2021-22 English Courses at King’s

SUMMER 2021

English 1024E (650): Forms of Fiction (Dr. Kelly)
English 2033E (650): Children’s Literature (Dr. Hartley)

FALL/WINTER 2021-22

English 1020E: Understanding Literature Today (Dr. Hartley)
By studying a broad range of exciting and important literary works from the past and present, this course will increase your understanding and appreciation not just of the richness and power of the works themselves, but also of the role of literature in reflecting and shaping our perceptions of the world and of ourselves.

English 1024E: Forms of Fiction (Dr. Kelly)
An introduction to the study of a selection of fiction ranging from the Greek epic to the modern novel, including both short and longer forms; and a variety of fictional modes and narrative techniques. Major authors studied include Homer, Swift, Austen, Dickens, Dostoevsky and Virginia Woolf.

English 1027F: The Storyteller’s Art I: Introduction to Narrative (Dr. Dowdell)
Storytelling defines who we are and our relation to the community, the nation, and the world. This course explores the rich and diverse traditions of storytelling: such as, oral tales, short stories, classic fiction, and graphic novels. Instruction by lecture and tutorials; emphasis on developing strong analytical and writing skills.

English 1028G: The Storyteller’s Art II: Topics in Narrative—Climate Change Fiction (Dr. Dowdell)
Like everything in life, we need metaphors to conceptualize climate change. But what metaphors are most effective in bringing the immediacy and scope of the climate emergency to readers? What new explanatory models and narrative styles are needed to translate scientific fact into relatable human experience? This course will consider the development of climate change fiction, from a variety of formal and cultural perspectives, to question the status of storytelling at the end of the Anthropocene.

English 1901E: Foundations in Western Thought and Civilization (Dr. Clausius)
This course is the English Literature unit of the King's Foundations in Western Thought and Civilization first-year study stream. It is supplemented by the study of art and music. It investigates influential works of literature from ancient to modern times through an interdisciplinary perspective, with special focus on innovations in literary form and cultural contexts.

2033E: Children’s Literature (Dr. Hartley)
This course covers the major genres and movements of children’s literature from the 17th century to the 21st. Fairy tales, picture books, nursery rhyme, nonsense rhyme, adventure
stories, and YA novels will be among the many forms we will encounter. We will look at central motifs of children’s literature such as animals, the wilderness, transformation, and agency. The course will also complicate and analyze the historical construction of childhood and engage with critical approaches to interpreting children’s literature including psychoanalysis, structuralism, and feminism.

2071F: Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction (Dr. Kelly)
From Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* to Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, this course provides a consideration of the history and development of science fiction. It may include science fiction themes such as the Other, new technologies, chaos theory, cybernetics, paradoxes of space/time travel, first contact, and alien worlds.

2072G: Speculative Fiction: Fantasy (Dr. Kelly)
A study of the purposes and historical origins of fantasy, and modern developments in fantasy: alternate worlds, horror or ghost stories, sword & sorcery, heroic fantasy. May include writers such as Tolkien, Simmons, Peake, Herbert, Beagle, Rowling.

2202G: Studies in Poetics (Dr. Rae)
An introduction to important issues and concepts in the theory and analysis of poetry from different periods.

2203G: Studies in Narrative Theory (Dr. Dowdell)
What is it about narrative that fascinates us so? Perhaps the most tantalizing part of that question is that in responding to it, we initiate a narrative of our own. The course surveys formalist, structuralist, and narratological approaches to narrative and considers narrative’s place in the production of culture.

2299F: Critical Practice (Dr. Dowdell)
This course offers an intensive examination of the major critical methodologies relevant to the academic study of literature. To encourage the critical practice of slow reading, students will examine a single literary text, considered through a variety of critical lenses. Students will learn to appreciate the multiform and dialogic nature of imaginative literature, understanding how literary texts can say more than one thing.

2301E: British Literature Survey (Dr. Werstine)
This course investigates the changing forms of literature produced in the British Isles from the Middle Ages to the present. It addresses key movements and styles through careful analysis of both major authors, such as Shakespeare, Austen, Woolf, or Yeats, and some less well-known yet engaging figures.

2501E: Canadian Literature Survey (Dr. Rae)
What does literature tell us about the making of a nation and its citizens? Spanning the period from imperial exploration to Confederation to the present day, this course examines Canada’s vibrant literary culture. Students will encounter a diverse range of genres and authors, from accounts of early explorers to current internationally acclaimed and award-winning writers.
3330E: Shakespeare (Dr. Werstine)
Shakespeare remains one of the most influential of English writers. This course studies twelve plays across a range of genres. Instructors may integrate theatre-oriented exercises and/or other dramatic or non-dramatic material, depending on individual emphasis.

3348GF: Topics in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature: Sentimentalism and the Eighteenth-Century Novel (Dr. Dowdell)
This course examines the impact of sentimentalism on the eighteenth-century British novel, in particular the relationship between mental emotion and bodily affect. Attention will be paid to such topics as courtship, seduction, female piety, libertine masculinity, the middle-class family, and the companionate marriage.

3702E: Consuming Women (Dr. Lysack)
This course examines the construction of women as both consumers and as objects of exchange in British literature from the nineteenth century.

3775E: Topics in Canadian Literature: Southern | Ontario | Gothic (Dr. Rae)
This course will explore the celebrated subgenre known as “Southern Ontario Gothic,” a branch of Canadian literature that at once delineates a region and gestures toward British and American literary traditions of Gothic and Southern Gothic, respectively. Comparing notable Canadian, British, and American texts will illustrate how authors from Southern Ontario deploy Gothic conventions (of fear, irrationality, mystery, claustrophobia, nightmarish visions, repressed desires, and violence) to explore issues of, among others, imperial rule and colonial resistance, as well as class, gender and racial inequality. In addition, this class may consider performances of Gothic plays and how works of Southern Ontario Gothic have been adapted to big budget film and television series.

3999G: Creative Writing (Dr. Cull)
An opportunity for students to learn about the craft of fiction and poetry, and to develop their individual voices as they express themselves through a variety of genres. The class enrollment is limited to 20 students.

4871F: Seminar in Literary Studies: Studies in Solitude and Isolation (Dr. Dowdell)
What might explain the persistent cultural relevance of physical isolation, and what impact might such gestures of social withdrawal have on the collective consciousness? What threat did the solitary individual pose to community? What benefits did isolation afford society? How might the security and well-being of community depend upon the existence of figures such as the hermit, the castaway, the recluse, the solitaire, the spinster, and the monk/nun? This course will examine these and other questions about the cultural relevance of solitude and isolation from the seventeenth to the twentieth century, from a psychological, philosophical, religious, literary, and political perspective. Possible texts may include Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe, Chateaubriand’s René, Thoreau’s Walden, Melville’s “Bartleby, the Scrivener,” Jewett’s The Country of the Pointed Firs, Maysles’ Grey Gardens, Krakauer’s Into the Wild, Strayed’s Wild, and other less canonical texts/pamphlets.
4881G: Seminar in Literary Studies: Selves that bear witness: The Sympathetic Splitting of Selfhood in Readers of Wiesel, Morrison, and Adichie
(Dr. Joseph)

If the notion of intersectionality, in Critical Race Theory, refers to the point of intersection of multiple forms of oppression and subordination, there is a logical progression to a corresponding emphasis on the multiplicity of selves that inflict, or perceive, or bear witness to the oppression and subordination. Writers such as Martin Buber, Emmanuel Levinas, Julia Kristeva, Adrienne Rich, Toni Morrison, Judith Butler and Luce Irigaray have theorized this multiplicity of selfhood as well as the importance of bearing witness to the sufferings of the “other” (not as antagonist but as an organic element of the self). This course proposes to examine the ways in which such multiplicity of selfhood and the bearing of witness can illuminate our understanding of texts such as Elie Wiesel’s Night, Toni Morrison’s Beloved and Ngozi Adichie’s Half of a Yellow Sun. Reading list (in addition to texts by Elie Wiesel, Toni Morrison, and Adichie): extracts from Buber’s I and Thou, Levinas’s Totality and Infinity, Kristeva’s Strangers to Ourselves, Toni Morrison’s The Origin of Others, and Butler’s Precarious Life.

Seminars at Western, Brescia, and Huron:

4320F: Seminar in Renaissance Lit: Early Modern Food from Shakespeare to Milton (Dr. Bassnett / Western)

4570F: Seminar in Canadian Lit: Reading the Land in Canadian and Indigenous Literatures (Dr. Emberley / Western)

4771G: Seminar in Literary Studies: The Public Intellectual and the Culture of Hope (Dr. Faflak / Western)

4340G: Seminar in Restoration and 18th-Century Lit: Poetry and the Body in 18th-Century Poetry (Dr. McMurran / Western)

4899F: Creative Writing Seminar (Prof. Coyote / Western)

4470G: Seminar in American Lit: The Print Culture of the American Abolitionist Movement (Dr. MacLean / Western)

4572G: Seminar in Canadian Lit: Graphically Canadian (Dr. Grace / Brescia)

4770F: Seminar in Literary Studies: Conflict in 20th-Century and Contemporary Women’s Drama (Dr. Di Ponio / Huron)

4371G: Seminar in 20th-Century British and Irish Lit: Adventures with Ulysses (Dr. Vanderheide / Huron)