

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Fall 2024 Course Descriptions

These course descriptions are subject to change. While we make every effort to keep these online course descriptions as current as possible, you are advised to check with the instructor of a particular course to verify the information below. Contact information for all English Department faculty is available via the English website at <http://www.siu.edu/artsandsciences/english/>.

ENG 200-001: Introduction to Literary Study

MW 1:30pm – 2:35pm

Heather Johnson

In English 200, students will be inducted into the field of literary study. It is a discussion-driven course focused on helping prospective English majors and minors to interact with literature (and each other!) in pleasurable and productive ways. Students will learn strategies for reading and analyzing works from a variety of literary genres and periods. By the end of the course, students should have an understanding of the basic strategies used in writing about literature, what it means to be a student of literature, and how to approach a foreign text with confidence.

ENG 200-002: Introduction to Literary Study

TR 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Charles Berger

The aim of this course is to develop habits of reading, thinking, and writing at the expected level of English majors and minors. In addition to helping you do well in English (and other courses as well), learning the materials and modes of thinking taught in this course will increase your pleasure in reading works of literature throughout your life. I believe that enthusiasm for literature and acquired expertise in analyzing it should go hand-in-hand. There will also be ample opportunity in this class to work on your writing skills. English 200 emphasizes close reading, critical analysis, and recognition of literary genres and terms. We will often be asking the following questions: What is the role of literary form and structure in the creation of meaning? We will, through all the genres, pay close attention to the language of the text, exploring the plethora of meanings embedded in key words and phrases.

ENG 201-001: Intermediate Composition

TR 9:30am – 10:45am

Kimberly Sutherland

English 201 delves deeper into the fascinating world of rhetoric and writing, and is designed to enhance your ability to find, analyze, and write texts for academic audiences. It builds on the research and argumentation skills you developed in earlier writing courses and places emphasis on academic reading strategies, revision, and writing as a process. This course will further explore academic writing, and help to demystify it. We will work collaboratively to examine differences between writing for humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences audiences. At its core, this course approaches all academic writing as part of a series of ongoing conversations that have different sets of rules, purposes, and audiences. The ultimate aim of the course is to help you to participate in those conversations, understand their audiences, and navigate their various conventions.

ENG 201-002: Intermediate Composition**TR 3:30pm – 4:45pm****Kimberly Sutherland**

English 201 delves deeper into the fascinating world of rhetoric and writing, and is designed to enhance your ability to find, analyze, and write texts for academic audiences. It builds on the research and argumentation skills you developed in earlier writing courses and places emphasis on academic reading strategies, revision, and writing as a process. This course will further explore academic writing, and help to demystify it. We will work collaboratively to examine differences between writing for humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences audiences. At its core, this course approaches all academic writing as part of a series of ongoing conversations that have different sets of rules, purposes, and audiences. The ultimate aim of the course is to help you to participate in those conversations, understand their audiences, and navigate their various conventions.

ENG 204-001: Studies in Fiction**MWF 10am – 10:50am****John Savoie**

We will learn to read short fiction, classic and contemporary, for greater understanding and pleasure.

ENG 207-001 : Language Awareness**TR 11am – 12 :15pm****Seran Aktuna**

Do you want to know how humans acquire language, how you can say something and mean something quite different, how you can be discriminated against on the basis of your speech, or whether women really do talk more than men? All of these topics and more about how languages work in and across communities are discussed in this non-technical introduction to language study. The overall goal of the course is to develop participants' awareness of different facets of linguistic behavior and their implications in various areas of life.

ENG 208-001: Topics in Early British Literature: Beginnings**MWF 11am – 11:50am****John Savoie**

We will survey the great works of earlier British literature from Beowulf through Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Swift and other voices who have enriched our language and imaginative literature to form the basis for all further reading.

ENG 212-001: Topics in Modern American Literature: Evolving American Identities

TR 11am – 12:15pm

Charles Berger

As the title indicates, this is a literature survey course: that means significant amounts of reading. You should count on several hours of reading for each class meeting. But the assigned readings for this course should be pleasurable and stimulating, in a whole variety of ways. This is an *American* literature survey course, so a good deal of time will be spent thinking about what constitutes *American* identity, as well as racial, ethnic, religious, and intellectual/aesthetic identity. These issues are not peripheral or extraneous to the creation of literary meaning; they are often deeply embedded in the very structure of literature, in ways that we will probe. We will also be looking at how American literature changes and repeats over time.

ENG 214-001: Topics in World Literature: Homer, Virgil, Dante

TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm

Nancy Ruff

Starting with the earliest works of literature in the western world, we will read four early books upon which much later western literature is based. Although we will be reading these books in English translations, the reading is challenging because it comes from cultures long ago and far away. Exploring the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and of medieval Italy through these books will give students a richer understanding of the development of western literature and culture.

ENG 290-001: Introduction to Creative Writing

MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Instructor: TBA

This course will introduce students to creative writing practices and procedures, paying particular attention to terminology, technique, and genre. Through a series of imitative assignments, students will become familiar with canonical and contemporary texts and authors. Students will also produce a portfolio of their own creative work.

ENG 290-002: Introduction to Creative Writing

TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm

Instructor: TBA

An introduction to the four genres of creative writing: fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and drama. Special emphasis placed on the creative processes and revision. Students will turn in a portfolio of creative work at the end of the semester.

ENG 290-501: Introduction to Creative Writing
Online Asynchronous
Lauren Gerber

This class provides an introduction to creative writing in four genres: fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and drama. It will expose you to a variety of elements in writing that are meant to improve and enrich your experience as a writer, no matter your purpose or goal. Assignments include textbook readings about the craft in addition to a wide variety of creative texts and accompanying writing experiments, which are intended as tools to help explore and reflect upon the elements of creative writing. We will focus in this class on writing as a process, with drafts in each genre and a final portfolio showcasing your best revised work.

ENG 301-001: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism
MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Helena Gurfinkel

The study of theory is a truly eye-opening experience, and its reward is the acquisition of critical-thinking and writing skills that can be used both in, and far beyond, a literature classroom. Theoretical texts, though fascinating, are often quite complex and challenging, and the course format requires an intensive engagement with assigned readings. The course provides students with an overview of the principal schools of modern literary theory, both earlier ones, such as New Criticism, and contemporary ones, such as Animal Studies and Disability Studies. All students will acquire the skills to apply various theories to literary texts. Future English teachers will learn new strategies for engaging with literary texts in the classroom. We will accomplish these goals through reading, discussions, and the writing of analytical papers.

ENG 342-001: Topics in African American Literature: Bust a Move: Mobility in African American Literature
TR 2pm to 3:15pm
Cindy Reed

Buckle up! Get ready to journey alongside African American writers, as they trek through one of the most important themes in their work—mobility. What does it mean for black bodies to move freely from one place to another and on their own terms? Is that luxury even available to black folks? If so, which particular people and what does it look like? Students will explore the answers to these questions and much more as we traverse the various meanings associated with movement in black literature and culture.

ENG 392-001: Fiction Writing
MW 12pm to 1:15pm

Valerie Vogrin

This course is designed to provide opportunities to deepen your understanding of and enrich your skills in the craft of fiction, focusing on the short story. In addition to reading plenty of contemporary stories, students will engage deeply in the writing process, culminating in the drafting and revising of their own stories, which will be workshopped in class.

ENG 393-001: Poetry Writing**TR 12:30pm to 1:45pm****Josh Kryah**

This course introduces students to examples of traditional poetic form, including sonnets, villanelles, sestinas, and many others. Through various prompts, readings, and exercises, students will familiarize themselves with poetic terminology and techniques. Students will also participate in workshop and produce a portfolio of their own creative work.

ENG 394-001: Playwriting**TR 11am to 12:15pm****Josh Kryah**

This course is structured as a workshop wherein we'll explore writing for the theater through imitation, discussion, and performance. We'll study foundational elements of playwriting, including setting, character, dialogue, action, and plot. These elements will help enhance our understanding of the creative production of theater and allow us to participate in several exercises, prompts, and activities. We'll also spend time becoming familiar with canonical works as well as that of contemporary playwrights. Students are expected to write and revise two ten-minute plays over the course of the semester.

ENG 400-001: Principles of Linguistics**MW 3pm to 4:15pm****Larry LaFond**

Human beings use language every day, but less commonly explore the wonders involved in this unique capacity for language. This course is just such an exploration! It introduces students to linguistics, a fascinating field that examines language from a scientific perspective. We look at the physiology of speech production, the systematic organization of sounds in languages, how meaning is held in words and particles of words, and how these words combine to form larger structures in sentences, conversation, and discourse. Students from a wide variety of majors (English, anthropology, sociology, history, education, computer science, psychology, etc.) have found this course useful and interesting. They learned how to think like a linguist, by gaining the ability to analyze language data and identify linguistic structures (even in languages other than their own), understand differences between what language users think they do and what they actually do, and discuss language-related topics in ways that are both technically precise and accessible to the linguist and non-linguist alike. There is no pre-requisite for joining the fun!

ENG 409-001: Syntactic Analysis
T 6pm to 8:50pm
Larry LaFond

This course is an extended examination of the structures underlying your knowledge of the structure and word order of sentences. Native speakers of any language know how words are put together to form sentences in their language, and they can quickly and easily make judgments about what is or is not a legitimate sentence in their language. This course explores our capacity to make these kinds of judgments, and in so doing, helps us make explicit what we already know implicitly. Among general sciences, syntax is still a relatively young field, but it has received extensive attention since the 1950s, particularly in the wake of Noam Chomsky's *Syntactic Structures*, a book that revolutionized linguistic theorizing and has led linguists to explore the richness, complexities, and subtleties of the system of language in the human mind. This theorizing has resulted in a complex field, replete with its own terminology and ways of thinking. This course will introduce you to that terminology and train you in the rudiments of syntactic argumentation and analysis.

ENG 411-001: Internship in Writing
TBA
Instructor: TBA

Involvement in developing workplace writing. Supervised by selected faculty member and cooperating site. Prerequisite: ENG 102 with grade of C or better.

ENG 445-500: Young Adult Literature
W 6pm – 7:15pm
Hybrid (F2F) + Online Asynchronous
Jill Anderson

English 445 considers young adult novels through the voices embodied by the coming-of-age characters who define the genre. Young adult literary texts explore the adolescent's developing sense of individuality, alienation, and social position while also reflecting and challenging ideas about gender, culture, and enforced normativity. In English 445, we will read a variety of YA novels from multiple cultural perspectives as we work toward a larger understanding of the contemporary YA literary scene. Writing assignments include reading logs, asynchronous discussion, and a semester project. This is a hybrid/blended course that meets F2F on Wednesday evenings (6:00-7:15) with additional asynchronous work due at the end of the week.

ENG 475-001: Methods of Teaching Secondary English Language Arts**MW 12pm – 1:15pm****Jill Anderson**

English 475 focuses on approaches to teaching Secondary English Language Arts, including planning for reading, writing, and language instruction in contemporary American high schools. As we engage with and evaluate various methods of teaching English (while also addressing curricular concerns associated with the Illinois Common Core Learning Standards), we will explore reading and writing processes with the ultimate goal of developing useful teaching strategies. Over the course of the semester, English 475 students—aka SIUE’s Spring 2025 English student teacher candidates—will learn about ELA methods and materials, prepare and share lesson plans, and develop units of instruction for use in their future careers as high school English teachers. ENG 475 is restricted to English majors enrolled in the Secondary English Language Arts major concentration (May 2025 graduates) and must be taken concurrently with CIED 304, CIED 313, and CIED 314.

ENG/WMST 478-001: Studies in Women, Language and Literature: Women Writing Immigration**MW 3pm – 4:15pm****Helena Gurfinkel**

The topic of (im)migration continues to be central to our political and personal lives. In this course, students will think through the complicated experiences of immigration from the standpoint of women and women-identified people. Such experiences involve negotiating multiple identities and power relations. The texts will include several novels and, likely, several films. The assignments will include critical papers appropriate for an interdisciplinary/general-education course.

ENG 480-001: Major Authors: Crossing Boundaries: Dickens and Doyle**TR 2pm - 3:15pm****John Pendergast**

During our five weeks together, we will be focusing on two Victorian era writers, Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle. Chronologically their careers span the 19th century. Interestingly, both were among the most popular writers of the century but their critical heritage has been very different: Dickens is almost universally heralded as among the greatest novelists in English (although it wasn’t always that way) and Doyle has been marginalized as a “popular” writer (but his critical stock is rising). Thus they create a kind of framework for considering not only the art of fiction but Victorian literary tastes and social history as well.

ENG 485-001: Writing for Teachers of English***MW 12pm – 1:15pm****Heather Johnson**

ENG 485 is designed to help students develop a teacherly understanding of composition as a complex process. We’ll work on honing our own writing skills and then brainstorm the best ways to pass our discoveries on to students. We’ll talk about how to give helpful feedback, and how to teach your students

to do the same; we'll think carefully about how to design composition assignments, how to get students thinking about rhetoric, and how to introduce basic research. The course is designed to be of interest to future high school teachers as well as teachers of college-level writing in secondary school settings.

*ENG 485 required with CIED 302/310/312 and IT 300

ENG 488-001: Rhetoric, Politics, and the Law

TR 2pm – 3:15pm

Anushiya Ramaswamy

We will read certain foundational arguments about the modern West. Given the interdisciplinary nature of this course – Rhetoric, Politics, and the Law – the course will allow us to braid new narratives about ourselves, engaging with the real and the spectral. We will read, both in class as well as for class, a wide variety of texts, drawn from disparate discourses: from Machiavelli to Derrida; from Sojourner Truth to Clarence Thomas; from Jeremy Bentham to Walter Benjamin. And of course, Kafka. And Foucault. We will study how persuasion works – how we tell our stories about ourselves, the distinctions between law and justice, what it is to live a good life.

ENG 490-001: Advanced Composition

TR 3:30pm - 4:45pm

Anushiya Ramaswamy

This is an advanced writing course designed for students to explore various rhetorical styles and techniques in academia. In the course of the semester, students will learn the various steps involved in writing in an engaged and scholarly fashion. We will begin with narrativized essays and move onto more formalized writing, identifying the choices we make in terms of diction, tone, organization, and subject matter.

ENG 491-001: Technical and Business Writing

M 6pm – 8:50pm

Brian Henderson

This course is designed to prepare you to understand and successfully negotiate the unique demands of technical and business communication. It will do this in large part by offering you experience in analyzing and drafting a variety of technical and professional texts common to workplace, civic, and academic environments as well as by calling attention to relevant ethical, rhetorical, and legal concerns. You will also be taught strategies for offering effective feedback on written communication.

ENG 494-001: Literary Editing
MW 4:30pm – 5:45pm
Valerie Vogrin

This course involves students in the production of SIUE's student literary magazine, *River Bluff Review*. Members of the class serve as the staff of the journal, participating in all aspects of its production, including the solicitation and evaluation of submissions, editing, design, proofreading, layout, publishing, and promotion. The course will also provide an overview of literary magazines.

ENG 497A-001: Senior Seminar: Ethnic American Literature
MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Charles Berger

This class will read a variety of American novels, memoirs, and short-story collections from the later 20th and early 21st century focusing on the culture, language, and historical experiences of ethnic Americans. We will explore representative texts written by Jewish-American, Native American, Chinese-American, Indian-American, Black, and Latina American writers. What we mean when we use the term "ethnic" will be a central question posed throughout the class. We will also read a number of theoretical texts on the nature of ethnicity within American culture. The kaleidoscopic nature of American literary (and verbal) ethnicity will be apparent. We will also consider the pervasive influence of what I call the "ethnic carnivalesque" in popular culture. Central issues to be discussed will include: the interplay of gender and ethnicity; ethnic humor; the role of the ethnic mother; ethnic histories; ethnic geo-cultural identities; ethnic literary dialects; and other topics as well.

The Senior Seminar (ENG 497a) requires a paper of approximately 15 pages (5000 words) to be submitted at the end of the semester, as well as participation in the Senior Colloquium, held at the end of the final week of class, just before Finals week begins.

ENG 497A-002: Senior Seminar: Reading Games: Play in English Studies
MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Matthew Johnson

"Play" is one of those words that we all know, but if you try to define it, you'll see that expressing its definition, at least quickly and succinctly, is rather a challenge. Play is "not serious," but don't most of us play with considerable commitment? Maybe it's "unproductive," but consider its consequential benefits ... and what if we *never* played? Play seems detached from reality, even an escape from it, but it's intertwined in our lives of the everyday. Play manifests in classes, games, performances, rituals, and tournaments; it can be ceremonial, comedic, competitive, creative, imagined, pretend, random, social, staged, unconventional, unpredictable. This course will focus on play – fun, games, amusement, enjoyment, diversion – and how it manifests in English Studies (widely construed). What is it? (Really smart folks have been trying to tackle that one for ages.) How does play work? (See what I did there?) What is the role of play in literature, rhetoric, language, reading, writing? Play is often hierarchized beneath work, placed in opposition to it. In this course, we'll elevate it, both by seeing its productive potential and investigating play for play's sake. We'll explore the meaning, benefits, controversies, and myths that surround play. We'll take play seriously and perhaps experience some of its magic.

ENG 499-001: Readings in English**TBA****Instructor: TBA**

Independent study in specific area of interest. Extensive reading. For English students only; may be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Requires consent of department chair and instructor.

ENG 501-501: Modern Literary Studies**T 6pm – 8:50pm, Online Synchronous****Heather Johnson**

In this course, students will be introduced to literature as a field of study and to the cooperative, community-fueled work undertaken by academics in the humanities. We'll think about what it means to be literary scholar, how work in the field and in the academy is conducted, and the fundamental questions that drive investigations into the life of language and culture. While much of the course will focus on literary theory we will also think about contemporary issues in academia (particularly in the humanities). It would be impossible to cover all literary theories and academic issues in depth, but I hope we will achieve at least a nodding familiarity with a fair number of the many languages spoken by literary scholars. The ultimate goal is to construct a foundation of knowledge upon which later studies may be based—therefore, the course will partake in many of the qualities of a survey as we sample a variety of theoretical concepts and questions. Finally, we will practice writing with style, purpose, and responsibility.

ENG 521-001: Black Literature and Violence**M 6:00pm – 8:50pm****Donavan Ramon**

African Americans have faced a very violent history in the United States. Enslavement, anti-Black racism, and epistemic violence are just some of the violent instances that have defined African Americans for over four hundred years. Black writers have responded to these acts of violence in their literary works for much of this time. In this topics course, we will read key texts in African American Literature, with a view to the ways in which violence is represented in narrative form. We will meditate on fight scenes, enslavement, gendered violence, and epistemic violence, among others, as we consider *all* the ways in which African American writers have represented and responded to violence.

ENG 545-501: TESL Practicum
Online Synchronous
Seran Aktuna

This course is designed to provide MA TESL students an opportunity to observe and tutor a variety of ESL learners in real-world classrooms. Students will engage in focused observations of teachers and learners, work as volunteer tutors, and write reflective analyses of their experiences. The overall goal of the course is to help students gain an understanding of the teaching-learning process and connect the theoretical knowledge gained in their TESL/Linguistics classes with the practical aspects of second language teaching.

ENG 554-001: Composition Pedagogy
MTWRF 9am – 1pm
Matthew Johnson

This section of ENG 554 is *exclusively* for new Teaching Assistants in the Department of English Language & Literature and is designed to support and enhance students' teaching of college-level, first-year writing courses. The course largely consists of training, demonstrations, and workshops (with a healthy dose of composition-rhetoric reading and discussion here and there) that focus on composition pedagogy, in general, and more specifically: writing as a process; invention strategies; syllabus and assignment design; class planning; classroom management; collaborative learning; grammar/mechanics instruction in college writing courses; reading, writing, and critical thinking (practices and motivations); visual and rhetorical analysis; assessment of students' academic work; conducting student conferences; discussion leading; university professionalism; and the teaching of writing with digital technologies.

Plan to dedicate each day in its entirety to the course from August 5th-August 16th (the two weeks immediately prior to classes starting for the Fall semester); also required will be subsequent course meetings throughout the Fall semester (schedule to be determined).

Required texts include:

Bean, John C. *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*, 2nd ed. (Jossey-Bass, 2011).

Dethier, Brock. *First Time Up: An Insider's Guide for New Composition Teachers* (Utah State UP, 2005). Various other readings that will be made available via Blackboard.

ENG 556-001: Theory of Composition and Rhetoric
T 6pm to 8:50pm
Anushiya Ramaswamy

The Theory of Composition and Rhetoric is designed as a foundational course in the Teaching of Writing program. Students in the course will be introduced to the basic theoretical movements in the field of Composition Studies. This course is intended primarily to familiarize you with the epistemological categories and the various terminologies and critical frameworks of Composition Studies in a systematic fashion. It will acquaint you with the growth of the discipline, the major schools of thought on the teaching of writing, the various theories of rhetoric and rhetorical approaches that have influenced writing instruction in this nation, and current research on composition. The class is an intensive graduate seminar: you will be required to read extensively and participate wholeheartedly in class discussions. I hope that by the end of the semester, you will have a clearer understanding of the various composition theories that inform our pedagogical choices.