Basic Literature Courses

NOTE: Core Curricula

ENGL 2001 and 2200 fulfill the humanities requirement as basic literature courses in the Becton College of Arts and Sciences general education curriculum. They are also applicable to the literature requirement in Silberman College of Business. Advanced literature (3000-level) courses can fulfill the Becton and SCB requirements. Communication, writing, and journalism courses do not fulfill these requirements.

ENGL 2001 Introduction to Literary Studies
2001.31B MTH 11:20 AM-12:35 PM Calabresi
2001.32B MTH 2:10-3:25 PM Benson
2001.33B TF 9:55-11:10 AM Schiffman
2001.34B TF 2:10-3:25 PM Becker

What is literature? By reading short stories, poetry, plays, some essays and a novel, we will consider some definitions and learn to distinguish among the genres of literature, as well as learn to analyze and write about them, using the vocabulary of literary criticism. This course will introduce students to the magic of literature by exposing them to a variety of genres and themes. Attention will be paid to close readings of texts and to the possibilities of meanings inherent within texts. Besides learning about the mechanics, stylistics, and terminology within literary studies, the course will address the explorations made possible by imaginative literature.
Prerequisite: ENGW 1101
All sections are blended courses that will meet both in person and online.

ENGL 2004.31B Introduction to Fiction
TF 12:45-2:00 PM Fader

This introductory-level course is a study of fiction intended for both majors and non-majors. It is designed to develop a student’s appreciation of and understanding of fiction. Our investigation will focus both on a careful reading of both short and long works of contemporary fiction and on an examination of the elements that were used in their construction.
Prerequisite: ENGW 1101
This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.
Advanced Literature Courses

ENGL 3003.61B  American Lit I
MTH  5:00-6:15 PM  Benson

A selection of works by American writers from the seventeenth to the late nineteenth century that seek to define the evolving character and values of a new society, including such authors as Anne Bradstreet, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, and Henry David Thoreau.
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102
This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

ENGL 3005.31B  Classical Tradition
MTH  9:55-11:10 AM  Benson

Representative works from the ancient world, focused around notions of heroism, love, duty, and moral virtue. Readings include selections from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, Homer, Vergil, the Greek playwrights, and Ovid, along with works from the world context, including the Ramayana, the Koran, and writings of the Taoists, Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu.
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102
This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

ENGL 3010.31B  English Language
TF  9:55-11:10 AM  Green

Everything you always wanted to know (or not)about English as a language.
*Why does English have such an illogical system of spelling?
*Why are there all those big words in English alongside simple words that say the same thing?
*Why is older literature hard to read?
*Why can’t the English teach their children how to speak?
We will answer these and other questions through an investigation of the history of English, including a major section on where words come from (etymology), and an analysis of some of its major structural principles (AKA: Grammar). This is your major opportunity to learn finally what a restrictive clause is and why we get confused between “who” and “whom.” We will also dispel some common myths about English usage and grammar. This course is fun - despite its formidable subject.
Highly recommended for students in QUEST.
Every Elementary school teacher or M.S. or H.S. English teacher should have some grounding in the basic linguistics of English.
This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.
Prerequisites: ENGW 1102 and ENGL 2001
In just 15 weeks, we will survey a remarkable period in British literary history, the long eighteenth century: the time roughly bookmarked from the Restoration of the English monarchy in 1660 until the beginning of the 19th Century, when the century gave way to Romanticism. Note how this temporal framework obviously exceeds the standard 100 year designation of a century; indeed we will spend some time thinking about why that is. We will pay attention to contemporary attendant historical, artistic, intellectual, and scientific discussions that border our readings and border Great Britain, our principle site of literary production this term. Our investigation will concentrate additionally on gendered topics such as sexuality and the role of women and generic topics such as the mock-epic, the birth of the novel, Gothic, and Sentimental literature. We will watch films, read poems, short stories, plays, novels, and excerpts from longer prose works.

This is a blended course that meets in person and online.

Prerequisites: ENGW 1102

ENGL 3024.61B Studies in Poetry
T 5:25-8:00 PM  Daniel

Intensive readings of poems from various periods and poets, with emphasis on poetry from around the world.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102

ENGL 3031.31B SHAKESPEARE
MTH 12:45-2:00 PM  Calabresi

A survey of Shakespeare's works coupled with an introduction to the historical conditions of writing and producing for the theater in Shakespearean England. We will discuss a range of genres--tragedy, history, comedy, sonnets and pamphlet poetry--as we investigate what it meant to perform and publish Shakespeare’s plays and poetry in the early modern period. We’ll also look at current (late 20th- to early 21st-century) versions of several plays on screen to discuss how Shakespeare’s plays are being imagined for current audiences (Hamlet 2000; Baz Luhrmann’s Romeo and Juliet; Julie Taymore’s version of Titus Andronicus, among others.) Works include but are not limited to: Comedies: The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It. Histories: The History of Henry the Fourth (1 Henry IV), The Life of Henry the Fifth. Tragedies: Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet. Roman plays: Titus Andronicus. Poetry: Sonnets and The Rape of Lucrece. Other: The Tempest.

This is a blended course that will meet both in person and online.

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102
In the early 20th century, the poet Ezra Pound had this advice for artists: “Make it new.” In this course, we’ll explore how modernist writers attempted to re-invent the novel. We’ll be reading several works, including William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*, Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*, Gertrude Stein’s *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, James Joyce’s *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and others. As we discuss the novels, we’ll look at formal innovations (fragmented or non-linear narrative, unusual approaches to point of view, language that questions its own meaning) and 20th-century historical forces (war, urbanization, the changing roles of women). Students will write two essays, and give at least one presentation.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102

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The Postmodern Age started a decade or two after World War II and continues to shape our culture. Through consideration of a range of fiction, films, drama, poetry, and essays from around the world, students will confront the challenges posed by postmodernism with its multiple voices, deeply ironic sense of humor, self-conscious storytelling, and a richly allusive range of references to past literature and culture. Examination of the relationship of popular culture with high culture will place these works in context.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102 or equivalent

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Focus on the winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature from the Spanish-speaking world; study and analysis of the characteristics of the masterpieces created by this elite group of writers and the selection process of the Nobel Prize committee; examination of the texts from the perspective of Spanish-speaking writers to assess the local as well as global significance of the works. Writers include Marquez, Paz, Neruda, Asturias, and Mistral, among others. The works are read in English. Spanish majors read texts in Spanish.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

This course is cross listed with SPAN 3030 Hispanic Nobel Prize Writers. Readings in ENGL 3066 are in English translation.

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102 or equivalent
Children’s literature, in distinction to other kinds of literature with an adjective in front of it, is defined by its audience rather than by its creators (for example, we tend to think of American literature as literature written by Americans or even women’s literature as literature written by women). In this survey of select mid to late 20th-century and early 21st-century children’s literature, we’ll examine how this literature reflects theories and notions of childhood as well as the growing changes within American society. We will read picture books, novels, watch film adaptations, and read some criticism in an attempt to construct a definition of this literature and to chart the changes this relatively young genre has already undergone.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102

Indian literature written in or translated into English has become a significant part of world literature. This development reflects India’s growth as a nation since its independence in 1947. This course examines the ways in which various literary traditions reflect India’s national development. Reading and studying a selection of poetry, short stories, plays, and films, we will explore the place of Indian literature in the processes of globalization and how the literature engages historical and social issues in India’s development, especially the roles of caste, sexuality and gender, and religion.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.
Prerequisite: ENGL 2001

This course analyzes European plays mostly from the second half of the Twentieth Century, with a particular emphasis on politics and on the increasing importance of the director. Texts range from classically conceived plays to monologues and one-acts. Some of the questions the course will raise are: what is the role of theatre in a world increasingly more dominated by other media? Can it be an important political tool and vehicle for counter-information? How does it change in the 60 years after World War II?

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102 or equivalent

Critical theory encompasses all the schools of literary and cultural criticism that have developed in the last half of the 20th century and in the first decade of the 21st—new criticism, psychoanalysis, feminism, Marxism, semiotics, poststructuralism, postcolonialism, and environmentalism. These theories emphasize that class, racial, gender, sexual, national or religious identities create
interlocking systems of interpretation and define the interpretative frameworks we use when we read literary works or newspapers and magazines, view films, or consume media products. In addition to reading the works of major theorists, we will consider texts drawn from literature and popular culture that illustrate aspects of these theories. This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

Prerequisites: ENGW 1102 or equivalent, ENGL 2001 or equivalent

ENGL 3113.31B Medieval and Renaissance Women Writers
W 2:10-4:40 PM Calabresi

A survey of writing by women from the 11th-17th centuries in Europe and the Americas. Topics include the notion of a ‘female’ voice; cross-dressing, public speaking, and other social transgressions; gender and genre; the impact of changing historical conditions on women’s artistic production. Resources include primary materials, on-line sources, and contemporary film. Reading in the original language encouraged.

This is a blended course that will meet in person and online.

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102 or equivalent, ENGL 2001

AFAM 2001.31B Introduction to African American Studies
TF 2:10-3:25 PM Singer

An overview of African American life in the U.S., past and present; interdisciplinary exploration of aspects of Black America including such topics as: African American identity; defining experiences in the United States; African American contribution to American culture and society; connections to Africa and other African diaspora communities.

Similar to the path our current President’s life has taken, this class will start in Africa and end in the present climate that allows an African-American to be President of the United States but still harbors racism, discrimination and simple unawareness of the contribution of the Black American to our culture.

The class will cover, among other things:

*the impact of early African traditions, such as the clan social structure, ancestor worship, the importance of rivers

*discussion of Caribbean life and its role in African-American culture

*the role of the Black church in terms of education and socialization

*music - from spirituals to Blues to Hip-Hop – and the emotional response it has elicited from various groups of peoples throughout time

*the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacy supporters
*writers to include (among others): Frederick Douglass; W.E.B DuBois; Oscar Micheaux; Anatole Broyard; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Reverend Jeremiah Wright

*the origins of the NAACP, desegregation and historically black colleges

This is a blended course that meets both in person and online.
This course is required for students minoring in African American Studies, but open to all students who have satisfied the prerequisites.
This course satisfies the cultural requirement
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102

**Humanities**

HUMN 1110.31 Florham Scholars in Arts & Humanities
T 2:10-4:40PM           Daniel

Exploration of various arts (writing, music, painting, sculpture, dance) via readings and experiential learning.

Open to first-year students in Florham Scholars in Arts and Humanities program only.
Cross listed with ART 1111.31B
By permission of Instructor.

HUMN 2201.31B  Humanities Seminar I
MTH 9:55-11:10 AM       Sammond

Humanities Seminar I will use the theme of the city as text to introduce students to the interdisciplinary study of the humanities (literature, art, philosophy, history, theater, film, music). The seminar will explore the city as idea (in Classical Greece), the city idealized (in 19th c. America) and the city fragmented (20th c. America). The seminar will include field trips to Newark, Manhattan and Brooklyn.
This is a blended course that will meet both in person and online.
Prerequisites: ENGW 1102 or equivalent

**Creative Writing**

Fall 09

ENGW 3001 Advanced Writing Workshop
*3001.31B  MTH 12:45-2:00 PM       Staff
*3001.32B  W 9:55 AM-12:35 PM       Staff

Is there writing after College Writing? Sure there is and this course presents an opportunity for students to do advanced work to enhance their mastery of the various techniques of organization, style, and topic development that make up the repertoire of the best writers.
Required for Creative Writing and Communication Studies majors and recommended for all students who would like to develop their writing skills.*Sections 31B and 32B are blended courses that will meet both in person and online.  

Prerequisite: ENGW 1102 or equivalent.

ENGW 3002.31B Creative Writing: Fiction  
M  2:10-4:40  Steinke

This is a fiction writing workshop. Since good writing is entwined with the art of reading closely, we will study fiction by accomplished writers such as Grace Paley, Flannery O’Connor, and Vladimir Nabokov, and we will pay special attention to aspects of narrative such as building tension, constructing character, and creating a voice. Students will explore the context and form of their own fiction, and by the end of the semester, students will have written and revised one or two short stories or novel chapters.  

This is a blended course that will meet both in person and online.  
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102 or equivalent.

ENGW 3003.31B Creative Writing: Poetry  
TH  2:10-4:40 PM  Staff

In this course, you will be writing and workshopping your poetry as well as considering the great works of others. You will investigate poetic techniques and rhetorical devices and spend time with painting and music to deepen and broaden your own work. You will be expected to produce work on a regular basis and to critique the work of your fellow students and to study both contemporary and traditional poets. We will concentrate on language, studying how poets make language memorable to readers and how to increase the power of your own work. The class will be a comfortable place to try new forms and expand your ability to write.  

*This is a blended course that meets both in person and online.  
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102

ENGW 3012.31B Advanced Poetry Writing  
W  2:10-4:40 PM  Daniel

An advanced workshop in the investigation of the craft and form of poetry writing. The emphasis is both on developing the student’s own skills in writing poetry and on discussing and evaluating selected poems ranging from classic to contemporary times.  

This is a blended course that meets both in person and online.  
Prerequisite: ENGW 3003

ENGW 3014.31B  Writing About The Arts  
W  9:55 AM-12:35 PM  Salon

Study and practice writing about a variety of art forms, including film, theater, literature, visual and musical arts, and so on. Students will learn to write feature stories, reviews, essays and interviews.  

This is a blended course that will meet both in person and online.  
Prerequisite: ENGW 1102