

Winter 2025

ENG 200-411: Lit & Human Experience | Communal Ownership/Fairy Tales | Online Asynchronous | K. Hart

Although the Disney Corporation owns copyrighted versions of Cinderella, Snow White, The Little Mermaid, and Beauty and the Beast, the basic plot motifs at the core of these stories are not the sole property of Disney. The fairy-tale genre originated centuries ago in the folktales, mythologies and legends of various communities and cultures to satisfy the human desire to escape persecution or poverty, find relief from human and social anxieties, explain natural and social phenomena, express basic human desires and sexuality, and ultimately, entertain others. Because the creation of fairy tales is communal and diverse, no one person owns them. They belong to us all. But why should we care about who owns fairy tales? How do folkloric “tale types” migrate across the globe and change to reflect the dreams, anxieties, desires, and experiences of different authors, cultures and groups of humans? How can fairy tales inspire our critical thinking, helping us to learn more about ourselves, and our world? How can they also help us work through challenging human and social issues? What role does storytelling and literature itself play in our human experiences? I hope that you will all be engaged in discovering answers to these questions as we investigate Cinderella, Snow White, Trickster Tales, Beauty and the Beast, Bluebeard, Sinbad, Snow Queens and Mermaids, and practice interpretive strategies that will be useful in your future professional and personal lives.

ENG 200-412: Lit & Human Experience | American Ethnic Literature | Online Asynchronous | Zhang

This course examines cultural themes in American literature to enhance student awareness of the multi-ethnic nature of American culture. Students engage in close reading, discussion, analysis, and interpretation of texts written by individuals from a variety of American ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Spring 2025

ENG 200-01 Lit & Human Experience | The Comic Book | TTH 7:45-9:10 | In-Person | Friesen

This course is an intensive study of selected comic books, graphic novels and related literature. The course emphasizes various ways of reading, studying, and appreciating this changing medium with its wide variety of genres, themes, and styles. The course examines the history of comic books and their commentary on culture, society, and politics.

ENG 200-02 Lit & Human Experience | Dystopian Literature | MWF 12:05-1:00 | In-Person | Mohlenhoff-Baggett

ENG 200-03 Lit & Human Experience | Dystopian Literature | MWF 1:10-2:05 | In-Person | Mohlenhoff-Baggett

What constitutes a utopian or a dystopian society? How are the citizens treated, especially teens and youth? Who maintains political and social control, and what are the effects of this control? In this course we will explore the intersections between political repression and literature by reading texts depicting fictional dystopian societies and a real-life dystopian society. These literary responses to writing under and about political repression reveal the roles writing can play in these societies: to become censored and controlled, just like people; to bear witness to abuse; to speak back to power.

ENG 200-04 Lit & Human Experience | Trauma in Women's Literature | TTH 9:25-10:50 | In-Person | Stoltman

ENG 200-05 Lit & Human Experience | Trauma in Women's Literature | TTH 11:00-12:25 | In-Person | Stoltman

Embark on a journey through women's literature, where we discuss trauma, rebellion, and resilience--a captivating adventure of empowerment awaits! Reading about trauma allows us to better understand scarring experiences that might be unfamiliar to us. Trauma literature also acts as a testament to the experiences of historically marginalized people. In this course, we will examine literary approaches to trauma specific to women authors. We will focus on the struggles women authors have faced being writers of their time, how social norms have affected these writers, and in turn, how their pieces have affected the society in which they live(d).

ENG 200-06 Lit & Human Experience | Reading Tarot as Literature | MWF 8:50-9:45 | In-Person | Parker

What stories do cultural phenomena like Tarot cards, crystals, and the Zodiac tell their readers about gender, sex, and sexualities? How might the fields of feminist and cultural studies help us to critically read the texts of Tarot? This course will explore the current fascination with Tarot cards and the stories they tell. We will consider the role these visual and symbolic texts play in the construction of gendered identities, the ways in which sex and sexuality are culturally-mediated through Tarot's particular interpretative logic, and how social, political, and cultural ideas of pleasure, agency and power are framed by representations of gender and sex, both historically and in our present moment. We'll also learn and practice the art of reading Tarot.

ENG 200-07 Lit & Human Experience | Trouble in Utopia | TTH 2:15-3:40 | Hybrid | Butterfield

ENG 200-08 Lit & Human Experience | Trouble in Utopia | TTH 2:15-3:40 | Hybrid | Butterfield

With WWII and the age of totalitarian ideologies in his rearview mirror, Martin Luther King Jr. opined in 1965 that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice," implying that the historical advances towards freedom and equality we call "democracy" would continue straight ahead. In the decades that followed, the arc of world history truly did seem to bend toward justice. Until recently, one could hardly imagine a democratic society willingly reverting to authoritarian rule, as so many did in the years leading up to WWII, but it appears to be happening again. Around the world, more and more countries are embracing xenophobia and electing authoritarian "strong man" rulers who eschew democratic values and institutions while consolidating power and exercising it from the top downward. The works of "dystopian" fiction and theory we will read in this course were all written to warn readers in the "free world" of the fragility of our democratic societies by showing us what might happen if we don't remain vigilant guardians of the rights and institutions we take for granted. The following questions will be at issue throughout the course: What would a just society be like? How do the texts we read illuminate current affairs? What positive alternatives for our future do these works suggest by calling attention to the negative potentials of our present? What does it take for the utopian impulse in humans, the desire for personal freedom and social justice that leads them to form democracies, to be over-ridden by what might be called the authoritarian impulse, a desire for conformity and order that can lead humans to identify more with would-be dictators than with each other?

ENG 200-09 Lit & Human Experience | Disability Lit , Drama, Film | TTH 7:45-9:10 | In-Person | Crutchfield

ENG 200-10 Lit & Human Experience | Disability Lit , Drama, Film | TTH 12:40-2:05 | In-Person | Crutchfield

We will discuss various modern and contemporary stories, short novels, and films featuring people and characters with disabilities, including *Of Mice and Men* (a classic novel about friendship, cognitive disability and euthanasia), *Crip Camp* (a documentary film about a summer camp for teenagers with disabilities and the disability activist movement that some campers helped spearhead), *The Sound of Metal* (a fictional film about a metal band drummer who loses his hearing), *The Cancer Journals* (journals of cancer survivor and African-American lesbian poet Audre Lorde), and *The Bad Doctor* (a graphic novel about a family physician with obsessive compulsive disorder). Students will learn about the cultural, historical, and aesthetic meanings of disability while striving for a better understanding of their own attitudes, perceptions, and preconceptions about disability as a personal, intersectional, and cultural phenomenon. Students will also learn about "narrative medicine," a framework for health practice that uses the skills of literary analysis to enhance patient care. This course will particularly appeal to students in the health sciences and physical recreation, as well as in education, pre-medicine, political science, sociology, psychology, and other related fields.

ENG 200-11 Lit & Human Experience | Intro to YA Lit | TTH 12:40-2:05 | In-Person | Garcia

ENG 200-12 Lit & Human Experience | Intro to YA Lit | MW 2:15-3:40 | In-Person | Garcia

Young adult literature has experienced a surge in popularity since the mid-1990s, but its roots actually trace back much farther than that. In this course, students will explore the authors and texts that have contributed to the evolution of this genre since the 1950s by reading across a range of literary styles, voices, and time periods. Major units in the course will pay close attention to issues of literary value and publishing markets; to representations of gender, race, sexuality, and disability; to debates over censorship and the definition of "appropriate" content; and to the inclusion of adolescent literature in today's secondary English Language Arts classrooms. And while a majority of the course will be devoted to the study of primary texts (including novels, poetry, nonfiction, and/or graphic novels), students will also be expected to work closely with secondary materials as they situate this ever-expanding genre in multiple social, historical, and political contexts.

ENG 200-13 Lit & Human Experience | Immigration Nation | MWF 9:55-10:50 | Hybrid | D. Hart

ENG 200-14 Lit & Human Experience | Immigration Nation | MWF 9:55-10:50 | Hybrid | D. Hart

This class will engage the significant diversity of American people, literature, and culture. Students will learn about various ethnic American historical and cultural contexts through fiction, non-fiction, poetry, slam poetry, drama, music, film, art, history, and critical thought. The class will explore cultural issues that are brought up by ethnically diverse authors—issues that relate to assimilation and tradition, economic inequalities, race, gender, sexuality, language, ethnic identity, education, agency, marginalization, history, nationalism, laws and justice. The class will also engage conversations about ethnocentrism and cultural

relativity, cultural awareness and cultural competence. Migration does not occur in a vacuum, so this course will include work by African American and Native American / Indigenous authors, as well as Latinx, Asian American, Dominican, Haitian, Jewish, and Muslim authors. As an introduction to ethnic literatures, this course cannot include all the manifestations of American ethnic identities, but it attempts to open doors to understand the significant diversity of American people and cultures.

ENG 200-15 Lit & Human Experience | Place, Identity & Human Nature | TTH 11:00-12:25 | In-Person | Sultzbach

ENG 200-16 Lit & Human Experience | Place, Identity & Human Nature | TTH 11:00-12:25 | In-Person | Sultzbach

This class will explore how place and setting (urban rural, or national) shape personal identities, both for the authors we read and for ourselves. We will read canonical poetry and prose beginning with Britain's Romantic era (such as famous love sonnets by writers like Keats and Elizabeth Barrett Browning), through the tales of horror in the backstreets of Victorian urban London (including Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde), to the colonial voices speaking back to Britain from Jamaica and India in voices of humor, critique, and irony. Some of the questions we will consider include: How did writers depict the relationship between humans and nature? What were the changing views toward country and the city during eras of increased mass production and suburban expansion? How did the shattering impact of World War I transform notions of "home" and "animal"? How did the process of global colonialization reveal cultural hypocrisies and racism? And most importantly, how do we express and imagine our own ideas of home and identity?

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ENG 202-01 American Lit after 1865 | TTH 11:00-12:25 | In-Person | Schaaf

ENG 202-02 American Lit after 1865 | TTH 12:40-2:05 | In-Person | Schaaf

For well over two hundred years, popular stereotypes have portrayed America as a uniquely independent country made up of "self-reliant" pioneers and "rugged individualists." Whether or not this is an accurate portrait, one thing is certain: at least in the field of American literature, the spirit of experimentation and innovation—of "breaking all the rules"—has become a defining characteristic of the nation's most influential authors and artists. This course focuses on unique literary works that break away from tradition to create new forms of artistic expression. Along the way, we'll also be looking at how these texts reflect America's everchanging attitudes toward race, gender, class, and national identity. Course readings stretch from the late-1800s up to the present day and include novels, short fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction.

ENG 203-01 British Literature before 1800 | TTH 9:25-10:50 | In-Person | Friesen

In this class, students are introduced to the history, language, themes and other literary features found in English prose, poetry, and drama from the Anglo-Saxon medieval period to the eighteenth century. Students also learn strategies to overcome the difficulty inherent in reading historically remote texts through analysis, guided interpretation, and contextual study. The course examines the social, economic, political, cultural, and/or religious changes that defined these historical periods and identifies how these changes manifested in English fiction, plays, essays, and poems.

ENG 204-01 British Literature after 1800 | MW 2:15-3:40 | Hybrid | DeFazio

ENG 204-02 British Literature after 1800 | MW 3:55-5:20 | Hybrid | DeFazio

In this course, students examine a wide array of texts in British literature from the late 18th through the early 21st centuries. This period in British history includes many issues of sociopolitical conflict and the literature of the time reflects them vividly. Poets, essayists, fiction writers and memoirists explore subjects including the impact of the French Revolution on England, the emergence of women's rights, the role of art, working conditions in the age of industrialization, changing relationships to nature in the machine age, and the conflict between science and religion following Darwin's writings. England's colonial power abroad also spurred questions of ethics and identity for both those living in England and the colonies they occupied. This course provides essential literary and historical background for any advanced study in British literature.