of classic close readings and their primary texts, such as Erich Auerbach and Virginia Woolf, William Empson and William Shakespeare, Barbara Johnson and Jane Campion, Hortense Spillers and

Gwendolyn Brooks, D. A. Miller and Jane Austen, and Jahan Ramazani and Daljit Nagra. Students will leave the course proficient in writing and teaching close reading.

ENG 489W / ENG 789-2 Special Topics in Literature: How to Do Things with Archives --
Geraldine Higgins & Nathan Suhr-Sytsma

Thursdays, 10:00AM – 12:45PM

Description:

The Archive or “house of record” is a space and place in which knowledge is recovered, preserved, valued, and produced. Much of the work on archival theory to date has been in interrogating the role of archives in state formation and in the construction of national histories. This course shifts focus to the materiality of the documents, objects, buildings, and people constitutive of the archive. In what ways are poems and stories entangled with institutions of culture? Why do literary texts take the material forms that they do? How might exploring an author’s correspondence, drafts, periodical publications, or limited editions affect how we interpret their work?

This course focuses on African and African diaspora, Irish, and postcolonial writers whose literary archives are held in Emory’s Stuart A. Rose Library or who have left traces in its collections. Expanding our sense of what constitutes an archive, we will consider the ways in which institutions have the power to privilege and marginalize, as well as preserve and promote. Writers may include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Agha Shahid Ali, Lucille Clifton, Lorna Goodison, Seamus Heaney, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill (in translation), Christopher Okigbo, Natasha Trethewey, and W. B. Yeats. Students will also be free to develop archival projects pertaining to other writers that advance their own research interests.

ENG 789 - 3: Special Topics in Literature: Post/Colonial Translation -- Mehtap Ozdemir
[originates as CPLT 751] [ENG 3/ CPLT 12]

Mondays, 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Description:

This seminar probes the role of translation in imperialism and post/coloniality across an Afro-Euroasian span. With attention to the multiple modalities of translation (interlingual, cultural, ontological, and epistemological), we will explore how translation became a channel of colonization and cultural imperialism; how native intellectuals mobilized translation both toward some real or imaginary equivalence with the imperial West and resistant-emancipatory struggles; and why modern cultural movements took translational forms in the Global South (largely defined), such as the various “renaissance” movements in the Middle East. Through our readings that pull from critical translation theories, world literature, and post/colonial studies (W. Benjamin, R. Jakobson, Lu Xun, al-Tahtawi, Tagore, A. Kilito, Naoki Sakai, Lydia Liu, Emily

Apter, S. Shankar, Tejaswini Niranjana, Spivak, Thiong'o among others), we will interrogate the asymmetrical dynamics of translation under post/colonial conditions whereby languages encountered on geopolitically and epistemically unequal grounds in modernity. Translational fictions (such as Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's *Dictée*, Emine Sevgi Ozdamar's *Mutterzunge/Mother Tongue*, Hamid Ismailov's *We Computers*) will accompany our rethinking of translation as a site of rapture and rupture.

ENG 789 - 4: Special Topics in Literature: No Time to Think – Elizabeth Goodstein

[Cross-listed with CPLT 751] [ENG 5/ CPLT 10]

Wednesdays, 4:00PM – 7:00PM

Description:

This course probes the cultural, political, and philosophical significance of the boredom, anxiety, and stress endemic in contemporary life at this moment of polycrisis. How can we understand and address the ways we become caught in cycles of distraction, consumption, and disaffection—seemingly unable to think in the face of the enormity of the problems that confront us today? Drawing on the arts and literature, philosophy, cultural theory, and history, we will situate contemporary experiences of disaffection and malaise (and the discourses surrounding them) in longer cultural horizons. By bringing these reflections into dialogue with contemporary work on the social, psychological, and political impacts of technology and social media, including purported “epidemics” of loneliness, anxiety, and despair, this seminar aims to foster creative theoretical and practical engagement that does not shy away from the exigencies of the present. Readings may include: Bachmann, Benjamin, Buck-Morss, DeBord, Flaubert, Freud, Goethe, Hegel, Kafka, Leys, Marx, Musil, Nietzsche, Rilke, Simmel, Zuboff.

ENG 791: Composition Pedagogy -- Aaron Colton

[Cross-listed as CPLT 735] [ENG 9/ CPLT 6]

Wednesdays 1:00PM - 3:45pm

Description:

This course will equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary for designing and instructing a seminar that introduces first-year students at Emory to the practices of university-level writing. You will learn how those practices may be presented and scaffolded so that students can approach academic inquiry and composition in a tangible and enthusiastic manner. In doing so, you will also compare methods of responding to and evaluating student writing, design low- and high-stakes assignments, and explore elements of multimodal composition. Before turning to these more practical pedagogical matters, we will first develop a theoretical foundation of concepts drawn from rhetoric and composition, critical theory, and pedagogical debates about the status of 'argument' and 'standard academic English,' among other subjects. The course will also

provide ample opportunities for students to consider contemporary challenges in writing pedagogy (such as artificial intelligence) and how their research as literary scholars offers insights into writing pedagogy and the experiences of undergraduate writers.

ENG 796: Survey of Histories, Theories, Methods -- Deepika Bahri

Tuesdays, 1:00PM – 3:45PM

Description:

This seminar is designed to introduce first-year graduate students to:

- key theories and methods in the discipline of English literary studies
- the historical trajectory of debates central to English studies today (These include the value of literature; the particular province of aesthetics; theories of taste, art and material culture; art as an agent of social change; and how to read. We will pursue these questions through writing by Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Adorno, Fanon, Derrida, Spivak, Hartman, among others. For eg. our discussions will connect recent discussions on “the end of the English Major” (Heller) to Plato’s call for poetry (by extension, literature) to prove its “title to exist in a well-ordered State” where it has “a use ... as well as a delight.”
- ways of reading older canonical theory from the standpoint of colonialism, racial politics, and global history
- hands-on assignments to help plan a successful passage through the doctoral program.
- information on professional address, when to publish, ethics of submission. (eg. When should I start to publish? Can I send in the same article to multiple journals?)

ENG 789-6: Early Black Print Culture – Valerie Babb

[Cross-listed as AAS 585R] [ENG 8/ AAS 4]

Tuesdays 10:00AM – 12:45PM

Description:

What does it mean that a people who were sometimes legally, sometimes violently forbidden to exercise literacy were able to create a written tradition and consume print material? Over the course of this semester, we will begin with this question and discover the constellation of practices that shaped the making of the black writing tradition. Not only will we read these writings, we will also study the cultural impact of their composition, illustration, publishing, printing, typesetting, and distribution. Equally as important to the life of black print culture were the intellectual exchanges made possible by black literary societies, black lending libraries, and the early black press, as our archival work will reveal. Our coursework will lead to a greater appreciation of black literary and cultural creativity.