

CRN#**Fall 2020 Literature Cornerstone Course Descriptions**

- 20797 ENG110-A, CS: Island Living/Island Leaving 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
Prof. S. Cohen
 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 First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20832 ENG 116-A, CS: Literature in Translation 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
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 First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20831 ENG 128-A, CS: Wonderlands 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
20836 ENG 128-B, CS: Wonderlands 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)
Prof. L. Scales
 A portal opens to another world: what wonders will we find there? In this course, we will travel down rabbit holes, through secret doorways, across borders, and back in time, encountering the stuff of dreams—and sometimes nightmares. Along the way, we will ask what these alternate realities tell us about our own world and our own imaginations. Texts may include Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, J.M. Barrie's *Peter and Wendy*, The Wachowskis' *The Matrix*, Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*, Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*, Guillermo Del Toro's *Pan's Labyrinth*, Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, and short works by Margaret Cavendish, Jorge Luis Borges, Ray Bradbury, and Adrienne Rich.
 Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20554 ENG 131-A, CS: Extreme Makeovers 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
Prof. S. Gracombe
 From Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to *Queer Eye*, we have always been fascinated by extreme makeovers. What accounts for this ongoing appeal? What do these texts of transformation reveal about identity, memory, and gender? What do they suggest about the challenges of belonging? What does it take to change bodies and change minds? To answer these questions, this course will examine transformations in a diverse range of fiction and film. Together, we will explore texts including the Greek myth of Daphne and Apollo; Robert Louis Stevenson's Gothic mystery *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; Nella Larsen's exploration of racial passing in the 1920s; Karen Russell's coming of age tale "St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves," Phil Klay's recent story "Redeployment," about a damaged soldier's return home; and some contemporary films (your input welcome). At a time of transformation, as you join or rejoin college life, this course will help you develop your skills as critical readers, writers, and thinkers ready to engage with the world.
 Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20828 ENG 141-A, HON: CS: Introduction to African-American Literature 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
Prof. D. Itzkovitz
 An introduction to the major themes and issues in African American literature, from the 18th century to the present.
 Only open to Honors Scholars. Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20829 ENG 148-A, CS: Sport Stories 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
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.
 Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.

- 20812 ENG155-A CS: The Mirror of Friendship 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
20830 ENG155-B CS: The Mirror of Friendship 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)
Prof. J. Green
 “Without friends,” wrote Aristotle, “no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods.” For the Greek philosopher, in fact, friendship was a higher value than justice and one of the purest forms of love. Oscar Wilde, with tongue in cheek, had a somewhat different take: “Friendship is far more tragic than love. It lasts longer.” In this course, we will examine the philosophy and literature of friendship from the ancient world to the contemporary era of one-click “friending” on Facebook. We’ll look at friendship in its many hues: from the innocent relationships of childhood and the intensities of adolescent bonds to friendships that cross over into romantic love and friendships that spiral into dependency, rivalry, obsession, and betrayal. As we gaze into what Aristotle called the mirror that friends hold up for one another, we will also examine what the border-crossing power of friendship shows us about race, class, gender, and sexuality. Authors we will consider may include: Aristotle, Cicero, Michel de Montaigne, Francis Bacon, William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, David Mitchell, Achy Obejas, ZZ Packer, Junot Diaz, Sherman Alexie, and Mohsin Hamid. Frequent writing assignments will ask you to explore a variety of kinds of writing, such as “quotes and notes” annotations, blog posts, personal essays, and formal critical analysis. Special attention will be paid to developing basic writing and composition skills with an emphasis on formulating clear and persuasive arguments. We will also use Voice Thread as a way to converse with one another about these texts and our questions and ideas.
- Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20833 ENG 163-A, CS: American Nightmare/American Dream: Dystopic & Utopic American Lit. 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
20834 ENG 164-B, CS: American Nightmare/American Dream: Dystopic & Utopic American Lit. 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)
Prof. C. Payson
 What do The Hunger Games and the Declaration of Independence have in common? Or Thoreau's Walden and Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech? Each offers a vision of a future American society and asks us to reexamine the principles that shape it. In this course we will explore how writers from John Winthrop to Charlotte Perkins Gilman to Octavia Butler have imagined America in literature.
- Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20871 ENG 164-A, CS: Introduction to Creative Writing 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
Prof. A. Brooks
 In this course you be will introduced to 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 First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20872 ENG 165-A CS: Poetry in World Religions 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)**
20873 ENG 165-B, CS: Poetry in World Religions 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)
Prof. S. Dasgupta
 The first poems are found in the oldest of religious texts. As song, in hymns and psalms, as meditations, in praise and argument, in narrative verse and in calls-to-action. The poetic form allows writer and reader to draw persuasive connections—and distinctions—between internal experience, the social world, the natural world, and a moral or cosmic order. As religious culture continues to transform, poetry remains fertile ground for setting and contesting foundations. This course examines how a range of poets speak to and through religion to engage the deep and incendiary matters from ancient to contemporary times: cosmic meditations, cross-cultural tensions; science and health; sex and gender relations; global and local politics; war and the weapons of war; modernity vs. traditionalism; the fate of the earth; and of course the meaning of life and death. Poems will address a variety of world traditions and poetic perspectives, including but not limited to: Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, Indic religions, Judaism, and Buddhism.
- Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20876 ENG 166-A, CS: Tales of Mayhem and Mystery: An Introduction to Detective Fiction 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)

20878 ENG 166-B, CS: Tales of Mayhem and Mystery: An Introduction to Detective Fiction 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)
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*.

Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20875 ENG 167-A, CS: Art of Losing: British and Irish War Stories 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)

Prof. E. Chase

“My subject is War, and the Pity of War. The Poetry is in the Pity.” Wilfred Owen planned to include these lines in the preface to his book of First World War poetry; they also appear on the stone commemorating Britain’s War Poets in Poets’ Corner of Westminster Abbey. Yet this same sentiment prompted W.B. Yeats to say, “passive suffering is not a theme for poetry.” Both writers assume there is a “right” way to turn the losses of war into literature, but disagree on the details. This course asks: How does literature help us to understand the experience of loss, particularly when that loss happens in the context of war? In what ways does literature encourage us to remember the past? Why do the losses of the First World War still appeal to contemporary writers as a subject for poetry, novels, and plays? Our reading of primary texts are supplemented by critical works that reveal the ways in which memory and commemoration changed after the First World War, in order to help us understand writers’ continual return to and reimagination of the years from 1914-1918.

Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20874 ENG 168-A, CS: Global Fictions 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)

20880 ENG 168-B, CS: Global Fictions 3 credits (Cornerstone Seminar)

Prof. A. Opitz

In this section students encounter work by contemporary authors and filmmakers from around the globe. We’ll study this work within the broader framework of recent debates on colonization and post-colonization, globalization, migration, and war. We’ll consider issues relating to belonging and displacement; the legacies of imperialism; the local and the global; the meaning of home; diasporic, migrant and refugee identities. In order to see how contemporary writers and filmmakers have engaged with these questions, we’ll study work produced by artists from the Caribbean (Antigua, Haiti, and Martinique), Northern Africa (Syria, Iraq, and Iran), North, Central and South America (Canada, Mexico, and Columbia), and Europe (England).

Fulfills First-Year seminar requirement and Literature Cornerstone requirement.