Looking forward in English

2017-18

Join us on Twitter @VIUEnglish.
Contact Daniel.Burgoyne@VIU.CA or Sandra.Hagan@VIU.CA for more information.

VIU.CA/English
FALL 2017

ENGL 208: Introduction to Public Speaking: Communication
If you want to gain the confidence and develop the skills to speak in public, this is the course for you. You will lose your fear and learn to enjoy public speaking. Public speech is vital, and the ethics of public speaking really matters. Learn to write and deliver well-structured, effective speeches for different speaking situations and become familiar with core rhetorical principles.

ENGL 221: North American Indigenous Literatures
The Truth about Stories with Professor Sally Carpentier

Through an exploration of a rich body of writers, the course will encourage an understanding of Indigenous writing as a way of acknowledging and qualifying cultural and personal experience while simultaneously representing some of the ordinary challenges, dreams, sufferings, and victories of Indigenous Peoples. Oral stories (some transcribed) will facilitate understanding of how, through these stories, traditions are maintained, renewed, and transmitted.

ENGL 222: Travels in World Literature
With Professor Janis Ledwell-Hunt

ENGL 230: Literature and Popular Culture
1960s American Experience with Professor Clay Armstrong

This course will survey American literature and popular culture from the 1960s. In particular, we will explore the development of New Journalism and the Nonfiction Novel, literary forms that used the conventions of fiction to report on hard realities of the time. Popularized by people like Tom Wolfe, James Baldwin, Joan Didion, and Norman Mailer, New Journalism and the Nonfiction Novel emerged from the creative energies of the period. Among other things, this writing considers American Experience with the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, and the progress of Feminism. In addition to the Literature, students will think about how music, film, and image reflect popular culture from this incendiary decade.
ENGL 231: Speculative Fiction
Contemporary Fantasy with Professor Terri Doughty

No orcs or hobbits here! For some, the term “fantasy” brings to mind formulaic, bloated epics set in pseudo-medieval worlds; however, contemporary fantasy explores the intersection of the fantastic and the mundane in recognizably modern settings. Just as the texts we will read play with the boundary between the real and the unreal, they also explore generic boundaries, combining elements from fantasy, science fiction, mystery, myth, folktale, and horror. As we examine this genre play, we will focus particularly on how contemporary fantasy interrogates the workings of the imagination and our constructions of reality. Readings will include works by writers such as Neil Gaiman, Charles de Lint, Nalo Hopkinson, Lisa Tuttle, Lev Grossman, and Jo Walton.

ENGL 240: Ways of Reading
with Professor Katarina Rout

Ways of Reading explores how the way we read shapes what we find in texts. Our different approaches are like lenses through which we see texts and the worlds they describe, much like different maps draw our attention to different aspects of the material or social world. Become familiar with several critical approaches and their vocabulary. Learn to apply them to novels that lend themselves to different readings: Joseph Conrad's classic Heart of Darkness and Tayeb Salih's fictional response, Season of Migration to the North, as well as Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist and Herta Müller's The Appointment. The skills and awareness you will acquire in this course will make you an astute reader in whatever field you study.

ENGL 274: Traditions and Transformations
Stories of the Sea with Professor Sandra Hagan

From tall tales to authentic accounts, the otherworldliness of the Sea has gripped the human imagination since our earliest literature. Explore literary encounters with our world’s most alluring and alien element through traditional and contemporary novels, poems, and films.
I write entirely to find out what I’m thinking, what I’m looking at, what I see and what it means. What I want and what I fear. ~~~ Joan Didion

Writing, to me, is simply thinking through my fingers. ~~~ Isaac Asimov

Our course readings invite you to explore the versatility, beauty, and possibilities of language – verbal and visual – and explore how writers pay attention to the world. Drawn from readings that span diverse intellectual and cultural traditions, you will read essays about human nature and the mind; language and rhetoric; the arts; science and nature; wealth, poverty, and social class; and education, for example. You will consider how a writer’s grammatical and stylistic choices create rhetorical effect. In turn, and with attention to language, sentence construction, and essay form, you will develop, shape, and express your thinking in writing that displays your inventiveness, vivacity, and distinctive style and voice.

Stories are our first maps.
~~~ Robert Bringhurst

Canadian fiction has long been defined by its representation and exploration of a complex relationship between its cultural imagination and its connection with the land. This course examines a selection of texts that reveal Canada’s many geographical regions. The range of fictional settings includes Vancouver Island, the Prairies, Ontario, the North, and Atlantic Canada. We will chart the ways in which land becomes metaphor in a wide range of fictional settings – islands, forests, mountains, glaciers, prairie fields, rivers, and urban centres. We will consider the ways in which place has character and exerts itself on characters. We will explore the questions these texts raise concerning the relationships between land, place, memory, and culture; between history and folklore; and between the real and the magically real. Canada’s novelists are storytellers who explore the history, geography, and imagination of a country, and we will consider how their stories create an impression of place and provide an alternative map – a literary map – of Canada.
ENGL 231: Speculative Literature (at Cowichan)
The Influence of Myth on Fantasy with Professor Lynn Wytenbroek

Myths were the stories told when people first tried to make sense of the world. Today, many good fantasy writers use the structures and stories of myth to bring greater depth and meaning to their works. Starting with Star Wars: A New Hope (the very first Star Wars movie), we will look at the influence of myth on, amongst others, Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, Rowling’s Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (7th book in the Harry Potter series), Le Guin’s A Wizard of Earthsea and Canadian fantasy classics Kay’s The Summer Tree and deLint’s Spirit in the Wires.

ENGL 232: Children’s Literature
Fairy Tales and Children’s Literature with Professor Terri Doughty

Although fairy tales originally were not written for children, the fairy tale has been a constant presence in children’s literature. Noted fairy-tale scholar Jack Zipes refers to fairy tales as memes: carriers of cultural knowledge that work like genes in shaping us. This course will look at classic fairy tales, children's picturebook retellings of classic tales, and a range of fairy-tale fiction, both re-tellings that revise and fracture well-known tales and works that are inspired by the fairy-tale mode and form. Authors studied may include Anthony Browne, Roberto Innocenti, Jon Scieszka, Neil Gaiman, Emily Gravett, Diana Wynne Jones, Melissa Myer, and Sarah Beth Durst.

English 233: Classic American Literature on Film
with Professor Clay Armstrong

Students will examine “classic” American literatures with notable film adaptations from mid-20th century and following. We will think about why the selected works have had lasting impact in academic and cultural contexts, as well as the ways that film adaptation can either enrich or confuse the overarching themes of these works. In addition to selected academic criticism, readings may include—

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby
- Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
- Truman Capote, In Cold Blood
- Tennessee Williams, Streetcar Named Desire
- Jack Kerouac, On the Road
- SE Hinton, The Outsiders
- Chuck Palahniuk, Fight Club

ENGL 273: Ancients and Moderns
with Professor Richard Arnold

ENGL 280: Book Club
with Professor Marni Stanley
UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

FALL 2017

ENGL 300 Background to English Literature (Atkinson)
ENGL 315 Advanced Writing Workshop (Ruzesky)
ENGL 329 Topics in Children’s and YA Literature (Wytenbroek)
ENGL 331 Topics in West Coast Literature (Smith)
ENGL 340 Topics in Medieval Literature (Masson)
ENGL 344 Topics in Shakespeare (Whitehouse)
ENGL 390 Topics in Word and Image (Watkins)
ENGL 392 Topics in Digital Humanities (Lane)
ENGL 480 Research Methods (Thompson)

SPRING 2018

ENGL 312 History of Critical Theory (Thompson)
ENGL 326 Topics in Globalization and Culture (Stephens)
ENGL 330 Topics in Speculative Narrative (Ledwell-Hunt)
ENGL 333 Topics in Post-Colonial Literatures (Stephens)
ENGL 335 Survey of Canadian Literature (Smith)
ENGL 346 Topics in 17th-Century Literature (Lepage)
ENGL 350 Topics in 19th-Century Literature (Burgoyne)
ENGL 396 Literature and Film (Watkins)
ENGL 408 Advanced Public Speaking: Communication (Hagan)

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