ENGL 5103: Proseminar

Professor Elizabeth Maddock Dillon

- CRN: 13431
- 3 semester hours
- Tuesday, 3:30-5:45
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: MA Core or Theories & Methods

For all first-year Master’s students and first-year doctoral students not holding a Master’s degree in English. This class introduces students to the historical arc and current scholarly practices of the discipline of English studies. Texts may include parts of Mark McGurl, The Program Era: Postwar Fiction and the Rise of Creative Writing; Franco Moretti, Signs Taken for Wonders: On the Sociology of Literary Forms; Judith Butler et al., eds., What’s Left of Theory? New Work on the Politics of Literary Theory; John Guillory, Cultural Capital and the Problem of Literary Theory. Visits by members of the graduate faculty will introduce departmental strengths and foci, including theoretical and methodological approaches to literature, visual narrative, rhetoric, composition, and linguistics. 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 7215: Topics in 20th Century Literature: The Body and the Visual

Professor Kimberly Juanita Brown

- CRN: 15875
- 3 semester hours
- Tuesday, 6:15-8:30
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: 20th Century, Theories & Methods, WG&SS Certificate

Reading bodies as textual guideposts in a marked literary and visual terrain, this course will merge visual theory and photography with contemporary literature in an attempt to address the problem of the body in postmodernist art. In particular, interpretations of the gendered and racialized body will allow us to focus on specificities of the corporeal text by emphasizing photographic self-portraiture, literary fragmentation and temporal destabilization. Our task for the semester will be to parse out artistic navigations of the flesh, be they obscene, hyper-visible, repetitive, transformative, or redacting. The relationship between the viewer and the image and the image and the eye (subjective, mechanical) will be explored for the evolving conundrum that is postmodernity. Writers include: Danzy Senna, John Edgar Wideman, Arundhati Roy, Toni Morrison, Vladimir Nabakov, and José Saramago. Artists include: Carrie Mae Weems, Sally Mann, Carla Williams, Lyle Ashton Harris, Ana Mendieta, and Cindy Sherman.
Theorists include: Saidiya Hartman, Roland Barthes, Allan Sekula, Eduardo Cadava, Christina Sharpe, Amelia Jones and W.J.T. Mitchell.

ENGL 7291: Eighteenth-Century Novel
Professor Nicole Aljoe

- CRN: 15877
- 3 semester hours
- Thursday, 6:15-8:30
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: 18th Century

The Novel in 18th century Britain. Though rooted in a variety of ancient forms the novel acquired a new prominence during the eighteenth century. In this course we will trace the development of the novel in 18th century Britain, as well as the emergence and consolidation of various formal features that would come to characterize the novel as a genre. We will pay particular attention to the role that empire plays in the development and understanding the 18th century British novel. We will consider questions such as: What are the formal features that suggest the novel’s distinction from other kinds of writing? What were the broad social and cultural factors that led to the rise of the novel? What social, political, aesthetic, and ethical concerns did authors use novels to address? What are we to make of the rapid proliferation of different versions or subgenres of the novel (gothic, domestic, sentiment, travel, philosophical, etc) during the 18th century? What should we make of the genre’s appropriation of paratextual or extra-literary genres such as reportage, the slave narrative, drama, the oriental tale, the romance, etc.? How were readers understood to consume novels in this period? Alongside likely primary readings by Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richards, Samuel Johnson, Henry Fielding, Frances Burney, Laurence Sterne, Charlotte Lennox, Maria Edgeworth, Walter Scott, Jane Austen and others, we will also be considering the work of several modern theorists such as Ian Watt, Nancy Armstrong, Michael McKeon, and Catherine Gallagher. We will also consider postcolonial engagements with the 18th century British novel by scholars such as Srinivas Aravamudan, Suvir Kaul, Felicity Nussbaum, and Anne Mellor.

ENGL 7392: Writing and the Teaching of Writing for New Teaching Assistants
Professor Neal Lerner

- CRN: 13322 (For New TAs, only)
- 3 semester hours
- Wednesday, 3:30-5:45
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
FALL 2012 - Course Descriptions

- Fulfills: Rhetoric & Composition

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: Writing and Community Engagement

Professor Chris Gallagher

- CRN: 13323
- 3 semester hours
- Monday, 3:30-5:45
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: Rhetoric & Composition, Theories & Methods

This is a topics course devoted to recent trends in community engagement, which I’m using as an umbrella term for a range of activities including public writing, service-learning, public scholarship, K-16 partnerships, policy work, and community publishing. We will explore the pedagogical, political, and ethical issues that attend the methods and methodologies of community engagement. Readings may include selections from the following: Paula Mathieu’s Tactics of Hope: The Public Turn in English Composition, Thomas Deans et al.’s Writing and Community Engagement: A Critical Sourcebook, Sarah Robbins and Mimi Dyer’s Writing America: Classroom Literacy and Public Engagement, Deborah Brandt’s Literacy in American Lives, Christian Weisser’s Moving Beyond Academic Discourse: Composition Studies and the Public Sphere, Linda Flower’s Community Literacy and the Rhetoric of Public Engagement, Ralph Cintron’s Angels Town: Chero Ways, Gang Life, and the Rhetorics of The Everyday, Stephen Park’s Gravyland: Writing Beyond the Curriculum in the City of Brotherly Love, and Paula Mathieu, Stephen Parks, and Tiffany Rouscusp’s Circulating Communities: The Tactics and Strategies of Community
Publishing. We’ll also read essays by Ellen Cushman, Edward White, Peter Mortensen, and others, along with professional statements from the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Council of Writing Program Administrators, and the National Council of Teachers of English. Requirements will include active participation, weekly writing, an analysis of a community engagement project, participation in a community engagement project, and a culminating essay.

ENGL 7214: Topics in 19th Century American Literature: Intimacy and the American Renaissance

Professor Theo Davis

- CRN: 16382
- 3 semester hours
- Thursday, 3:30-5:45
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: 19th Century

This class will explore how American literature in the decades preceding the Civil War defines and investigates intimacy. What does it mean to know an object or a person? What are the political and philosophical stakes of that immediate contact with which authors of this era were so fascinated? We will explore these questions in works by writers including Hawthorne, Emerson, Douglass, Stowe, Whitman, and Dickinson. Critical readings will include both historical and theoretical approaches.

Post-coursework Registration

ENGL 8960: Exam Preparation – Doctoral, CRN: 12128

ENGL 9986: Research, CRN: 11724

ENGL 9990: Dissertation, CRN: 12002

ENGL 9996: Dissertation Continuation, CRN: 12001