Course Information: Fall 2010

English 200+, Graduate Seminars

ENG 0291-01
Graduate Seminar: British Responses to the French Revolution
Flynn, C
The two great revolutions of the 18th century, both American and French, changed the way that England intellectuals understood elementary ideas of freedom and equality. Human rights became suddenly tangible, inclusive and dangerous. The Rights of Men became, at least in theory, the right of women, the rights of the enslaved, the rights of chimney sweeps, and the rights of the Irish people. We will read Edmund Burke (on the sublime and on the revolution), William Blake’s early poetry, Thomas Paine’s The Rights of Man, Wolfe Tone’s writings supporting the Irish Revolution of 1798, Mary Wollstonecraft’s revolutionary writing and her novel, Maria, William Godwin’s Caleb Williams, Equiano’s autobiography, Helen Maria Williams’ letters from France, and Frances Burney’s deeply conservative novel, The Wanderer (in which she satirizes Mary Wollstonecraft). We will try to answer at least one question. What is revolutionary writing?

ENG 0291-02
Graduate Seminar: Language, Play, and Desire in Early Modern England
Haber, J
This course will explore the dual Renaissance obsessions with language and erotic desire. We will consider early modern constructions of sexuality and gender, examine contemporary hopes and fears about the power of language, and investigate the links and intersections between them. We will look at both plays and non-dramatic poems, exploring the varying expectations of different genres; readings will probably include most of the following: Sidney, The Apology for Poetry, Astrophil and Stella; Spenser, the Faerie Queene, Book 3; Marlowe, Tamburlaine, Parts I and II, Edward II, Hero and Leander; Shakespeare, sonnets, Venus and Adonis; Kyd, the Spanish Tragedy; [Middleton?] the Revenger’s Tragedy; Donne, poetry; Jonson, Volpone, the Alchemist, Bartholomew Fair; Webster, The White Devil, The Duchess of Malfi; Middleton and Rowley, The Changeling, Cavendish, plays and prefaces.

ENG 0291-03
Graduate Seminar: Modern Comedy in Theory and Practice
Litvak, J
Focusing on twentieth-century British fiction and drama, but making occasional detours into the nineteenth century and into American and European texts, we will consider the theory and practice of comedy. We will pay particular attention to comedy and politics. Authors may include Austen, Wilde, Jarry, Kafka, Shaw, Coward, Waugh, Beckett, Ionesco, Nabokov, Pinter, Albee, Orton, Spark, Murdoch, and Churchill. Theoretical readings will be chosen from works by such authors as Bergson, Baudelaire, Meredith, Freud, Bakhtin, Žižek, Cavell, Zupancic, Dolar, Limon, and Tifft.

ENG 0291-04
Graduate Seminar: Ecocritical & Indigenous Perspectives
Ammons, E
This seminar brings together two distinct fields: Native American literature and theory and U.S. environmental and environmental justice literature and theory. Our goal is to gain an introduction to each and, where relevant, think about connections between them. Primary texts by Indigenous writers will include Sarah Winnemucca, Life Among the Piutes; N. Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn; Simon Ortiz, from Sand Creek; Susan Power, The Grass Dancer; and Leslie Marmon Silko, Almanac of the Dead. Primary environmental/environmental justice texts will include Henry David Thoreau, Walden; Rachel Carson, Silent Spring; Helena Maria Viramontes, Under the Feet of Jesus; Gloria Naylor, Mama Day; and Karen Tei Yamashita, Tropic of Orange. From the very large body of theory available in both areas we will emphasize work by Edward Soja, Joni Adamson, Cheryll Glotfelty, Joel Kovel, Vine Deloria, Jr., Winona LaDuke, Devon Mihesuah, Andrea Smith, Louis Owens, and Robert Warrior.

ENG 0291-05
Graduate Seminar: Pro-Seminar
Haber, J
This course is required of all second-year students who entered without an M.A.; other English graduate students may audit individual classes, but they may not register for the course. Students will meet with a different member of the faculty every other week for an hour to discuss important topics in the areas of professionalization, pedagogy, and intellectual currents in our discipline.