

ENGLISH LITERATURE (ENLT)

ENLT 106W Language and Literature (3.5)

A range of courses taught in tandem with "W" courses in other disciplines. Students may earn three literature hours and fulfill the writing proficiency requirement. May be repeated.

ENLT 151 Introduction to Literature (3)

Introduction to Literature (3/4) This course introduces students to the skills of reading and writing that enable us to appreciate, understand, and enjoy literary texts. It fulfills the Sophia literature and the LO2 Women's Voices Certification requirement. W sections of this course also allow students to fulfill the writing proficiency requirement.

ENLT 211 Animals in Literature and Society (3)

This interdisciplinary course explores how literature shapes and reflects human responses to nonhuman animals, using theoretical frameworks and direct experience of human-animal interactions to focus these explorations. This course responds to the transformation of human understanding of nonhuman animals as the older view of animals as instinct driven machines is replaced by new recognition of animal agency and culture. This transformation challenges us to take nonhuman animals more seriously in literature and society.

ENLT 213 Environmental Literature (3)

This course studies writings that engage their readers with the natural environment. We will learn the ways of reading that these texts teach in order to bring us into fuller contact with our surroundings and the living energy they share with us. The course readings—poetry, fiction, and non-fiction—emphasize different roles humans take in their relations with nature: observer, indweller, dependent, exploiter, caretaker. We will consider carefully the ways in which people are gendered into these roles and the global implications of our civilization's exploitative dependence on nature.

ENLT 216 Literature of Social Justice (3)

What role do literary works play in advocating for a more just society? Can literature provide a platform for social exploration? An opportunity to engage the emotions of the public? A space for disruption and critique? What are the limitations of literary representations of social justice issues? This course uses these guiding questions to examine works of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

ENLT 217 Contemporary Women's Fiction (3)

Readings of contemporary women writers since the 1960s.

ENLT 220 Literature and Medicine (3)

What can literature tell us about experiences of health, illness, and health care? How do literary works represent and even intervene in medical contexts? How are literary representations of medical topics related to gender, sexuality, race, and class? What literary histories inform contemporary writing about health and illness? This course considers the ways literature contributes to knowledge about medicine and invites reflection about concepts including health, illness, dying, and disability.

ENLT 224 Sorcery and Damnation (3)

From Homer and Dante to Anthony Burgess and Anne Rice, this course examines one of the oldest and most fascinating of literary tropes, the "Descent into the Underworld," exploring how the concepts of hell and sorcery have evolved from classical times through our own. Texts may include Dante, *Inferno*; Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*; Shakespeare, *Macbeth*; Mozart, *Don Giovanni*; Lewis, *The Monk*; Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*; Rice, *Memnoch the Devil* and others.

ENLT 232 Arthurian Literature (3)

An exploration of the myth of Arthur from its medieval roots to the present day. While this course will focus on literary depictions of Arthur, we might also foray into how this mythic king has been represented in other media, including film.

ENLT 238 Jane Austen (3)

A study of Jane Austen's fiction in the context of her life and times. We'll read several of her major novels.

ENLT 240 Literature and the Public Humanities (3)

This course introduces students to public sphere theory and fosters critical thinking about the historical and contemporary role of the humanities in public life. What do we mean when we talk about "the public" and "the public sphere"? Who is included? Who gets to decide? How do publics and counterpublics structure contemporary life? And how do the "humanities," literary studies, and digital methods fit in there? In this class, students will be introduced to key ways of conceptualizing the public sphere and examine a series of case studies focused on reading in public and the role of literature in public life. As we consider case studies in public writing and public humanities engagement, we will center the many practices of humanities learning that take place outside the formal structure of the academy, in activist circles, book clubs, public libraries, reading groups, and other communal spaces. Positioning these sites as essential loci of intellectual and social production, the class asks how we can bridge learning in the classroom with a humanities practice in the world.

ENLT 244 Tolkien and Modern Fantasy (3)

This course explores the importance and the pleasures of fantasy through the work that defined the genre, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. In the first part of the course, we will read works anticipate Tolkien's novel and that influenced and inspired him. In the middle part of the course, we will read *The Lord of the Rings* carefully. In the course's last part, we will consider some major works of recent fantasy to see what some of Tolkien's most notable successors do—thematically, stylistically, and politically—with the model for the genre he established.

ENLT 251 African-American Literature (3)

Materials grouped variously for each class by theme, genre or historical period. May be repeated.

ENLT 253 Native American Literature (3)

Materials grouped variously for each class by theme, genre, or historical period. May be repeated.

ENLT 254 William Carlos Williams, the Poet Doctor: Exploring the Intersections Between Poetics and Medicine (3)

William Carlos Williams (WCW), one of the 20th century's most crucial American poets, also worked as a tireless doctor, who, by his own count, delivered around 3,000 babies. He also made daily house calls, and even though one might think his medical profession would detract from his poetry and poetics, he saw the exact opposite to be the case. His attentiveness to his patients deepened his attentiveness to language, and vice-versa, so much so that his medical practice could be described as a poetics of listening. The content and the assignments of this course, then, are designed specifically for nursing students (though students from any major are welcome to take it as well). Along with two more traditional essays (one focusing on WCW's early poetics, one focusing on his later poetics), students will keep an Attentiveness Journal. Students will also complete an ekphrasis project that further deepens their attentiveness to their surroundings and to language.

ENLT 255 Women of Genius: American Literature in the Suffragette Era (3)

At the turn of the 20th century, talented women of every description were fighting to have a voice: in politics, in society, in marriage; over their education, their bodies, and their economic destiny. How that struggle worked its way into the fiction and drama of the era (roughly 1880 to 1920) is the focus of this course. A recurring motif is the woman of great natural abilities – someone with a “genius” for this or that calling – who attempts, against steep odds, to win a public audience for her talents, whether from the lectern, the stage, the pulpit, or print.

ENLT 265 Digital Humanities Project Laboratory: From Medieval Manuscripts to Digital Texts (3)

This course will examine the history of the book from the ancient period through the modern day, in both European and global contexts, and assignments in this course will be largely project-oriented, introducing students to a range of skills in visual design, project management, and digital communication. A portion of the course will be devoted to working with original technologies (parchment and quills) to produce an imitation medieval manuscript page, and the second half of the course will be spent collaborating to create a digital exhibit that introduces an item or items preserved in the Rare Book Room to the broader public. While crafting this digital exhibit, we will discuss the power of narrative as a tool for understanding our world, our region, and our community and explore how digital forms of textual transmission enable us to raise up previously marginalized perspectives and tell more nuanced, representative stories to a range of audiences about our past, present and future.

ENLT 272 Multiethnic Graphic Narrative (3)

This course introduces students to graphic narrative as a form utilizing words (literature) and drawings (visual art) in combination. Focusing on works by multiethnic writers, it attends closely to the themes and issues surrounding cultural diversity and the manner in which discourses addressing these issues are represented in the texts.

ENLT 278 From Fiction to Film (3)

A study of how narratives evolve and transform when fiction is adapted for the silver screen. Emphasis is on literary and cinematic elements, techniques, and conventions.

ENLT 282 British Literature: 1800 to Present (3)

Readings through the Romantic, Victorian, modern and contemporary periods. Includes such authors as Blake, Wordsworth and other Romantics, Austen, the Brontes, Tennyson, and 20th-century poets.

ENLT 290 Topics in Literature (1-3)

A range of courses offering literary study. May be repeated.

ENLT 303 History of the Book (3)

This course examines the history of the book from the Classical period through the modern day, in both European and global contexts. It traces the development of textual media from the cuneiform tablet to the e-book and interrogates how formal and material shifts in production methods might have influenced how written works were read by classical and premodern audiences. Exploration of the book as a historically-defined technological device further allows consideration of how the book is continuing to develop within the current digital age and how these developments might shape how future generations will navigate textual environments. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 304 History of the English Language (3)

This course traces the development of English from Old English to the present. We examine how Old English originated from the Indo-European language family, and we consider the geographic, political, and social forces that led to the evolution of Middle English and Modern Englishes. As we turn our attention to present forms of English, we interrogate contemporary attitudes toward dialectical forms of English in America, and across the globe.

ENLT 311 Medieval Literature (3)

This course explores the origins and development of English literature from c. 700-1500. We will read a selection of Old English, Anglo-Norman French, and Middle English works in light of their historical, political, social, and literary contexts. Works in Old and early Middle English and in Anglo-Norman French will be read in translation. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 312 Chaucer (3)

This course engages with the works of Chaucer and examines his literary output in the broader context of late medieval thought and culture. Throughout the course, we discuss the continued pertinence of studying Chaucer in the 21st century and read selections of modern retellings of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 314 16th/17th-Century British Literature (3)

Traces the development of English literature from the end of the Middle Ages and the Reformation to the English Civil War and the Restoration, with particular attention to the impact of religious and political controversy on the development of poetic form and language. Readings include lyric and narrative poetry, drama, and prose by major writers of the period, including women poets Lanyer, Wroth, Phillips, and Cavendish and male poets Wyatt, Spenser, Sidney, Shakespeare, Donne, Herbert, Marvell, and Milton. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 315 Shakespeare (3)

Representative comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances, with emphasis on theatre. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 316 Shakespeare and the Power of Art (3)

The study of a representative selection of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances with particular attention to formal analysis of the plays and to Shakespeare's interest in the power of art to change life. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 317 Shakespeare in Our Time (3)

As a playwright, poet, and actor, Shakespeare knew the power of art—not just in providing pleasure, but in affecting lives in tangible, material ways. Theater, music, and literature entertain us, to be sure, but they can also serve as catalysts of change, both in Shakespeare’s day and in our own. But what about Shakespeare’s own art? What power does it hold in our time? Recently, Shakespearean scholar Miles Grier asked a related question: “What are we going to do with Shakespeare’s plays?” This course takes its inspiration from Grier’s question and the question it seems to contain within it. In this way, our challenge—and our opportunity—this semester is to learn Shakespeare, to delight in his works, to wrestle with the hard questions his plays raise, and to make Shakespeare ours, for our time. Most excitingly, we will do so from a variety of perspectives and methods: historical and literary, theoretical and theatrical, academic and public. You’ll consider Elizabethan sources alongside 21st-century appropriations, examine both historical and contemporary contexts of production, and engage in a range of course projects and assignments, both digital and analog.

ENLT 327 18th-Century British Novel: Novel Women (3)

A critical and historical study of the novel in Britain from Daniel Defoe to Jane Austen. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 328 18th-Century British Literature (3)

The quest for new literary forms and new audiences, with emphasis on the Restoration stage, parody and satire, the novel and other prose experiments, and the emergence of professional women of letters. Behn, Pope, Finch, Swift, Johnson, Wollstonecraft, Austen and others. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 330 Romantic Movements (3)

A survey of British Romantic literature and culture (1790-1837). Includes such authors as Blake, Byron, Coleridge, Keats, Radcliffe, Percy and Mary Shelley, Dorothy and William Wordsworth, and others. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 333 Victorian Literature (3)

A survey of British literature and culture during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). Includes such authors as Arnold, Eliot, Browning, Dickens, Newman, and Tennyson. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 336 19th-Century British Novel: The Victorian Novel (3)

A critical and historical study of the novel in Britain from Jane Austen to Thomas Hardy. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 337 The Brontës (3)

We will read novels by Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë: *Jane Eyre*, *Villette*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*. We will also read a contemporary biography of Charlotte Brontë, written by her good friend and fellow novelist, Elizabeth Gaskell, as well as selected introductions, critical histories, and critical essays on some novels. Additional short background readings will also be assigned to provide better understanding of women’s legal rights and related issues in nineteenth-century Britain. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 343 20th-Century British Novel (3)

A critical and historical study of the novel in Britain from Joseph Conrad to the present. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 346 American Literature to 1865 (3)

This course explores colonial era and early U.S. literature, focusing on American and Atlantic World contexts. The class introduces students to key genres in American literature to 1865 including the spiritual autobiography, the slave narrative, the novel, and the lyric poem. As this course moves into the middle decades of the nineteenth century, when both the amount of material being printed and the scale of the American reading public greatly expanded, we will focus on strategies for engaging texts with past and present readers in mind. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 348 American Literature 1945 to Present (3)

This course explores fiction, drama, and poetry published from the end of World War II to the present. The class emphasizes innovation and experimentation in literary forms by American authors responding to cultural upheaval in the late twentieth century. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 351 19th-Century American Literature (3)

This course examines competing accounts of the natural world in American literature before 1900. We’ll consider literary representations of American nature in relationship to settler colonialism, slavery, resistance, revolution, and the ideology of the “nation.” As we examine debates about nature in late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American literature, we’ll focus especially on ways of organizing the natural world and the relationships between humans and nonhumans. We’ll ask: How are human beings related to the natural world? What conflicts emerge from competing visions of “nature”? What is exciting or threatening about the close relationship between human and nonhuman beings? In what ways are humans represented as nonhuman or other-than-human, especially along the lines of race, ethnicity, and gender? Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 352 20th-Century American Literature (3)

This course explores how writers grapple with language and consciousness from Stein’s radical breaking-through the (false) construct of ordered prose, to the ways writers explore hybridity, trauma, and healing through this thing we call language. Questions emerge. Can one have consciousness without human language? Is language the best “mirror” of the mind, and if so, which genre best represents what is actually happening within one’s (un)conscious mind? Does language eclipse/confine consciousness?—or does language illuminate/expand consciousness? Can one heal from trauma? If so, how is language involved in that healing process?—or rather, what does “healing” look like on the printed page? And, most crucially, where is the body in all of these interactions? As the course moves from Stein to Toomer, Anzaldúa, Faulkner, Spiegelman, DeLillo, McCarthy, and then to contemporary poets, we span the 20th century. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 354 Immigrant Women’s Writing (3)

An exploration of recent immigrant and second generation women’s writing in a variety of genres, engaging with enduring questions about self, community, family, social responsibility, and identity. The course will consider how immigrant women writers negotiate between their inherited cultural and artistic influences and American values and how gender complicates cultural difference. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 358 Development of the American Novel (3)

A critical and historical study of novels by such authors as Hawthorne, Melville, James, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner, and Bellow. Prerequisite: Completion of ‘W’ requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 362 Contemporary Global Literature (3)

In this course, we will read and analyze a variety of genres of texts by contemporary authors from around the world, including novels, author talks, graphic narrative, and nonfiction prose. All of the texts on the syllabus can be analyzed as examples of cultural and artistic expression and are informed by their varied and complex national, ethnic, religious, sociopolitical, and gendered contexts. Throughout the semester, we will discuss how the texts reflect the varied and intertwined histories from which these writers emerge, and how they participate in a larger conversation about our increasingly globalized perspectives. Moreover, we will note the multiplicity of stylistic and artistic choices reflected in the literature we read and consider how global literature challenges our expectations as Western readers. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 363 20th-Century and Contemporary African Literature (3)

In this course, students will read novels, short stories, drama, and nonfiction prose by writers from various countries across the African continent. Throughout our readings, we will pay close attention to issues of language, power, gender, and identity. In particular, we will consider how literature reflects the continuing effects of conquest and imperialism, independence, and postcolonialism. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 366 Postcolonial Women's Writing (3)

A study of significant examples of women's literature from Africa, South Asia, and the Caribbean written after the end of British colonialism with attention to their engagement with complicated histories of colonization and independence and to their contribution to an understanding of feminism that challenges Western perceptions. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 367 Caribbean Women's Literature (3)

This course considers Caribbean women's writings in the light of the intersection of feminist, queer, and postcolonial theory in Caribbean literary studies. The region's colonial history – and the violent oppression and connected to that history – produced institutions and movements that deeply affected and continue to affect the lives of Caribbean women. We will examine the manner in which their literature represents sexual violence and the ideological appropriation of the female body, sexuality and gender identity, and patriarchy and gender roles. In particular, we will consider how the thematic recurrence of these issues across the texts is related to the social, political, economic, cultural, and ethnic conflicts endemic to colonization and its aftermath. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 375 Contemporary American Poetry in Context (3)

Trends, themes, genres and movements in contemporary American poetry, contextualized with relevant works from other periods, cultures and traditions. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 385 Critical Theory (3)

This course introduces to the major approaches to theorizing the nature and function of literature and the practice of criticism as they have developed from the 19th century to the present. Our method of approaching theory will be to place theoretical texts in dialogue with literary texts. Prerequisite: Completion of 'W' requirement, or one ENLT course, or instructor permission.

ENLT 387 Gender and Sexuality in Literature (3)

This course examines gender and sexuality in 19th-century American literature. We'll explore the flourishing world of 19th-century American women writers, and slavery, abolition, and Black women's writing will be central to our course. Together we'll ask: What gender ideologies shaped nineteenth-century American literature? How do race, gender, sexuality, and class intersect in course texts? What queer and trans histories emerge from 19th-century archives? How can we productively engage with, critique, interpret, and enliven these texts in relationship to contemporary scholarship in Black studies, feminism, and queer theory?

ENLT 390 Topics in Literature (1-3)

A range of courses offering advanced literary study. May be repeated.

ENLT 397 Independent Study (1-3)

May be repeated.

ENLT 415 Shakespeare and the World (3)

The study of a representative selection of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances with particular attention to historical analysis of the plays and to Shakespeare's engagement with contemporary social, political, and religious issues. Prerequisite for all ENLT courses numbered 401 to 490 is a 300-level ENLT course or permission of instructor.

ENLT 431 Restoration and 18th-Century British Drama: Script to Stage (3)

This course explores the world of Restoration and 18th-century theatre. The Restoration was one of the greatest periods of English drama, a time when an especially brilliant form of theatre—Restoration comedy—was created. This genre will be a main focus of the class, but we will also encounter other genres, including such mongrel genres as weeping comedy and bourgeois tragedy. As we examine the effects of gender, class, politics, and religion on plays throughout the 18th century, we will investigate the effects of innovation and reaction, theater design, the changing make-up of audiences, and the advent of women as actors and professional playwrights. Prerequisite: 300-level ENLT course, or permission of the instructor.

ENLT 451 American Poetry and Poetics (3)

From Whitman, Dickinson, and their followers to the confessional disclosures of the mid-20th-century poets, from the imagists to the Beat Poets to ecopoets, American voices and poetic movements are the focus of this course. Prerequisites: 300 level ENLT or instructor permission

ENLT 455 Emily Dickinson (3)

This course explores Dickinson's poems and letters in the context of current scholarship, including monographs, journal articles, online archives, and more. Prerequisite: 300-level ENLT course, or permission of the instructor.

ENLT 490 Topics in Literature (1-3)

A range of courses offering advanced literary study. May be repeated.

ENLT 495 Senior Literature Seminar (3)

Required of English Literature majors during the first semester of the senior year. Intensive seminar with a select number of texts, involving a research project which will draw upon the student's interpretive skill and her grasp of critical issues within literary and historical contexts. Successful completion of the Senior Seminar satisfies the comprehensive examination requirement for the B.A. Prerequisite: ENLT 385 and senior standing as ENLT or ENLW major.

ENLT 497 Independent Study (1-3)

May be repeated.