

FALL 2020

HUNTER COLLEGE -- ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE: This is a document that is tentative and updated frequently, so please continue to check back before registering.

ALWAYS CHECK CUNY FIRST FOR ACCURATE CLASS TIMES AND DATES.

ENGL 607 ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

Section 01 (K. Greenberg) Class Number: 5785

Tu	7:30:00 PM	9:20:00 PM
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Linguistics is the scientific study of language, language acquisition, and language use. Linguists study language in the same way biologists study plant or animal life. Biologists don't make assertions such as "Mammals should not fly" and then "correct" winged bats for breaking this "rule." Rather, they study an organism's actions in order to understand how it behaves and why it acts the way it does. Similarly, linguists study language in order to understand how and why people speak their language the way they do. That's what you'll do in this course: figure out how language "works," how people actually use it, and whether anything you've been taught and believe about language is accurate. We'll examine language from dual viewpoints: the theoretical—what we have in our brain--and the practical--what we do with language in real world situations. We'll also discuss the ways in which language communicates sociocultural identities and establishes power and the implications of the study of linguistics for English education.

ENGL 70200 INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM

Section 01 (Staff) Class Number: 9401

M	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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This course will provide an overview of major trends in critical theory and methodology since the professionalization of English Studies with the advent of New Criticism. Foundational works by Saussure, Marx and Freud will be emphasized early in the semester. Once we have mastered this background material, we will plot subsequent critical developments according to their roots in psychoanalysis, Marxism, formalism, or a combination of influences. For example, Deconstruction will be considered as a kind of late formalism; Cultural Studies and Critical Race Theory as applied Marxism, etc. The goal of the course is to provide students with a clear understanding of the current critical terrain, and the means to incorporate sophisticated reading strategies into their own critical practice.

DSBarbadian poet Kamau Brathwaite left us with a theory of catastrophe: "That moment of utter disaster, the very moment when it seems almost hopeless, too difficult to proceed, you begin to glimpse a kind of radiance on the other end of the maelstrom." Brathwaite is not alone in his claim that catastrophes can engender a "kind of radiance." Like him, numerous writers and artists have embraced the concept of catastrophe as it offers different ways of seeing and thinking about the history of the present. This course explores the work of catastrophe in 20th and 21st century literature. Here, "work" carries a double meaning as it refers to the literary representation of atrocities as well as the conceptual operations that the idea of catastrophe enacts. From neo-slave narratives to Polish post-war poetry, from the absurdities of magical realism to the dystopian visions of speculative fiction, this

course considers a range of aesthetic, philosophical, and ethico-political questions that emerge when writers bear witness to the pain, suffering, terror, and injustice that have shaped the world as we know it. Many of the literary texts in the course subvert meta-narratives of progress while others seek to capture the lived experiences of those that have been devalued and degraded. However, the ultimate aim of this course is to approach catastrophe as an aesthetic resource for imagining the world otherwise. We might ask, for instance, what do the disposable bodies in Franz Kafka's short stories tell us about social vulnerability? How does melancholia convey the enduring effects of slavery and its many afterlives? Is elegy the primary mode of HIV/AIDS poetry? What can mushrooms teach us about surviving late capitalism? The course will explore critical debates about narrative, historiography, political violence, queer temporality, anti-blackness, and the Anthropocene as it turns to catastrophe in search alternative conceptions of hope or some kind of radiance that might get us through these uncertain times.

ENGL 77900 THESIS RESEARCH IN LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, AND THEORY

Section 01 (Neary) Class Number: 53510

This seminar, which convenes once a week, introduces students to the scholarly thesis as a form and develops students' research writing skills, culminating in a formal thesis proposal including bibliography. Specifically, the course addresses how to select one's thesis topic; situate one's work in a critical conversation; define one's terms in a scholarly way; write a literature review; effectively summarize and respond to scholarly arguments; explore a literary work's reception; make a persuasive argument in literary studies; work with original and archival sources; make a scholarly intervention/arguable claim at the level of a Master's thesis; construct an annotated bibliography; and finally, how to write an effective thesis proposal. Additionally, the course addresses pragmatic elements of thesis composition, presenting different strategies for time management and revision processes and approaches, and introduces students to the administrative processes related to thesis writing and approval within the Department (i.e. the role of 1st reader/thesis advisor, 2nd reader, and how to interface with AcademicWorks). Several models of successful thesis proposals and theses will be presented for discussion and analysis, alongside readings of scholarly essays we will approach with a focus on form rather than content. In addition to lively participation in seminar discussions, requirements include a presentation of a critical article focused on its form, a summary/strong response writing assignment, a literature review, and a draft of your thesis proposal. The seminar is web-enhanced, meaning that students will interact with each other and with the instructor in BlackBoard discussion forums as well as in our weekly seminar meetings. Students will draft a complete thesis proposal to present to a 1st reader for development in ENGL 78900.

ENGL 78800 READING CREDIT

A course of readings designed according to the student's interests and needs. Written permission by a full-time faculty member of the English department.

Section 01, Class Number: 5818

Section 02, Class Number: 7651

Section 03, Class Number: 7652

Section 04, Class Number: 7653

Section 05, Class Number: 7654

ENGL 78900 MASTER'S THESIS

Department permission required before registering.

Directed research on M.A. thesis. Required of all candidates for the Master's Degree in Literature.

Section 01, Class Number: 5819

Section 02, Class Number: 5820

Section 03, Class Number: 5821

Section 04, Class Number: 7285

Section 05, Class Number: 8280

Section 06, Class Number: 8281

Please note: only matriculated MFA students may register for MFA classes.

ENGL 79001 FICTION WRITING

Section 01 (Carey) Class Number: 60248

TU	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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ENGL 79101 POETRY WRITING

Section 01 (Barnett) Class Number: 23855

M	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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ENGL 79201 CRAFT SEMINAR IN FICTION

Section 01 (STAFF) Class Number: 23856

M	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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ENGL 79401 CRAFT SEMINAR IN POETRY

Section 01 (Sleigh) Class Number: 2385

M	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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ENGL 79501 CREATIVE NONFICTION WORKSHOP

Section 01 (LeBlanc) Class Number: 23858

M	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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ENGL 79601 CRAFT SEMINAR IN CREATIVE NONFICTION

Section 01 (Sayrafiezadeh) Class Number: 23859

TH	5:30:00 PM	7:20:00 PM
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ENGL 79800 WRITING IN CONFERENCE

Section 01 (Carey) Class Number: 5822

Section 02 (STAFF) Class Number: 5823

Section 03 (Sayrafiezadeh) Class Number: 5824

Section 04 (LeBlanc) Class Number: 5825

Section 05, Class Number: 8283

Section 06, Class Number: 8284

Section 07, Class Number: 8285

ENGL 79900 MFA THESIS

Section 01, Class Number: 8282