

Department of English

Graduate Course Descriptions

Spring 2023

Required hours	Category	Courses offered Spring 2023 that fulfill each category
6	Pre-1800	Eng 703, 760
6	Post-1800	Eng 731, 735, 762, 770
12	Creative Writing Workshops (MFA/PhD-CWC only)	Eng 680, 682

Eng 515 **Non Fiction Workshop**
Sundar **F 12:30-3:00pm**
 Smsundar@olemiss.edu

This course is designed for students interested in memoir and personal essay. Students will learn and practice strategies for brainstorming, drafting, and revising their creative work. Through ongoing workshops of their and their classmates' writing, students will also build the expertise and technical language to discuss and critique works-in progress. Previous experience in creative non-fiction is not required.

Course does not count towards literature or workshop requirements.

Eng 617:01 **Teaching College English**
Monroe **M 6-8:30**
 smonroe@olemiss.edu

**** Cross-listed with Writ 617 ****

Course description not submitted.

Eng 680:01 **Graduate Fiction Workshop**
Bondurant **Th 3-5:30**
 mrbondur@olemiss.edu

Course description not submitted.

Eng 682:01 **Graduate Poetry Workshop**
Harriell **W 6-8:30**
 harriell@olemiss.edu

Course description not submitted.

Eng 703:01 **Studies in Early English Literature**
Baechle **T 3-5:30**
 sebaechl@olemiss.edu

Course description not submitted.

Eng 731:01 Studies in Literary Genres
Alabi T 6-8:30
aalabi@olemiss.edu

This course will focus on the continuities and divergences in Black autobiographies from Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States, particularly in terms of community, resistance, Blackness, gender, and language. We will examine the relevance of the terms autobiography, transnationalism, postcolonialism, and feminism to the study of Black autobiographies; and discuss major differences between Black and non-Black autobiographies. We will then focus on the oral origins of Black autobiographies and on how the oral is carried to the written. Finally, we will study selected autobiographies of creative writers and socio-political leaders as unique and interconnected books in the contexts of globalization, socio-economic, cultural, political, and aesthetic concerns of the autobiographers and their societies.

Eng 735:01 Studies in the Novel: The Historical Novel Across Space and Time
Bhagat-Kennedy W 6-8:30
mbk@olemiss.edu

This seminar constellates a range of historical novels to analyze the relationship between history and literature, with a focus on how fiction (re)interprets pivotal events in a particular community or nation's past and consolidates collective identities. Beginning in nineteenth-century Britain, we will travel across a number of world regions to examine how authors adapted and departed from established models of the historical novel to reinvent the genre in light of their own sociocultural and political contexts. Categories to be explored will include historical romances, alternate histories, revisionist histories, and historical metafiction. We will examine works by Maria Edgeworth, Walter Scott, James Fenimore Cooper, Gabriel García Márquez, Octavia Butler, and Yaa Gyasi, among others.

Eng 760:01 Studies in Early American Literature: How to Read Early American Literatures
Wigginton M 3-5:30
cwiggint@olemiss.edu

Early Americans lived, read, and wrote in a material world. While they themselves were a diverse group in terms of race, gender, sexuality, belief, literacy, language, and more, they all expressed themselves through the making and using of texts, from books to baskets and beyond. Early American literatures were therefore somatic as much as they were intellectual and imaginative. And the materiality of early American texts intersected with the material circumstances of the early Americas, including those related to chattel slavery and settler colonialism. This course teaches students how to read the diverse embodied and material textualities of early America and how they shaped this tumultuous period in

American literary and cultural history. We will begin with an introduction to book history, textual cultures, and material media studies. We will then move through a series of literary readings that attend not only to written content but also to the material circumstances of creation and consumption and the varied embodied existences of early Americans. Where possible, we will seek to activate our own material senses while engaging with the readings, either before or during class. Alongside these material literatures, we will also consider the seemingly non-literary—e.g. orality, music, visuality, scent, digital media—in order to speculate about the possibilities, methods, and limits for querying the term “literature” itself as scholars and creative writers. This class can fulfill the pre-1800 period requirement.

Eng 762:01 Studies in 19th Century American Literature
Reed W 3-5:30
preed@olemiss.edu

The early American theatre was barely American, and certainly not much of a theatre. Even at its best, it strove for a respectability that was rarely granted. Home to a robust crew of drifters, grifters, con men, alcoholics, dandies, and street toughs, American playhouses mounted repeated failed bids for respectability throughout the nineteenth century. From the ambivalent antitheatricality and the disguised Shakespeare of the eighteenth century to the Astor Place theatre riots of 1849, American theatre often focused America’s outsider figures and outlaw tendencies. Even as it achieved mainstream “family entertainment” status in P.T. Barnum’s mid-century museum performances, the theatre remained a place of ambivalent sensations and sketchy sentiments—mixed feelings that defined domestic melodramas, temperance plays, and even in abolitionist productions like *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

Reading a selection of early American dramas alongside selected prose fiction, theatre history, and scholarship, this seminar attends to the ways in which American theatre broadly defined operated on the margins of polite society; even when dressed up in its finest, the theatre remained connected to weird, old, impolite, and often antagonistic elements of American culture.

Eng 770:01 Studies in Faulkner
Watson Th 6-8:30
jdwatson@olemiss.edu

An intensive reading and discussion course intended primarily for English and Southern Studies students. The focus will be on African American (and in one case Afro-Caribbean) literary responses to Faulkner’s fictional oeuvre, in its technical and thematic dimensions. The intent is not to frame (and delimit) these Black writers as “heirs” to Faulkner or as “influenced” by him but to trace their interrogations of his writings (and in one case his interrogation of theirs) around areas of mutual concern, especially the linked crucibles of race, gender, and modernity in the Americas. Among the groupings of texts I am considering are: (1) Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*; Ernest Gaines, *A Gathering of Old Men*; Suzan-Lori Parks, *Getting Mother’s Body*; and Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones*; (2) James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man*; Faulkner, *Light in August*; Richard Wright, *Native Son*; and Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*; (3) Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*; David Bradley, *The Chaneyville Incident*; Maryse Conde, *Crossing the Mangrove*; Randall Kenan, “Let the Dead Bury Their Dead”; (4) Faulkner, *Go Down, Moses*; Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*. Writing assignments will include weekly reader-response journals and an article-length research project, and each student will also be

responsible for “sparking” discussion for the first 75 minutes of at least one class meeting. MFA and PhDCWC students may develop a creative or hybrid project in lieu of the critical research project.



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When planning to write your papers for English classes, don't forget the benefit of consulting with an experienced writer in the University Writing Center. In a typical 20- to 30-minute writing consultation, you may receive suggestions for development of ideas, audience consideration, organization, style, grammar, and document presentation. Undergraduate students can schedule appointments through our online appointment calendar at www.olemiss.edu/depts/writing_center or call 915-7689.