ENGL 5103: Proseminar

Professor Laura Green

- CRN: 13896
- 3 semester hours
- Tuesday, 3:30-5:45*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall.)
- Fulfills: Requirement for new MA students and new PhD students entering with a BA or equivalent.

This class introduces students to the historical arc and current scholarly practices of the discipline of English studies. For the first few weeks of the course, readings will introduce a variety of possible answers to the question “What is—or are—English studies, and how did they get to be this way?” Authors read in this section may include some of Matthew Arnold, Judith Butler, Chris Gallagher, Gerald Graff, John Guillory, Mark McGurl, Toni Morrison, and Eve Sedgwick. In the second part of the course, visits by members of the graduate faculty will introduce departmental strengths and foci, including theoretical and methodological approaches to literature, visual narrative, rhetoric and composition. The class will also offer opportunities for practice in fundamental scholarly tasks such as formulating research questions, using research databases, and drafting and revising in short scholarly forms (conference proposals, oral presentations, book reviews, etc.).

ENGL 7284: Topics in 18 Century Literature: The "Other" in British Novels of the Long 18th Century

Professor Nicole Aljoe

- CRN: 15736
- 3 semester hours
- Thursday, 3:30-5:45*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall.)
- Fulfills: 17th Century/Restoration/18th Century

The development of the novel in 18th Britain occurred at the same time that it was expanding its colonial empire. A significant number of these novels are concerned with the “exotic” inhabitants of Britain’s overseas territories. The innovative form of the novel seemed particularly suited to writing about these ‘new’ British subjects. This course will explore a range of texts, which include representations of the voices of slaves, creoles, Africans, South Asians, Native Americans, and Muslims. Texts may include: Oroonoko Behn; Rasselas by Samuel Johnson; Vathek Beckford; Ourika Duras; Hamel, The Obeah Man (Anon 1827); The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano; The Letters of Ignatius Sancho; Joanna’s narrative; Eliza Haywood Adventures of Eovaai, anonymous Obi, The History of Three-Fingered Jack, Hamilton Translation of the Letters of a Hindoo Rajah; Walpole Hieroglyphic Tales, The Woman of Colour.
ENGL 7351: Topics in Literary Study: Transatlantic Print

Professor Elizabeth Maddock Dillon

- CRN: 13736
- 3 semester hours
- Tuesday, 6:15-8:30 PM*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall)
- Fulfills: Theories & Methods -or- 17th Century/Restoration/18th Century

This course will explore the development of print culture in relation to Atlantic colonialism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We will read a variety of genres: exploration narratives, captivity narratives, novels, poetry, and drama from British, Caribbean, and U.S. traditions with an eye toward understanding the relationship between Atlantic colonialism and the circulation of printed texts. In addition to reading primary texts, we will work our way through a number of theoretical fields: theories of the transatlantic, accounts of colonialism and diasporic culture, and theories of the print public sphere. Emphasis will be placed on learning to use archival sources and the tools of digital humanities in analyzing these sources.

ENGL 7359: Topics in Comparative Literature: Modern and Contemporary Jewish Literature

Professor Lori Lefkovitz

- CRN: 15737
- 3 semester hours
- Monday, 6:15-8:30*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall)
- Fulfills: 19th Century/20th Century

Using the example of Jewish literature from the late Modern (1880-1948) and contemporary (1948-present) periods, we will consider the significance of ethnicity in literary expression and analysis. Asking what features begin to define a Jewish literary canon of the Diaspora, we will bring theories of identity and canon formation to a representative selection of Yiddish poetry and plays, the work of Russian Jewish fabulists, Kafka, Roth, Malamud, Olsen, and Paley, Wiesel’s literary reflections on the Holocaust, Ginsberg’s poetry of the 60s, and contemporary writers such as Aryeh Stollman, Dara Horn, and Nicole Krauss. Sensitive to varied social and historical contexts, we will look at the intersection of Jewish and host civilizations and identify themes, concerns, anxieties, aspirations, technical strategies, and stylistic features of a distinctively Jewish—though multilingual and multicultural—literary tradition. Seminar presentations and two papers.

ENGL 7362: Contemporary Poetry

Professor Guy Rotella
FALL 2011 - Course Descriptions

- CRN: 15734
- 3 semester hours
- Wednesday, 3:30-5:45*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall)
- Fulfills: 19th Century/20th Century

Many recent and current poets actively seek to subvert, multiply, or escape from traditional centers of authority and power. They experiment with everything from altered states of consciousness to randomness and chance; make intensely personal revelations or announce the death of the author and the dispersal of the self; define themselves and their work by gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation; intersect with postmodernism and make the linguistic turn; reflect life’s saturation with media-driven images; and dissolve conventional distinctions between “high” and “popular” culture. We’ll read their poems, for pleasure, and to trace major thematic and technical developments in “American” and “British” poetry from 1950 to the present (including the recent emergence of what might be called the post-postmodern). Poets we may consider include Bishop, Ginsberg, Lowell, Plath, Rich, Hayden, Ashbery, O’Hara, Larkin, Heaney, Walcott, Murray, Kunitz, Wright, Dylan, Ryan, Bidart, Collins, Graham, and Phillips.

ENGL 7392: Writing & Teaching of Writing for New TAs

Professor Patricia S. Sullivan

- CRN: 13738
- 3 semester hours
- Monday, 3:30-5:45*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall)
- Fulfills: Rhetoric and Composition -or- Theories and Methods

This course introduces students to the teaching of writing in a range of theoretical, social, and institutional contexts. Students study their immediate institutional contexts of practice (Northeastern’s First-Year Writing Program and/or Writing Center). They also have the opportunity to examine other sites of the teaching of writing, including the Advanced Writing in the Disciplines Program, writing-intensive courses offered through the English Department, or writing courses and programs at other institutions or organizations, American and International. Students explore pedagogical issues that they find intellectually stimulating, examine a range of teaching strategies, develop and articulate their teaching philosophy, and learn how to represent and document the intellectual work of teaching writing in a teaching portfolio (paper or electronic). This portfolio may include various teaching artifacts, such as a teaching philosophy statement, an annotated assignment sequence, peer observation letters, examples of comments on student writing, and an essay theorizing one or more of their teaching practices. Readings may include Selfe’s Teaching Multimodal Composition (Hampton Press, 2007); Vandenberg, Hum, & Clary-Lemon’s Relations, Locations, Positions: Composition Theory for Writing Teachers (NCTE, 2006); Moore and O’Neill’s Practice in Context (NCTE, 2002); and self-directed reading chosen from the Bedford Bibliography for Teachers of Writing and articles published in scholarly journals.
ENGL 7395: Topics in Writing: “Globalization” and The Geopolitics of Writing

Professor Chris Gallagher

- CRN: 13739
- 3 semester hours
- Thursday, 6:15-8:30*
- Barrs Room/481 Holmes Hall (Enter through 472 Holmes Hall)
- Fulfills: Rhetoric and Composition -or- Theories and Methods

This course will explore how writing and the teaching of writing both participate in and are shaped by “globalization,” including the consolidation of English as the lingua franca of global trade and commerce. We will examine the tacit “English Only” policy of composition and the Western scholarly apparatus as well as various responses to that policy, including calls to embrace and legitimize world Englishes, transnational rhetorics, and multilingualism and translingualism. Course requirements will include consistent participation, weekly writing in the form of a notebook or blog, a minor research project, and a culminating essay and presentation. Readings may include Canagarajah’s *The Geopolitics of Academic Writing*; Prendergast’s *Buying Into English*; a special issue of *College English* on transnational feminist rhetorics; a special issue of *JAC* on “working English”; and Horner, Lu, and Matsuda’s *Cross-Language Relations in Composition*. (Please note: Students who have taken previous iterations of Topics in Writing are welcome to take this one as well.)

* Graduate Seminars will be listed as 3:30-5:59 PM and 6:00-8:30 PM on your schedule, but the times posted above will be the actual meeting times.