

CRN#**Fall 2023 Literature Cornerstone Course Descriptions****20513** **ENG100-A, COR: Island Living/Island Leaving****20514** **ENG100-B, COR: Island Living/Island Leaving****Prof. G. Scala**

This seminar explores the literature of islands. This will be a semester-long inquiry into how the unique conditions of island living shape literature and culture. We will study texts about castaways, pirates, tourists, islanders, and adventurers in order to discern what makes stories about islands so compelling and enduring.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20515 **ENG100-C, COR: Film Theory/Film Practice****Prof. D. Itzkovitz**

This seminar will introduce students to film, and film representation, through theory and practice: intensive study of film language, technique, and theory will be followed by a basic introduction to filmmaking (creating short films). This will enable students to apply the theories and techniques they have learned in class.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20516 **ENG 100-D, COR: Literature in Translation?****Prof. J. Golden**

Many of the texts that you read in your core courses are translations into English. What exactly does it mean to read a text in translation? We will ask and answer that question, using these 19th-century texts: Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du mal/Flowers of Evil*; Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*; Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20517 **ENG100-E, COR: Fictional Futures****20518** **ENG100-F, COR: Fictional Futures****20519** **ENG100-G, COR: Fictional Futures****Prof. S. Cohen**

An examination of a variety of literary works from the middle of the 19th century to the present, focusing on the ways they critique prevailing power structures and ideology. How these various writers construe the relationship between aesthetics and politics (that is, the social/political purposes of their art) is the central question we will seek to answer. By examining the ways in which each work assaults the status quo of an inhumane, often brutal society, we will trace a tradition of protest literature and discover the means and methods of protest writers from several different cultures and national literatures.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20522 **ENG 100-J, COR: African-American Literature****20523** **ENG 100-K, COR: African-American Literature****Prof. S. Morris**

An introduction to the major themes and issues in African American literature, from the 18th century to the present.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20524 **ENG 100-L, COR: Classics of Children's Literature****20525** **ENG 100-M, COR: Classics of Children's Literature****Prof. P. White**

This course considers some of the best-loved books of children's literature to analyze and understand their power. What makes for a children's "classic," and does it make sense to categorize children's books along these lines? Thematic issues at stake include universal experiences of childhood—friendship and growing up—

but also broader issues—ethics, the representation of history, and finding a place in what the animals of *The Wind in the Willows* would call *The Wide World*. We will pay careful attention to the forms of the stories we read; while the course focuses on novels, we will also consider picture books and poems.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20526 ENG 100-N, COR: Introduction to Creative Writing

20527 ENG 100-O, COR: Introduction to Creative Writing

Prof. S. Dasgupta

In this course you will be introduced to the world of creative writing. We will embark on weekly writing experiments and exercises drawing from your own experiences, identities, perceptions, and unique and wild imaginations. At the same time, we will read, listen to, and watch work read by contemporary authors in all genres to be in conversation with our own writing and the world in which we live. This course will get you thinking creatively and show you ways to approach writing as a creative outlet and form of self-expression to grapple with and explore the complexities of what it means to be human in this moment. Together we will build a close classroom community through weekly collaborations, feedback, discussion, reading, and exciting writing adventures. Students will learn fundamentals of writing poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction such as mini-memoir and personal narratives.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20528 ENG 100-P, COR: Poetic Idiom through the Ages

Prof. J. Chichetto, CSC

Using some of the most familiar and often taught works in each genre of poetry, this course will explore the poetic styles and forms of artistic expression that are characteristic of certain poets and periods of literature down through the ages. It will also examine the idiom of current songwriters like Lil Wayne and Taylor Swift and compare and contrast them with poets, both past and contemporary.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20510 ENG 111-A, CS: HON: Metamorphosis in Western Literature

Prof. J. Green

"Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" So reads the inscription on Paul Gauguin's 1897 painting of the same name. Big questions, to be sure, and even if our course will not provide conclusive answers, we will examine this desire for self-knowledge through the theme of transformation (physical and otherwise) in Western literature from Ovid through Shakespeare and on to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with Stevenson, Kafka, Woolf, Eliot, and Joyce. Through close readings of our key texts, we will explore issues of language, power, gender, race, class, and identity formation, and consider the ways in which literature itself is a process of metamorphosis. The intensive writing component of the course is similarly organized around the principle of transformation: through careful revision and rewriting, we will approach critical analysis as a process by which our observations and intuitions are reshaped into rigorous, persuasive critical prose.

Open to First-Year Honors students. Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20508 ENG 126-A, CS: Love & Other Difficulties

Prof. A. Baldys

What does it mean to desire something-or someone? What is the nature of the relationship between the enamored and the object of desire? In this course, we will explore love and desire as fundamental aspects of identity and self-awareness as well as central themes of literature across diverse cultures and historical periods. Through readings in poetry, drama and fiction, we will examine desire in its many forms, from desire for friendship and familial connection to romantic and libidinal desire, to the desire for material goods and power. Authors to be considered may include Plato, Ovid, Shakespeare, Keats, Brontë, Freud, Rilke, Joyce, Kafka, Nabokov, Wilde, Mann, Duras, Neruda, García Márquez, and Morrison.

Open to First-Year students. Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20511 ENG 142-A, CS: Between Two Worlds

Prof. A. Opitz

In this course we study the work of contemporary writers and filmmakers from Native American, African American, Caribbean immigrant, and Asian American communities. We will examine how these artists explore questions such as community, belonging, and identity; race, nation, and assimilation; power and representation; colonization, history, and institutionalized racism; and writing and resistance. Students are expected to read at least one novel, a number of short stories, poems, and personal essays in preparation for class discussion, as well as watch documentary and feature films, mainstream as well as independent. There will be weekly response papers, at least one presentation, and two or three longer papers.

Open to First-Year students. Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20509 ENG 148-A, CS: Sports and Writing

Prof. M. Borushko

This course centers on the study of contemporary fiction and literary nonfiction that is about sports by authors such as Sherman Alexie, John Edgar Wideman, Joyce Carol Oates, and David Foster Wallace, among others.

Open to First-Year students. Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20512 ENG 164-A, CS: Introduction to Creative Writing

Prof. A. Brooks

In this course you will be introduced to the world of creative writing. We will embark on weekly writing experiments and exercises drawing from your own experiences, identities, perceptions, and unique and wild imaginations. At the same time, we will read, listen to, and watch work read by contemporary authors in all genres to be in conversation with our own writing and the world in which we live. This course will get you thinking creatively and show you ways to approach writing as a creative outlet and form of self-expression to grapple with and explore the complexities of what it means to be human in this moment. Together we will build a close classroom community through weekly collaborations, feedback, discussion, reading, and exciting writing adventures. Students will learn fundamentals of writing poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction such as mini-memoir and personal narratives.

Open to First-Year students. Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20507 ENG 166-A, CS: Tales of Mayhem and Mystery: An Introduction to Detective Fiction

Prof. G. Piggford, CSC

With its roots in the Bible, ancient Greece, and medieval China and Arabia, the tale of mystery invites readers into a role of detection. We consider facts and solve cases, but also ponder mysteries that are sometimes supernatural, metaphysical, linguistic, or existential. Students in this course will consider stories such as "The Three Apples" and "The Chalk Circle," as well as works by Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler, Chester Himes, Thomas Pynchon, and Paul Auster, and film adaptations including *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Third Man*, *Memento*.

Open to First-Year students. Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20529 ENG200-A, COR: Introductory Topics in Literary Studies

Prof. A. Baldys

The emission of poem/A grooming habit/ Through which to measure, to dose or temper/ Just how and how much everything that is not the person (who writes poems)/ Never stops scavenging her. Exploring the works of contemporary poets such as Ariana Reines, Dawn Lundy Martin, Ronaldo Wilson, Fred Moten, Sueyeun Juliette Lee, Lisa Robertson, C.A. Conrad, Eileen Myles, Harmony Holiday, Hoa Nguyen, and others, we will consider how contemporary poetry shapes both poets' and readers' creations and co-creations of (representations of) selfhood. Through an interrogation of content, craft, and form, we will ask: how is the modern self built in lines? How do sociocultural markers of our identity—race, gender, sexuality, class—and their interpellations influence who we are and how we understand ourselves both on and off the page? How does contemporary

poetry help us navigate who we are? How much of what “scavenges” us—as Reines puts it—is and is not ourselves?

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20534 ENG258-A, COR: Literature and Sports

Prof. M. Borushko

Students will read and study literature that draws on or engages in some way sports and its diverse cultures. Some of the stories, novels, and essays will be about sports; others will, for example, incorporate sports into their broader aesthetic and social visions; others still will use the culture of sport as the canvas on which to paint characters and their internal lives.

Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.