

UC-English

Rutgers-Newark

Spring 2008

Spring Courses Announced

The following courses will be offered by the English Department in Spring 2008.

Writers Readings Colloquium Staff

62:350:204 Hrs by arrangement

Survey of English Literature *Writing Intensive *

Professor Rosetti

62:350:221 MW7

Literature of the British Isles, from its beginnings to the 20th Century.

Eng. Renaissance Lit Professor Baker

62:350:316 MW8

The course will be mostly devoted to sixteenth century English Literature. We will study works by Thomas More, Spenser, Shakespeare, and Queen Elizabeth.

Shakespeare Professor Elias

62:350:320 TH 6:00-9:00

A sampling of history, tragedy, comedy, and romance in plays representing the span of Shakespeare's creative life.

Chaucer *Advanced Method and Theory* Professor Sohrawardy

62:350:373 T 6:00-9:00

Undeniably the most important writer in English Literature before Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer is recognized as a pioneer of poetic and narrative technique. This course will examine Chaucer's numerous achievements in Middle English literature, and how his influence extends to his literary successors, from Shakespeare to J.R.R. Tolkien. Beginning with *The Canterbury Tales*, We shall examine how Chaucer used (and experimented with) satire, allegory, romance, and other inherited, literary traditions of the 14th century to fashion a boldly humorous, often critical, decidedly vernacular response to the most pressing social, economic, and religious issues of his time.

The course shall assume no prior exposure to Middle English, and shall train its participants on the correct pronunciation and meaning(s) of Chaucer's poetry – a task that shall initially seem daunting, but will later prove to be not only easier than expected, but actually FUN! Through close readings of most of *The Canterbury Tales*, selections from *Troilus and Criseyde*, and *The Book of the Duchess*, we will hazard educated hypotheses about Chaucer's attitudes toward chivalry, trade, marriage, education, the Church, and the Islamic East. We will attempt to add precision to our investigations using a number of contemporary critical lenses, most notably feminism, postcolonial theory, and hypertext theory. Since we seem to be witnessing a veritable 'renaissance of the Middle Ages' in contemporary films (The Lord of the Rings trilogy, the upcoming Hobbit adaptation) and fiction (the Harry Potter novels, etc.), one question that will serve as a guiding force for all

of our discussions will be ‘What appeal do the Middle Ages hold for 21st century readers?’ This course satisfies both the pre-1800 and the advanced method and theory requirements for English majors.

American Literature of the 19th Century

**Writing Intensive **

Professor La Pointe

62:352:338 MW8

The story of the United States in the 19th century has largely been one of migration, immigration, reinvention, and the quest for new frontiers and adventure. This course explores the fascination with displacement in major American works of literature from the period. While the course focuses primarily on close textual analysis, we will also examine the cultural and historical forces that shaped this theme in each work. We will explore how the idea of displacement helped establish an emerging sense of multiple American identities, and contributed to a uniquely American tradition of literature and thought. Readings will include works by Poe, Melville, Chopin, Stowe, and Twain, among others.

Women in Literature:

20th Century Women Writers

Professor Levy

62:350:360 M/W 5:30-6:50

Women and Literature introduces students to twentieth-century American women writers and the feminist issues and politics that they grappled with throughout the decades. In analyzing various authors' perspectives on political, social, and historical issues, we shall keep some fundamental questions in mind: How do women writers use literature as a vehicle for understanding or expressing individual identity? How do women writers create personal subjectivity in light of social pressures and constraints? What roles do gender, race, religion, and politics play in the writers' lives and works?

Special Topics in American Literature:

American Women Writers, 1790-1865

**Writing Intensive **

Professor Hall

62:352:369 TH 6:00-9:00

Fiction and poetry by American women between the Revolution and the Civil War. Recent criticism has shown this literature to be more complex and self-conscious than previously imagined, engaged in a struggle with the demands of the literary marketplace and the role of women in antebellum American culture, as well as more directly concerned with the burning social issues of the time.. Authors include Susanna Rowson, Catharine Sedgwick, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Rebecca Harding Davis, Lydia Sigourney, Francis Sargent Osgood, others.

Writing for Publication

**Writing Intensive **

Professor Zeugin

62:350:391 T 6:00-9:00

Advanced feature and article writing; students function as editorial board, discussing ideas for news features and magazine articles, and offering constructive criticism to each member-writer; students produce two to four (depending on length) newspaper features and magazine articles. The course covers process from query letter to finished feature and article, with specific attention to drafting and editing.

Afro-American Literature

Professor Oliver

62:352:396 S 9:00-11:55

African American Literature II will focus on the Harlem Renaissance, the era of urban realism, the Black Arts Movement, and selected works of the literary revolution of the late 20th century/early 21st century.