

LIST OF ENGLISH GRADUATE COURSES FOR 2016 – 2017
[updated 2-7-17]

FALL 2016

200	Approaches to Literary Research*	Prof. Behdad
244	Old and Medieval English Literature	Prof. Chism
246	Renaissance Literature	Prof. Shuger
254	American Literature to 1900	Prof. Cohen
M270	Seminar: Literary Theory	Prof. Makdisi
M299	Interdisciplinary American Studies	Prof. Looby

* First year students are strongly encouraged to enroll in this proseminar and will be given priority.

WINTER 2017

201C	Developments and Issues in Modern Critical Thought	Prof. Seltzer
M215	Paleography of Latin and Vernacular Manuscripts, 900 to 1500	Prof. Fisher
246	Renaissance Literature	Prof. McEachern
257	Studies in Poetry	Prof. D'Aguiar
259	Studies in Criticism	Prof. Kareem
260	Studies in Literature and Its Relationship to Arts and Sciences	Prof. Heise
M262	Studies in Afro-American Literature	Prof. Mullen
265	Postcolonial Literatures	Prof. DeLoughrey
M270.1	Seminar: Literary Theory	Prof. McMillan
	Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory*	Prof. Kaufman

* The first half of the Experimental Critical Theory (ECT) seminar will be offered as Comparative Literature 290 in the winter. The second half will be offered as English 259 in the spring. Enrollment by permission of instructor only.

SPRING 2017

201C	Developments and Issues in Modern Critical Thought	Prof. Grossman
211	Old English	Prof. Minkova
250	Restoration and 18th-Century Literature	Prof. Deutsch
254	American Literature to 1900	Prof. Colacurcio
M261	Studies in Chicana/Chicano Literature	Prof. Lopez
M262	Studies in Afro-American Literature	Prof. Yarborough
M270	Seminar: Literary Theory	Prof. Kaufman

FALL 2016 SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

English 200

Graduate Proseminar
Approaches to Literary Research

Prof. Behdad

Mondays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

The English pro-seminar is designed as a general introduction to literary research methodology and to a variety of contemporary critical approaches to the study of literature in English. As well, the goal of this seminar is to introduce entering Ph.D. students to some of the major areas of faculty research represented at UCLA by featuring pairings of faculty guests who will cover such topics and approaches as the archive, formalism and history, environmental humanism, textual criticism, postcolonial criticism, etc. In addition to some theoretical works on aesthetics and politics of representation, we will read work by the faculty presenters as well as selections of their choosing.

English 244

Knowledge and Transculturation in the Premodern World
Old and Medieval English Literature

Prof. Chism

Mondays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

This seminar explores transculturations of knowledge in the late antique, medieval, and early modern periods, when systems of knowledge were configured and transmitted very differently. What happens when Greek philosophical figures such as Aristotle, Plato, and Plotinus, are synthesized within Islamic and Christian cultures? How do theoretical, practical, and esoteric modes of science alter when transmitted between Asian, Mediterranean, and western practitioners and how do their stakes change? How do medieval and early modern epistemologies change in response to strange knowledge, and how do these knowledges become naturalized? How do forms of encyclopedism and archivism develop across the medieval Islamic and Christian worlds for organizing knowledge. Taught as a LAMAR seminar, this interdisciplinary course will feature guest speakers from within and outside of UCLA. Focuses can range from technologies of writing and interpretation, through astronomy, astrology, visual arts, geography, and philosophy, depending on the interests of the participants, who will use the seminar to work towards a larger project or two shorter ones.

Texts may include: Aristotle, Lucretius, *The Book of the Apple*, excerpts from Roger Bacon's *Opus Maius*, Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy ibn Yaqdhan*, Albertus Magnus, Chaucer's *Squire's Tale*, and *Treatise on the Astrolabe*, the "Tawaddud, the scholarly slave girl," and its transmigrations to Spain in "La doncella Teodor" and to the New World in the Mayan community books. Secondary texts and theoretical approaches may include Michel Foucault's *The Order of Things* and *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, Frank Kermode's *The Genesis of Secrecy*, Karin Knorr Cetina's *Epistemic Cultures*, Bruno Latour's *We Have Never Been Modern*, Valerie Flint's *The Rise of Magic in Early Medieval Europe*, and Turner's *Science in Medieval Islam*. **Requirements:** 1 seminar project paper (with short prospectus, bibliography, and first draft) **or** two conference length papers 10-12 pp; weekly response papers; 1 class presentation; active class discussion.

English 246

The English Reformation
Renaissance Literature

Prof. Shuger

Wednesdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

The course is intended to provide an introduction to English Reformation theology (Protestant and Catholic), ranging over the fundamentals of soteriology and ecclesiology, public and private devotions, marriage manuals, liturgical calendars, biblical exegesis, the epistemology of faith, and flagellating monkeys. This will involve reading some of the most glorious and powerful prose ever written in English.

(continued)

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The material is essential background for anyone working in early American as well as Tudor-Stuart literature. Indeed, it will be followed by a winter seminar in the religious literature (Spenser, Donne, Herbert, et alia) of early modern England, this to be taught by Professor McEachern.

If it seems appropriate and/or desirable, we can set up a group independent study to read some of the Latin texts. A considerable amount of Reformation and Counter-Reformation theology was written in Latin and never translated; most of it has in consequence been steadfastly (and most undeservedly) ignored.

English 254

How to Write a Nineteenth-Century Poem
American Literature to 1900

Prof. Cohen

Tuesdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

This course on nineteenth-century American literature will focus on the writing of poetry in the U.S., though it will apply to nineteenth-century poetics more generally.

We will approach the topic of poetry by way of the practices through which nineteenth-century authors actually used to write poetry. We won't necessarily write our own poems, but we will think about how poems were written, looking at both the major aesthetic trends and theories (arguments about sentimentalism or prosody, for example) as well as the material practices that professional and amateur writers used to compose poetry. We will examine how nineteenth-century genres, formats, and modes of circulation helped to shape the production of poetry. Each week will therefore focus on a different method for writing and exchanging poems: letters, commonplace books, albums, textbooks, as well as books, magazines, and broadsides. In addition to studying authors and contexts, students will have the opportunity to work directly with nineteenth-century materials and manuscripts.

Our primary authors will include Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, along with many amateur, anonymous, and less-well known writers. We will also read a variety of recent critical essays on nineteenth-century poetry and poetics.

Assignments will include an in-class presentation, a seminar paper, and a descriptive archival project, as well as regular participation in discussions.

English M270

Jameson and London, Modern and Postmodern
Seminar: Literary Theory

Prof. Makdisi

Tuesdays, 9:00am – 11:50am

In this seminar, we will read some of the key works by Fredric Jameson on the questions of modernity and postmodernity in relation to selected literary and visual texts addressing modern and postmodern London. The aim will be to develop a two-way dialogue between literature and theory, to read the different kinds of texts with and against one another in order to develop a fuller understanding of the dynamics of modernity and postmodernity both in general and as grounded in one particular site in which these dynamics have worked (and continue to work) themselves out. Texts by Jameson will include parts or all of *Postmodernism, Or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*; *The Seeds of Time*; *The Ancients and the Postmoderns*; *The Modernist Papers*; and *The Antinomies of Realism*. Texts engaging London will include work by Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, Iain Sinclair, J. G. Ballard, Alan Moore, Peter Ackroyd, Patrick Keiller, Zadie Smith and Laura Oldfield Ford.

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English M299

American Sex
Interdisciplinary American Studies

Prof. Looby

Wednesdays, 9:00am – 11:50am

This course will explore the emergence of American sexuality through a series of historical and literary case studies examined from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will read some novels and observe how they register inflection points in the emergence of modern American sexuality—among them Charles Brockden Brown, *Memoirs of Stephen Calvert* (1799-1800); Julia Ward Howe, *The Hermaphrodite* (c. 1846-47); Margaret J. M. Sweat, *Ethel's Love-Life* (1859); Theodore Winthrop, *Cecil Dreeme* (1861); perhaps Melville's *Billy Budd* (wr. 1888-91, pub. 1924). We will also look at some historical cases—likely to include Jonathan Edwards and the "bad book" affair (1744); Alexander Hamilton's adultery scandal (1790s); and the Cincinnati controversy over Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs (1990). We will ask as well whether visual and plastic art works might contribute something essential to the history of sexuality, considering Hiram Powers' sensational statue of the *Greek Slave* (1843) and other sculptures whose erotic power was ambivalently recognized, as well as the Thomas Eakins painting usually known as "The Swimming Hole" (1884-85). Theoretical readings on the history of sexuality will be chosen in consultation with enrolled students.

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English 201C

Realisms

Prof. Seltzer

Developments and Issues in Modern Critical Thought

Wednesdays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

This course centers on realism, or, more exactly, realisms. Realism, as genre or tendency, is premised on a world that comes to itself by reporting and staging its own the conditions. Such a world is one recast by the presence of alternatives--and so always in a state of suspense and given to what the novelist David Shields calls "reality hunger." Realisms present how we live in and with these circular networks, and so how such a world renders its own reality comprehensible to itself. We will look first at two very recent attempts to take the temperature of such a world: Tom McCarthy's novel *Satin Island* (on the drive to write "the great report" on the contemporary) and China Miéville's novel *This Census-Taker* (on storifying our lives and its data-base fictions--census-taking as form of life.) Such an interdisciplinary turn may lend itself to seemingly harmless introductory surveys—at times, to approaches, genres, and theories as nearly one-word arguments. There may be no way around these problems, but there are different ways of entering them. Such interdisciplinary concerns are not alien to realism; they are constitutive of it. So we will next look back at canonical, albeit weird, realisms (novels, for example, of Theodore Dreiser, William Dean Howells, Henry James). Third, we'll look at some recent experimental realisms (for example, the fiction of Kazuo Ishiguro, Cormac McCarthy or Natsuo Kirino) in which reality hunger, economic rupture, and new ego-technic media lead realism into uncanny valleys. Each week core readings will dock onto recent work in art theory, media studies, social psychology, science studies. Course requirements: either two shorter papers--each may take the form of a brief essay or a book review—or a longer term paper.

English M215

Paleography of British Manuscripts, 900- 1500

Prof. Fisher

Paleography of Latin and Vernacular Manuscripts, 900 to 1500

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am – 11:50am

This class will train students in the codicology and paleography of manuscripts produced in Britain from the earliest writings that survive to the beginning of the print-culture world. The seminar will address the challenges of reading medieval texts without the support of modern critical editions. In particular, we will seek how to put the empirical aspects of paleography and codicology - describing and dating old books - in the service of critical arguments about texts. That is, we will work to bridge old-school "book history" and current trends in "the history of the book." Part of this conversation will necessarily consider the role of technology in the study of medieval texts and books. The seminar will meet twice per week. One meeting each week will be held in UCLA's Special Collections, working hands-on with UCLA's remarkable and teaching-focused collection of medieval manuscripts, leaves, and fragments.

English 246

Reading (for) Religion in Early Modern England

Prof. McEachern

Renaissance Literature

Thursdays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

What does it mean to "read for" religious identity (or any other kind) in the literature of early modern England -- arguably the most critical moment in the history of modern belief formation? This course will consider a variety of authors and genres -- e.g., Spenser, Shakespeare, Donne, Herbert -- in the contested contexts of Reformation culture. We will read and discuss with an eye to informing ourselves about the intellectual and political issues of the turn of the Tudor-Stuart century (1580s-1610s), treating with such matters as the effects of confessional difference upon aesthetic production; narratives of disenchantment; or the relation between theological and material practices of worship. Of equal concern will be how transcendental matters manifest (or don't) in the poetry and plays under consideration --i.e. are some genres or poetics more amenable to being read for religion than others? -- as well as the relation of religious belief to what it is we do when we believe in a play or a poem (or, in Coleridge's famous phrase, "the willing suspension of disbelief"). This course can be taken as the second part of a

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two-term sequence with Professor Shuger's course in the fall term, though the latter is *not* a prerequisite for this one. I imagine it will be of particular interest to students interested in the history of belief, or in brushing up their Reformation, or in a promiscuous selection of Renaissance writers and genres considered through the lens of supernatural concerns.

English 257

Studies in Poetry and Prose
Studies in Poetry

Prof. D'Aguiar

Tuesdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

This classic workshop format promotes Creative Writing in the two genres of poetry and fiction though each can hybridize to include prose poems, collage, found poems, flash fiction, monologues, dialogues, micro fiction, meta-fiction and the longer form of the short story and poem. We subject weekly writing assignments to the workshop process of critical and creative discussion with the desired result of a final revised portfolio. We read and discuss published poems and stories along with the creative assignments. Throughout the quarter, in the best tradition of experimentation, we cultivate the notion of a writing persona as conjoined to the quotidian body of the person who declares that she is or wishes to be a writer, and simultaneously, curate the objects that populate our imaginative lives.

Readings (TBC)

Poetry

Solmaz Sharif, Look

Claudia Rankine, Citizen: An American Lyric

In addition to a handout

Short Fiction

Brian Evenson, Anskan House (read it here, <http://www.redividerjournal.org/anskan-house/>)

Yoko Tawada, Memoirs of a Polar Bear (read it here, <https://granta.com/memoirs-polar-bear/>)

Lionel Shriver, Kilifi Creek (read it here, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/oct/01/kilifi-creek-lionel-shriver-bbc-short-story-2014-winner>)

In addition to a handout

Essays

Toni Morrison, The Site of Memory (PDF handout)

Neima Jahromi, Poetry and Politics in Iran (read it here, <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/poetry-and-politics-in-iran>)

In addition to a handout

English 259

Eighteenth-Century Pursuits
Studies in Criticism

Prof. Kareem

Thursdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

This seminar invites students to consider the pursuit as topic and trajectory within eighteenth-century literature. We will consider meditations on some of the century's favorite pastimes—fishing; hunting; gambling; philosophizing—as well as libidinal pursuit as both the favorite subject and *modus operandi* of the novel form. Readings will include primary works by Samuel Richardson, Choderlos de Laclos, John Locke, Laurence Sterne, David Hume, Samuel Johnson, Isaac Walton, Benjamin Franklin, Jane Austen, and others. Central to our discussions will be a consideration of the pursuit's formal properties: does pursuit generally follow the curve of William Hogarth's line of beauty? Is reading always a form of pursuit? Can there be an objectless pursuit?

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English 260

BioCities: Urban Ecology and the Cultural Imagination
Studies in Literature and Its Relationship to Arts and Sciences

Prof. Heise

Tuesdays, 9:00am – 11:50am

This seminar introduces students to the study of nature in the modern city with the help of materials from environmental history, environmental literature, ecocriticism, cultural geography, urban studies (including urban planning), design, and architecture. From the early 20th to the early 21st century, the experience of the metropolis has been one of the most powerful catalysts for distinctively modernist idioms in literature, film, painting, and architecture, and it has also provided one of the matrices for distinctively postmodern literature and design idioms in the period after 1960. In 2008, humanity crossed a historical boundary: more than 50% of the global population now lives in cities, and future population growth will occur or end up in urban areas, with important ecological as well as social, cultural, and aesthetic consequences. Even though urban ecology is only beginning to emerge as a major new research area in the natural sciences and urban planning, the city has had a biological identity since long before modernity, and is beginning to develop an ecological profile again in the contemporary globalized metropolis. The BioCities seminar will explore the realities and cultural imaginations of the city as novel ecosystem over time and around the globe through stories, maps, and images. It will provide students with a global horizon in terms of how the city is imagined and represented in literature, film, and other media over the course of last hundred years, and it will also develop a particular focus on Los Angeles. Readings will include literary works; nonfictional text; planning, architectural, and geographical document; and works across media such as photography, films, maps, websites, and databases.

English M262

When Black is Green:
African American Aesthetics and Eco-poetics
Studies in Afro-American Literature

Prof. Mullen

Wednesdays, 9:00am – 11:50am

In this graduate seminar we will read two required texts, a poetry anthology compiled by Camille T. Dungy and a book of critical essays by Evie Shockley. Students also are encouraged to read additional recommended texts. Dungy and Shockley are poets associated with Cave Canem, perhaps the most influential organization of African American poets since the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Together, these texts represent important trends in African American poetry, such as a shift from defining a prescriptive black aesthetic to a more descriptive and expansive exploration of black aesthetics. We will ask what role environmentalism, ecology, and eco-poetics, along with increasing interest in formal innovation, might play in expanding possibilities for writers and readers of African poetry. Instead of lecture, the format for this seminar is student-centered discussion of reading and writing assignments. For this reason, regular and prompt attendance and participation are essential.

Two required texts:

Black Nature, Camille T. Dungy, editor (We will read the complete text in order, beginning with Dungy's "Introduction" and "Cycle One"; then "Cycle Two," and so forth.)

Renegade Poetics, Evie Shockley (We will focus on Part II of this text.)

A few recommended texts:

Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors, Carolyn Finney

Rooted in the Earth: Reclaiming the African American Environmental Heritage, Dianne D. Glave

To Love the Wind and the Rain, Dianne D. Glave and Mark Stoll, editors

African American Environmental Thought: Foundations, Kimberly K. Smith

Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility, Dorceta Taylor

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English 265

***Postcolonial Studies and the Anthropocene:
Figuring Climate Change***
Postcolonial Literatures

Prof. DeLoughrey

Tuesdays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

The increasing recognition of global climate change has catalyzed a new body of work in the visual arts, literature, and film which engage and critique an era of “carbon colonialism.” This course offers a global and comparative study of places at the frontline of climate change such as tropical islands and the poles which are more visibly confronting sea level rise and glacial melt, and places these discourses in relation to the history of empire. We will read current debates about the new geological epoch termed the Anthropocene (and the Capitalocene, Chthulucene, & Plasticene) and raise questions as to how an era of environmental change may produce new narrative and artistic forms, such as the genre of “Cli-Fi,” defined as both “Climate Fiction” as well as “Climate Film.” We’ll examine how various narrative and visual modes—the novel, short story, documentary film, and art installations--engage different modes of storytelling about global environmental change such as apocalypse, slow violence, utopia, and dystopia.

English M270.1

***Recent Issues in American Studies and Queer Theory:
Sensation, Affect, and Pleasure***
Seminar: Literary Theory

Prof. McMillan

Wednesdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

Following on the heels of the “affective turn” in literary studies, sensation and pleasure have emerged as key terms in American Studies and queer theory as of late, and in turn, have caused scholars to wrestle with the core methodological commitments of both fields. How can American Studies, traditionally narrated through its engagement with American exceptionalism, be used as a methodological apparatus to interrogate black women’s participation in the pornography industry, for instance? And how can queer theory, so often framed through its attention to normativity and identity, consider racial and sexual abjection as part of its disciplinary purview as well? Throughout the quarter, we will read interdisciplinary works utilizing analytical frameworks from psychoanalysis, black feminist theory, sexology, and cultural studies that turn to contemporary art, literature, moving-image media, visual culture, and performance art as their objects of study in order to trenchantly engage with, and vibrantly enliven, American Studies and queer theory. Readings by Mirelle Miller-Young, Hoang Nguyen, Amber Musser, Jennifer Nash, Juana Rodriguez, Hiram Perez, and Ann Cvetcovich, among others.

Com Lit 290

Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory

Prof. Kaufman

Wednesdays, 2:00pm – 4:50pm

This 2-quarter seminar (comprised of Comparative Literature 290 in winter quarter and English 259 in spring quarter) is offered by the UCLA Program in Experimental Critical Theory. For more information, please visit:

<http://ect.humnet.ucla.edu/>

SPRING 2017 SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

English 201C

**Standardization (standardisation):
Histories & Theories: Measurement & Money**
Developments and Issues in Modern Critical Thought

Prof. Grossman

Thursdays, 9:00am – 11:50am

This course aims to introduce students to the topic of standardization. What standardization is, how we should define it, and what historical forms it has taken are all questions that we will explore. We will focus our discussion first on the standardizing of measurements. What is a yard? What relation does it have to the (French) meter? We will consider this study of measurement, or metrology, especially through historians of science such as Bruno Latour, Peter Galison, and Lorraine Daston. Standardizing of measurement also formed part of globalizing commodities exchange, and the second focus of this course will be on the gold standard and the standardizing of paper notes. We will read histories and theories of money, including Marx's, along with Gaskell and Balzac, to examine money's standardization.

Throughout we will consider how literature intersects with standardization and what reading fiction for standardization might involve. Beyond our two specific focuses—measurement and money—students are invited to investigate standardization, and infrastructure generally, across periods and places. Mortality was tabularized in the seventeenth century; language “purified” in the eighteenth; orchestras were set to a pitch and anatomical medicine projected a standardized body in the nineteenth century; standard shipping containers were developed in the twentieth for global intermodal transport and English alphabetic letters encoded by computers into ASCII (the American Standard Code for Information Interchange). As the variety of these examples suggests, the history of standardization is anything but standardized. Can exploring standardization teach us, we will ask, anything about our current theoretical approaches? We will use the topic of standardization to open up and focus intellectual pressure on an array of critical approaches including the history of science; design and technology; disability, race and gender studies; and globalization. Though our syllabus is tilted by the professor's predisposition toward nineteenth-century England, for students' 15-page final research projects this course remains untied to period and global in outlook.

English 211

Old English

Prof. Minkova

Mondays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

The course offers a linguistic introduction to Old English with particular emphasis on the structural differences between the older language and Modern English. It is designed for students unfamiliar with the pronunciation and grammar of Old English; the goal is to achieve a level of competence in the older language which would allow informed scholarly judgments and further study of the cultural and literary heritage of English. Class time will be split evenly between description of the various features of Old English (my job) and discussion/translation of Old English texts (your job – one or two students lead the discussion). The last two weeks will be dedicated to Anglo-Saxon verse: its structure, diction, and longevity.

English 250

Savage Indignation—Satire and Anger from Swift through Austen
Restoration and 18th-Century Literature

Prof. Deutsch

Tuesdays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

This course begins with a paradox: Western satire could be said to begin with the *Iliad* and the wrath of Achilles, a defiance that finds its deformed mirror in the derision of Thersites. Both Achilles and Thersites dissent from the Trojan War: one becomes its tragic hero and exemplar of epic, the other an object of abuse and mockery, emblem of the genre's monstrosity. When Jonathan Swift coined the legendary phrase “savage indignation” in his self-authored epitaph, he evokes (via the “angry” satirist Juvenal) both

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Achilles and Thersites, heroic anger and inhumanity, to characterize his sufferings as a satirist. This course will explore satiric rage and its complex connection to authority and gendered embodiment across a variety of genres. Our primary texts may include poetry and prose by Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, Mary Leapor, Mary Barber, Henry Fielding, Tobias Smollett, Frances Burney, and possibly even that great hater, Jane Austen. Course requirements include several short papers, an oral presentation, class participation, and a longer final paper.

English 254

Emerson
American Literature to 1900

Prof. Colacurcio

Wednesdays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

No, Emerson did not solve the enduring problems of race and gender. And probably he does not sponsor the idea of the literary scholar as political activist. But there may be other reasons to read him: For one thing, the syllabus of the (so-called) American Renaissance reads like a series of arguments for and against his idealist epistemology, his well-considered philosophical “optimism,” and his painfully private sense of the self. For another, his steady and unabashed facing up to the problem of “other minds” deserves the un-condescending notice of serious philosophy. And--plus—the sucker could write: hard to pick up his literary method in mid career, where he seems not one of the world’s great explainers, but if you start with the Unitarian sermons and early public lectures... Well, you get the point. .And besides, I dare you.

English M261

The Latino 19th Century
Studies in Chicana/Chicano Literature

Prof. Lopez

Tuesdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

In this seminar we will ask how our ideas of space, place, and nation change when we entertain the notion of a Latinx 19th century. How does such a thing revise our understanding of “American” studies? How does it help us craft new visions and new histories of “American” literature? The years since the 1993 publication of Donald Pease and Amy Kaplan’s *Cultures of US Imperialism* have seen an incredible amount of progressive, canon defying scholarship in nineteenth-century US studies, but this scholarship largely focuses on English-language texts. Truly innovative, field-changing work requires if not fluency in a language other than English then at least the humility to recognize our scholarly limitations due to the vast amounts of material – especially in Spanish – for which we cannot account. Fortunately much of that Spanish-language material exists in translation for us to explore in this seminar. Together we will trace the circuits of 19th century Latinx literary production, and we will see how this tradition intersects with but does not replicate literary histories based around the Atlantic seaboard. We will see how the Latinx 19th century decenters literary production across the US to Florida, New Mexico, Texas, California, Cuba, Mexico, and even further south. In so doing we will also begin to see how, as Jesse Alemán puts it in his preface to *The Latino Nineteenth Century* (NYU P, 2016), “it is a deliberate Anglocentric ideological gesture to continue to fancy New England as the center of American literature and print culture,” (ix). We will work this quarter on developing new scholarly gestures that take into account the long, historical presence of Latinxs in this country and the cultural legacies they’ve left behind.

Readings will be in English and will include Alemán’s *The Latino Nineteenth Century* anthology, co-edited with Rodrigo Lazo as well as primary texts by José Martí, María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, Martin Delaney, Vicente Rosales, Loreta Velazquez and more. Seminar time will include hands-on exploration of archival material in YRL’s special collections as well as live conversations with cutting-edge scholars – including Lazo and Alemán – working in the field of nineteenth-century Latinx Studies.

(This class counts toward the post-1780 breadth requirement for English)

SPRING 2017 SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

English M262

The Literature of Slavery and Abolition
Studies in Afro-American Literature

Prof. Yarborough

Thursdays, 12:00pm – 2:50pm

We encounter contentious discussions of slavery, race, and citizenship from the earliest days of the Republic. For obvious reasons, debates over these charged topics occur with increasing frequency and intensity through the first half of the nineteenth century as the nation careens toward the Civil War. In this seminar, we will examine a wide range of texts that engage directly the vexed question of chattel slavery in the United States. Although we may touch on materials from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the bulk of the assigned reading dates from roughly 1820 through 1865. We will cover full-length works by David Walker, Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, among others. We will also read shorter pieces—fiction, poetry, journalism, essays, and autobiography—by writers such as James McCune Smith, William Lloyd Garrison, Frances E. W. Harper, Lydia Maria Child, and Henry Highland Garnet. Issues to be discussed include the evolving construction of blackness in the United States, sentimentality and abolition, the role of women in the slavery debate, the political uses of art, Christianity and slavery, and conflicting attitudes regarding violence in the antislavery struggle.

Requirements

attendance and class participation

weekly on-line posts

an oral presentation

a short paper (5-6 pages)

a final paper (15-20 pages)

English M270

Phenomenology and the Environment
Seminar: Literary Theory

Prof. Kaufman

Wednesdays, 3:00pm – 5:50pm

Although phenomenology is customarily viewed as a method of analyzing human perception, many of its major thinkers devote considerable attention to non-human entities. This course will provide an introduction to the phenomenological tradition through a focus on writings that deal with rocks, plants, objects, air, and stars, in short both the “natural” and “built” environments at different levels of scale and opacity. Authors considered may include: Aristotle, Theophrastus, Albert the Great, La Mettrie, Rousseau, Goethe, Hegel, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty, Bachelard, Lacan, Blanchot, Mudimbe, Nancy, Sarraute, and Ponge.