



Department of English, Film, and Theatre University of Manitoba



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2011-2012
Special Topics Courses

ENGL 2190 Special Topics: Gothic Literature (3)

Dr. Perkins

This course will study a range of eighteenth-century Gothic literature, looking at it in a wide cultural context. In doing so, we will examine ways in which the Gothic could be used to explore topics such as politics, women's roles in society, and family relationships; we will also discuss its place in the history of popular literature and the ways in which it was used to raise fears about the commercialization of art.

ENGL 2900 Genre: Stage Comedy (3)

Dr. Johnson

The course will examine stage comedy as a form of theatre, a form of entertainment, and way of looking at the world. To do this, we will study about a dozen plays, half pre-twentieth century by the likes of Aristophanes, Shakespeare, Moliere, and Shaw (the 2012 Master Playwright), and half written by playwrights from the 20th & 21st centuries, such as Tom Stoppard, George Walker, and whoever's comedies are being produced by Winnipeg theatres in the fall of 2011 (some theatre-going will be required). Come prepared to work hard and to laugh a lot.

ENGL 2900 Genre: Victorian Poetry—Saints, Sinners, and Scientists (3)

Dr. Young

The rich and varied worlds created by Victorian poets are peopled by saints and sinners, mythical creatures and ordinary people, cruel dukes and mad scientists, lovers and murderers. The poetry also addresses topics as divergent as poetic theory, scientific discovery, art, social injustice, love, death, politics, and marriage. In this course, we will read works (both poetry and poetic theory) by canonical and non-canonical writers from the period.

ENGL 3130 Studies in the Romantics: The Cultural Construction of Madness (3)

Dr. Faubert

In this course, we will explore how insanity - or "madness" as it was called in the nineteenth century - was constructed in a British cultural context. We will examine a wide variety of canonical literary and non-canonical texts, medical texts, paintings and films to discover how each cultural mode contributed to definitions of madness. We will focus mainly on the construction of madness in the Romantic era, and consider our own impressions of madness through reference to contemporary cultural works.

ENGL 3140 Studies in Victorian Literature: Victorian Transactions—Money in 19th-Century Lit. (3)

Dr. Warne

This course examines nineteenth-century British and American literary engagements with money and monetary transactions. Tracing the circulation of coins, bank notes, promissory notes, and bullion in poems, plays, and novels, we will explore how money and its circulation are imagined. We will examine ways in which national and individual identities are shaped by economic policies and practices. Historical topics of relevance to our investigation will include: the Gold Standard, banking crises, wills, pensions, Poor Laws reform, the Married Women's Property Act and both legal and illegal practices related to debt and debtors prisons.

ENGL 3170 Studies in American Literature: Asian American Literature (3)

Dr. Tromly

This course will approach Asian American literature as a cohesive field of literary study composed of distinct cultural traditions (Chinese American, Filipino American, Japanese American, Korean American, etc.). We will examine ways in which the American experience both demands and resists different formulations of Asian American identity. Together we will discuss the ways America shapes the identities of its Asian populations and the ways these populations shape the identity of America.

ENGL 3270 Studies in Canadian Literature: Great Canadian Women Poets (3)

Dr. Arnason

This course will look at the work of several seminal Canadian poets, including Dorothy Livesay, Miriam Waddington, P.K. Page, Margaret Atwood, Di Brandt, Catherine Hunter, Anne Carson, Lorna Crozier and a number of regional poets whose reputations are not yet national.

ENGL 3800 Special Studies 1: British Drama (3)

Dr. Groome

This course will examine the major developments that have taken place in British drama from the 1930s to the present day through the study of a representative set of dramatic texts. Approximately 12 texts will be studied. The course will also involve viewing productions of several of the works on DVD & video and, if possible, at one live theatre production in order to include performance considerations in our discussion of the works.

ENGL 3800 Special Studies 1: Science, Fiction, and Race (3)

Dr. Joo

This course focuses on the representation of race within the Western science fiction tradition. The course takes a cultural studies and historical materialist approach to understanding the interactions between literature, race, and science during nineteenth- and twentieth-century Western imperialism. It also looks at the potentials as well as the limits of the genre to address the changing conceptual relationship between technology and the body (race, gender, and sexuality) in the twenty-first century.

