English 199: Survey of British and American Literature – Fall 2013
Professors Virginia Zimmerman and Michael Drexler

Faculty Offices and Office Hours

Virginia Zimmerman, Vaughan Lit 207B; Office Hours: T 2:30-4:00, W 1-2, and by appointment

Michael Drexler, Vaughan Lit 202; Office Hours MW 2:00-3:30, and by appointment

COMMON HOUR MEETING ON MONDAY FROM 1:00 - 1:52 PM IN COLEMAN 221

Description

English 199 explores the historical, generic, and transnational range of literature in English. Since a “complete” survey of English and American literature in one semester is impractical, the course has been designed to introduce students to texts that resonate with the most provocative and foundational questions animating these disciplines of study. Weekly guest lectures by faculty in the department will offer a range of perspectives and cumulatively will introduce key concepts and broader issues. Among these are issues of canon formation, periodicity, literary value, and national identity. We will explore both literary value (What is literature? Who decides what gets read? Why and how are some texts designated as "classics?") and the values that literature supports (ie. perspectives on race, class, gender, and sexuality). Though organized chronologically, the course will give students a variety of ways to conceive literary history including but not limited to concerns of literary production (questions about authorship, the emergence and transformation of genres), reception (the composition of reading publics, the circulation of literary texts), and criticism. Discussion sections following the weekly Monday lecture will address problems and questions of reading and comprehension, add complementary short texts, or invite critical commentary on the lecture.

Course Materials

*The Tempest* (Norton)
*Jane Eyre* (Norton)

Plus various PDF files available on Moodle.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Bucknell Bookstore is selling all four of the Norton texts above in a "bundle" package that provides the two critical editions for free.
Learning Goals

ENGL 199 is required by all concentrations in the English major. We pursue three of the English department’s learning goals in this course: teaching students (1) to analyze a variety of texts and respond to their aesthetic and cultural value, (2) to respond to a wide range of literary and filmic texts and understand their historical and cultural contexts, and (3) to articulate ideas effectively in discussion and in oral presentations. (See the English Department website for details: http://www.bucknell.edu/English.xml).

For students in the College of Arts and Sciences, ENGL 199 counts toward the Arts and Humanities Learning Goals (AHLG) of the College Core Curriculum (CCC). AHLG courses focus on disciplinary perspectives in the arts and humanities. In this type of AHLG course, the emphasis is on textual interpretation (rather than creation of literary texts). Such courses deepen students’ skills in (1) interpreting texts with awareness of the texts' basic orientation in the world (historical, philosophical, religious, linguistic, etc.), (2) constructing arguments and evaluating canons using appropriate evidence and tools of critical analysis, and (3) developing an appreciation of the fundamental ambiguities and complexities involved in all human attempts to answer questions about knowledge, values, and life.

For students in the College of Engineering, this course counts toward the humanities requirement (EGHU).

Requirements

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Any student who misses lecture must submit a one-page summary of the lecture by the end of the week. Any student who misses more than six classes—for any reason—will not be able to pass the class. Absences may impact the participation grade.

Reading: You should always bring the assigned reading with you to lecture and discussion.

All reading assignments must be completed before the Monday lecture. The lecturers will assume you have done the reading.

You should always read all period and author headnotes in the anthologies, and you will be held accountable for this information in quizzes and on exams.

Time: You are expected to spend three hours outside of class for each one hour you spend in class. For this class, that means you should expect to put in at least nine hours of work outside class time.

NOTE: Individual sections may have additional requirements.
Assignments

Essays (40%): There will be two essays (5-7 pages), one prior to the midterm examination and one following it. For each essay, you will choose from a list of assigned topics. All essays will rely on close reading to support an argument.

Midterm Exam (20%): A written exam covering all material from the beginning of the semester up to the date of the exam.

Final Oral Exam (25%): A comprehensive, oral final conducted by both professors and covering all readings, including introductions and headnotes, as well as material presented in lecture. These exams will be scheduled during the final exam period.

Participation and Quizzes (15%): Weekly quizzes will test students’ comprehension of readings and the lecture. Students will also be expected to contribute to class discussion.

NOTE: All required written work and both examinations must be completed in order to pass ENGL 199. Failure to turn in either of the two required essays or to take either of the two examinations will result in an F grade.

Lecturers

A different member of the English Department will lecture on the week's reading every Monday: for more background on our lecturers, please follow the links on the English Department's "Faculty and Staff" web page at http://www.bucknell.edu/x925.xml

Syllabus

Week 1  The Middle Ages – Prof. Alf Siewers – Lecture 9/2

Reading: “The Middle Ages to ca. 1485" (NAEL 1 2-28) and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (NAEL 1 135-188).

Week 2  The Renaissance – Prof. Jean Peterson – Lecture 9/9

Reading: "The Sixteenth Century: 1485-1608" (NAEL 1 348-381); “Shakespeare” (NAEL 1 535-539); and Shakespeare, The Tempest (Norton Critical Edition), pp. 3-77.

Week 3  The English 17th and 18th Centuries – Prof. Harold Schweizer – Lecture 9/16

Week 4  Early American Literature – Prof. Michael Drexler – Lecture 9/23

Reading: "Beginnings to 1700" (NAALI 2-19), “Mary Rowlandson” (NAALI 126-127), “A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson” (follow the link to the text or download from Moodle); “Phillis Wheatley,” “On Being Brought from Africa to America" and "To the University of Cambridge, in New England"(NAALI 401-405).

Week 5  American Romanticism – Prof. Saundra Morris – Lecture 9/30

Reading: “American Literature, 1820-1865” (NAALI 444-466), “Frederick Douglass” (NAALI 934-938) and Douglass, "What To the Slave is the Fourth of July" (1002-1005); “Walt Whitman” (NAALI 1005-1009), excerpts from Whitman, Song of Myself, sections 1-11 and 44-52 (1024-1031, 1060-1067), and “Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night” and “Reconciliation” (Moodle); “Emily Dickinson” (NAALI 1189-1193), selected poems (1193-1215) with special attention to #s 122, 236, 260, 269, 340, 353, 409, 479, 519, 591, 620, 764, & 1263 and also #s 360, 445, 466 & 1433 (Moodle).

**Friday 10/6 -- Essay 1 Due**

Week 6  English Romanticism – Prof. Ghislaine McDayter – Lecture 10/7


Week 7  Midterm Break – No lecture

Wednesday, 10/16 – Sections meet as usual

**Friday, 10/18 – MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 8  Victorian Literature – Prof. Virginia Zimmerman – Lecture 10/21

Reading: "The Victorian Age 1830-1901" (NAEL2 532-559) and Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre (Norton Critical Edition), pp. 1-385.

Week 9  Modern Fiction – Prof. John Rickard – Lecture 10/28

Reading: “The Twentieth Century and After" (NAEL2 958-985), “James Joyce,” "Araby" and "The Dead" (NAEL2 1221-1256).
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Intro to Film – Prof. Eric Faden – Lecture 11/4</th>
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<td>Reading: Walter Murch, from <em>In the Blink of an Eye</em>, and Sergei Eisenstein, “Behind the Shot” (Moodle)</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Literature of the American South – Prof. Harriet Pollack – Lecture 11/11</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Modern Drama – Prof. Meenakshi Ponnuswami – Lecture 11/18</td>
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<td>Reading: “Samuel Beckett” and <em>Waiting for Godot</em> (<em>NAEL2</em> 1353-1411).</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Library Session – Jason Snyder, from LIT – 11/25</td>
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<td>Monday 11/25</td>
<td><strong>Essay 2 Due</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday and Friday</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING</strong></td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Post-Modernism – Prof. Anthony Stewart – Lecture 12/2</td>
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<td>Reading: “American Literature Since 1945” (<em>NAAL2</em> 1070-1087), from Percival Everett, <em>Glyph</em> (Moodle)</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>No Lecture – Final Review 12/9</td>
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<td>Final Oral Exams</td>
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