

Summer 2025 English Course Descriptions

Summer Session I (May 28-June 30)

Literature Interprets the World: Happily Ever After

ENG 150 A

Prof. Jessica Richard

Online Asynchronous

Summer Session I

This introductory literature and creative writing course examines the origins of romance tropes such as “enemies to lovers” or “happily ever after” in novels by Jane Austen. More broadly, we will consider the influence of romance conventions, whether from the early nineteenth or the early twenty-first centuries, on narrative forms in fiction and film. How do the formal elements of romance from Austen’s time to our own structure our life expectations and experiences – and the narratives we tell about them?

This asynchronous course will require video responses from students, annotation exercises, discussion board posts, short analytical writing on literature and film, and creative assignments exploring romance tropes and culminating in a romance novel proposal and one chapter of a romance novel. Reading assignments will include 2 novels by Jane Austen and approximately 6-7 popular romance novels; students will also watch and write about two films. Occasional short live zoom discussions with professor and small group of students will also be required and will be scheduled as suits student schedules.

Studies in British Literature: Public Spaces/Private Lives: Houses, Homes, and Hotels in British Literature

ENG 165A

Prof. Randi Saloman

Online

Summer Session I

In this course we will conduct a broad survey of the representation of domestic spaces—and public and private identities—in the works of major British writers such as Jane Austen, Oscar Wilde, E.M. Forster, Arnold Bennett, and Virginia Woolf. As we read these works, we will engage with questions of individual identity, family relations, and the delicate balance between private lives and public representations. How are characters defined—and how do they define themselves—in relation to their material surroundings? Do these dynamics change significantly over time? How do these authors define domestic or private life—or understand individual consciousness? Is it (or can it be) entirely separate from the public sphere? What happens when the houses of 18th- and 19th-century works become the flats and hotels of 20th-century literature?

Foundations in Literary Criticism

ENG 290A

Prof. Jenny Pyke

Online

Summer Session I

Asynchronous Course Meetings via Zoom - On Campus Attendance Not Required

This course introduces students to foundational concepts and texts in critical theory that expand our ways of reading and of writing about literature. Our discussions will focus on (1) building comfort with these concepts and (2) building awareness of how we understand and create meaning, in literature and art and in our lives. Texts will include readings in criticism and theory, poetry, and novels (including some choices you can make), as well as film, television, and the option to see other “texts” in your own life and to use them as part of assignments.

Summer Session II (July 8-August 7)

Literature Interprets the World: Dreams

ENG 150B)

Prof. Judith Madera

Online Synchronous M,T,W 12:30-2:00 Asynchronous R,F

Summer Session II

Authors, inventors, and explorers have long pursued the possibilities of dreams. Dreams are a powerful resource for the human imagination. They are our most compelling ambitions; they make feats of innovation possible. Dreams also connect us to our deepest reserves. Some dreams are dangerous. Modern history’s darkest tragedies have been about people chasing the wrong kinds of dreams or the corrupted dream.

As we will see, dreams are productions of the mind. By examining dreams we are investigating the structures of perception.

In this short course we will look at the ways dreams animate modern literature and film. Students will be introduced to magical realism, utopian & dystopic fiction, psychological literature, and avant-garde film. We will also consider feature films like *Perfect Blue*, *Donnie Darko*, *Mulholland Drive*, and *Shutter Island* to learn more about what dreams reveal. Class requirements include scheduled reading, short reflections, and discussion.