

Spring 2015 GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Note:

In Fall 2013, graduate students from the Department of English asked the department to make sure that all course descriptions included answers to the following three questions: 1.) Is your seminar broad-ranging or more specialized? 2.) Is your seminar open to students with little background or is it meant for more advanced students? 3.) If non-English students want to take your seminar, should they get prior authorization from you before enrolling? You will find the answers at the end of each course description.

English 262 (Heidi Brayman Hackel): Edmund Spenser's 1590 Faerie Queene

Edmund Spenser's 1590 *Faerie Queene* will occupy our attention for the term. We will read this great unfinished national epic romance in its earliest printed short, "closed" version, which consists of Books I, II, and III (Holinesse, Temperance, Chastity), in order to move slowly through the poem and explore it within a constellation of literary and historical texts, which may include Aristotle's *Ethics*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Dante's *Inferno*, Arthurian romance, Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, and sixteenth-century pamphlets. We likely won't be able to keep ourselves from thinking about Milton's *Paradise Lost* and perhaps even Joyce's *Ulysses* along the way as well.

This seminar is essential for early modernists and may also engage students interested in religion, gender, sexuality, trauma, allusion, allegory, poetics, fantasy, and romance. Material and visual culture will frame our discussions, as will histories of the body and the book.

1. This seminar is specialized, though it will encourage students to bring other texts into conversation with *The Faerie Queene*.
2. This seminar is designed for students with some previous familiarity with medieval or early modern texts. However, diligent, motivated readers without prior background may be able to manage given the pace and focus of our work. Consult the instructor if you're uncertain.
3. Students outside the department who have not previously worked with the instructor should seek her approval before registering. Email heidi.braymanhackel@ucr.edu.
4. This course will count towards the DE in BAM for students who write an appropriate final paper.

English 272 (Andrea Denny-Brown): Fashion Theory

This graduate seminar will introduce students to fashion theory, or the study of embodied identity and performance involving constructions of dress and ornament as well as bodily manipulations such as tattooing and piercing. Topics of inquiry will include body-thing interaction; changeability, transitoriness, and trending; touch and felt value; depth and surface ontologies; sumptuary legislation and regulation; moralized and criminalized fashions; aesthetic deviance and ethical looking; dandies and meta-fashion; architecture as “cladding”; and fashion temporalities (such as the “slow fashion” movement). This class will not focus on one historical period, genre, or culture; rather, it will facilitate students who wish to engage deeply with fashion theory in order to undertake advanced analysis in their chosen fields of expertise. Assignments will include analysis of images and dress objects as well as literary texts, and special care will be taken to explore the viability of fashion theory as a transdisciplinary (or co-disciplinary) cluster of analytical tools used by scholars across a range of scholarly fields. We will take as our starting point recent critical engagements with the surface as a site of richly textured meaning, reading work by Daniel Miller, Anne Anlin Cheng, Victoria Kelley, and Ulrich Lehmann. Subsequent assignments will include work by Adolf Loos, Roland Barthes, Monica Miller, Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu, Anne Hollander, Michel Pastoureau, Sianne Ngai, Valerie Cumming, Gustav Klimt, Alexander McQueen, and a variety of online content, including fashion blogs.

I. This seminar will be broad-ranging.

II. This seminar will be open to students with no background in fashion theory.

III. Non-English graduate students should get the instructor’s permission to take this seminar before enrolling.

English 276 (Weihsin Gui): Reading the Global Through Globalization Studies and Global Fiction

This seminar is an introduction to globalization studies and the emerging category or field of contemporary anglophone writing known as “global literature.” One normally thinks of globalization in terms of geopolitical, economic, sociological, and cultural formations and border-crossing flows or movements. In our initial readings in globalization studies, we will

touch on but not engage exhaustively with the various sub-fields (such as migration, diaspora, transnationalism, world-system analysis) that make up our understanding of globalization. Instead, we will focus on how recent literary scholarship has made significant connections with globalization studies. It does so either by examining how contemporary fiction illustrates and thematizes some of the prominent issues in globalization studies, or by analyzing how the forms and aesthetics of contemporary fiction conceptualize globalization in fresh and innovative ways. Readings from such “global literary criticism” will make up the second set of critical readings for this seminar. We will finish the seminar with a study of selected prose works that both thematize and interrogate globalization, which may include Anita Desai’s *The Inheritance of Loss*, David Mitchell’s *Ghostwritten*, Don DeLillo’s *Cosmopolis*, Rana Dasgupta’s *Tokyo Cancelled*.

1. This is a broad-ranging seminar that samples different theories and discourses making up the field of globalization studies and introduces certain works of fiction that are often regarded as global literature. We will be dealing with theories and texts from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, so those graduate students whose interests lie in earlier time periods might want to think carefully before committing to this seminar.
2. No prior knowledge of postcolonial theory or literature or globalization studies or global literature is required.
3. Graduate students from other departments should contact the instructor before enrolling in this seminar.

English 277 (Jennifer Doyle): The Refusal of the Rape Narrative: Queer/Feminist Takes on Sex, Power and Violence

An interdisciplinary seminar (literature, film, performance, critical theory) grounded in narratives of sexual power and sexual violence, with an emphasis on queer and feminist interventions and/or radicalizations of these scenes. Texts may include (for example): J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*; Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig*; The Marquis de Sade, *The 120 Days of Sodom*; Rosamund Smith (Joyce Carol Oats), *Nemesis*; John Rechy, *Sexual Outlaw*. Film may include (for example): Isaac Julien, *The Attendant*; Bruce LaBruce, *My Hustler*; Yoko Ono, *Rape*; Agnes Varda, *Vagabond*. Some theoretical texts providing the seminar's backbone: Michel Foucault, *Introduction to the History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*; Monique Wittig, *The Straight Mind and Other Essays*; Dean Spade, *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of the Law*.

1. This is a specialized seminar. Students who feel they need more background in feminist and queer theory may want to sit in on, or enroll in my winter undergraduate course (LGBS 193: Sexual Difference/Sexual Violence). That seminar will survey queer/feminist theories of

sexual difference, gender binaries, segregation and violence. Contact jennifer.doyle@ucr.edu for more information about enrolling as a graduate student in LGBS 193.

2. Students should come to this spring seminar prepared to spend time with challenging, sometimes sexually explicit feminist and queer material.
3. Graduate students from all departments in CHASS are welcome, provided they are committed to the above.

This course is for English graduate students only:

English 410 (Weihsin Gui): Professionalization: Preparing Job Application Materials

This course is designed for graduate students in English who have completed coursework and have advanced to candidacy (i.e. completed Qualifying Exam II). This seminar is designed to help graduate students who are planning to apply for tenure-track academic positions at four-year schools draft, workshop, and revise their job application materials. These materials usually include the following documents: cover letter, CV, research statement, teaching philosophy statement, and possibly a teaching portfolio. This seminar will also touch on applying for postdoctoral fellowships, faculty positions at two-year/community colleges, and resources for post-academic and alternative-to-academia career options. However, our main focus will be on applying for tenure-track faculty positions at four-year schools. This is because advertisements for these faculty positions start appearing in August of every year but our fall quarter begins only in October; therefore it would be advantageous for potential job seekers to have their application materials ready by the end of the spring quarter before the job cycle begins. Participation in this course will count towards the quarterly professionalization requirement for those graduate students enrolled in ENGL299.

Note: Professor Gui will hold an information session in mid-February for graduate students interested in taking the spring quarter 410. Attendance at this information session can count as the professionalization requirement for graduate students enrolled in ENGL299 for Winter 2015 (if they are not already enrolled in the winter quarter ENGL410). Please contact him by email for more details.

1. This is a focused seminar/workshop specifically about job application materials.
2. This seminar is designed for graduate students who have completed their coursework and advanced to candidacy.

3. Non-English graduate students should contact the instructor before enrolling in this seminar.