

CRN#**Fall 2018 Literature Cornerstone Course Descriptions**

- 20016 ENG 100-A, HON: COR: The Mirror of Friendship** **3 credits (Honors)**
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 social-media friending. 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.
 Only open to Honors Scholars that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20397 ENG 100-B, COR: Literature in Translation** **3 credits**
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*.
 Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement
- 20398 ENG 100-C, COR: Twice Told Tales** **3 credits**
Prof. J. Thomas
 The title of this course is fittingly repurposed from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *Twice Told Tales* (1837), a collection of short stories containing a variety of his own previously published works. Throughout the semester, students will read a series of republished and retold narratives as a way of considering the stakes of literary genre, narrative voice, cultural capital, and publication histories. By exploring narratives that have reverberated across multiple genres—drama, film, fiction, and poetry—students will explore how form shapes and contains the kinds of stories artists are able to tell. Reading closely for the ghost plots and literary echoes that haunt these “twice told tales,” students will contemplate the aesthetic significance of repetition and revision and will examine the political and ethical stakes of recuperating lost stories.
 Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20399 ENG 100-D, COR: Marking Time** **3 credits**
20400 ENG 100-E, COR: Marking Time **3 credits**
Prof. S. Grant
 This course will offer students the opportunity to consider the many ways of knowing time as presented in various English texts written across the long eighteenth century. We will consider multiple literary forms—poetry, novel, the familiar letter, philosophical essay—for their ability to provide compelling examinations into how historical and literary subjects mark time, and how that epistemology connects to issues of historiography and nationalism. Our readings will engage with various philosophies on marking time, such as through class struggle, as embedded in cultural practices or traditions, or as unfolding through the actions of specific exemplary figures. We will explore the differing strategies for inclusion and exclusion inherent to these texts, as well as the national qualities—agrarian or industrial, monarchical or republican, landed or mercantile capital—supported by them. We will explore the meaning the past holds for the present and future in an increasingly commodity-driven and industrial world, where public and private processes of constituting time often offer conflicting accounts of the individual’s relationship to the national. Students will examine gendered biases in depictions of time, and how these biases empower ideological stability, Enlightenment ideals of chronological progression.
 Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

- 20401 ENG 100-F, COR: Wonderlands** **3 credits**
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.
- Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20402 ENG 100-G, COR: Extreme Makeovers: Transformative Texts** **3 credits**
Prof. S. Gracombe
 From Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to *America's Next Top Model*, we have always been fascinated by extreme makeovers. What accounts for this ongoing appeal? To answer this question, this course will examine transformations in texts as diverse as the Greek myth of Icarus, Bram Stoker's Victorian vampire novel *Dracula*, and Phil Klay's recent Iraq war story "Redeployment." What do these extreme makeovers reveal about psychology, sexuality, and otherness at different moments in history? In particular, what do they suggest about the boundaries between the human and the animal? About the process of growing up? About the challenges of belonging, national and personal? While we will focus on literary depictions of transformation, we will also examine the transformative potential of art itself.
- Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20403 ENG 100-H, COR: Sport Stories** **3 credits**
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.
- Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20404 ENG 100-I, COR: Between Two Worlds: Multi-Ethnic Literature and Film** **3 credits**
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.
- Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20405 ENG 100-J, COR: The Importance of Being Lazy: Idlers, Loafers & Slackers in Literature** **3 credits**
Prof. H. Duncan
 The figure of the shiftless loungeur who resists the powerful imperative to work hard (or to work at all) has long been a literary mainstay. In this course we will read works from Shakespeare to Melville and beyond to ask questions about the cultural opposition of work and leisure. You will get acquainted with famous slackers from various significant moments in western cultural history, in poems, dramas, novels, and films—from Shakespeare's history play *Henry IV, Part 1*, for instance, in which the heir to the English throne prefers to hang around with sketchy characters in taverns rather than toil at the palace; to Herman Hesse's novel *Narcissus and Goldmund*, about an overachiever and a gifted bum; to the "Dude," a bowling slacker from Los Angeles in the Coen brothers' *The Big Lebowski*. You will also read widely in social and cultural history on the subject of idleness, and become familiar with key literary terms and concepts.
- Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20406 ENG 100-K, COR: Dramatic Voices: Influences of Orality in Literature 3 credits

20407 ENG 100-M, COR: Dramatic Voices: Influences of Orality in Literature 3 credits

Prof. J. Ball

While literature implies a written text, this course will explore the relationship between speech and writing. What does it mean for one form to be privileged over another? Or for each to inform the other? In this course, we will examine texts that are meant to be spoken aloud, like the oral traditions of epic poetry and origin stories, and texts that are meant to be performed, like drama, speeches, and contemporary slam poetry. We will also come to understand the performative nature of literary texts through an emphasis on narrative voice in fiction and the aural properties of poetry. The voices we encounter may be formal, colloquial, multilingual, lyrical, or unreliable as we discover what voice can reveal about personality and power.

Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

~~**20408 ENG100-N, COR: Poetry, Migration, Exile CANCELLED 3 credits**~~

~~**Prof. Dasgupta**~~

~~This course will explore the themes and expressions of exile, migration, the loss of home, and the experience of estrangement through narrative and lyric poetry. We will study displacements of self and relations that arise because of changing perceptions of identity, threats, or new regimes. Selected poems—epic, odes, elegy, fragments, songs—will coincide with urgent questions of the body, passions, gender, background, national or global citizenship. With some review of examples from across the ancient and medieval worlds, the Renaissance and Romantic periods, (eg. Sappho, Ovid, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Dickinson) the course will focus primarily on Twentieth-Century works, including Marianne Moore, Elizabeth Bishop, James Wright, Derek Walcott, Seamus Heaney, Yusef Komunyakaa and contemporary poets, spoken word and rap artists.~~

~~Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.~~

~~**20409 ENG100-O, COR: Border Stories: Transcultural Literature CANCELLED 3 credits**~~

~~**Prof. Dasgupta**~~

~~In many ways, globalization and technological advances have made the world a more open and interconnected place than ever before. Yet around the world borders remain sites of contestation. The course asks two interrelated questions: how authors represent borders, and how the genres in which they work shape our understandings of the issues themselves. Topics include the ethics of dividing culture along ethnic, linguistic, and national lines on the one hand and the problems of the universalizing category of "the global" on the other. We will also examine the relationship between creative production and such topics as empire, travel/diaspora, translanguaging, and literary reconfiguration. Readings may include works by Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, Arjun Appadurai, Suketu Mehta, Suki Kim and Teju Cole.~~

~~Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.~~

20843 ENG 100-P, COR: Sport Stories 3 credits

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.

Only open to students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20744 ENG 141-A, FYS: African-American Literature 4 credits (First-Year 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 First-Year Students that have not completed the First-Year Seminar and Literature Cornerstone requirements.

20759 ENG 155-A, FYS: The Mirror of Friendship
Prof. J. Green

4 credits (First-Year Seminar)

“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.

Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the First-Year Seminar and Literature Cornerstone requirements.

20757 ENG 156-A, FYS: Radio: From Broadcast to Podcast
Prof. S. Cohen

4 credits (First-Year Seminar)

This seminar will examine the histories and cultures of broadcasting. We will consider radio as a unique mode of storytelling and information distribution. The forms of listening have changed from scheduled or serendipitous dial-spinning to downloading and streaming on demand. But much remains the same about the form and connections that broadcasting makes possible. In addition to unearthing connections between radio and literary and cultural production, we will also create our own podcasts.

Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the First-Year Seminar and Literature Cornerstone requirements.