

English Department Proposed Electives 2006-2007

Quarter 1 (Q1)

Senior Writing (.25 credit)

In this writing course, students will hone their writing skills and expand themselves intellectually by selecting a project or topic of interest to them and developing it over the course of the term into a long essay for a general audience. Projects will involve research and multiple revisions. Completion of the Senior Thesis is course requirement. **ALL SENIORS MUST COMPLETE SENIOR WRITING IN ORDER TO GRADUATE.**

Creative Writing (.25 credit)

An introduction to the writing of fiction, poetry, and drama for students with an interest in these genres. Class time is divided between discussions of literary technique, workshop consideration of student writing, and examination of work of several contemporary poets, dramatists, and fiction writers. Students are asked to complete several writing assignments, to keep a journal, and to draft and revise a final project.

Digital Storytelling (.25 credit)

Acquaints students with the various aspects of the digital storytelling process through the use of storyboarding and digital editing software. This course gives students an understanding of the kinds of decisions filmmakers encounter and the kinds of techniques they employ. Activities include preparing detailed shooting scripts, experiments with photography, light, color, motion, sound, and editing, and manipulating both live action and animated materials. Individually or in small groups, students will produce a 10-15 minute film.

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Quarter 2 (Q2)

Short Story (.25 credit)

Examines the short story form by reading and analyzing short fiction from the twentieth century. Students will be asked to read a variety of short works, keep a journal, write short response pieces, and prepare and edit a full length analysis of a short story.

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Drama (.25 credits)

A survey of both modern American drama and early dramatic forms. The primary focus will be on representative works by 20th century playwrights as well as on major theatrical movements in this country, but will include the study of one Shakespearean play. Works such as *Death of a Salesman* and *Fences* will be studies.

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Quarter 3 (Q3)

Media Analysis (.25 credit)

Surveys various media, stressing their historical evolution and the technological and socio-cultural forces that shape them. Includes newspapers, magazines, film, radio, and television. Using interdisciplinary approaches, it focuses upon themes which explore myths about identity through analyzing meanings in media and social/cultural texts; how these originate in and across history, to become part of everyday 'common sense' discourse. An advertising simulation project serves as the final project for the course.

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Quarter 4 (Q4)

Drama (.25 credits)

A survey of both modern American drama and early dramatic forms. The primary focus will be on representative works by 20th century playwrights as well as on major theatrical movements in this country, but will include the study of one Shakespearean play. Works such as *Death of a Salesman* and *Fences* will be studies.

Short Story (.25 credit)

Examines the short story form by reading and analyzing short fiction from the twentieth century. Students will be asked to read a variety of short works, keep a journal, write short response pieces, and prepare and edit a full length analysis of a short story.

Film and Literature (.25 credit)

Intro to film as an art form focuses on film interpretation by emphasizing elements such as light, sound, composition, camera movement, acting, and direction. Initiates students into developments in film history, film genre, and film theory. This interdisciplinary seminar examines the ways that two different art forms—literature and film—represent America. Are their stories the same, or can the distinctive characteristics of each create a unique vision of the nation? Both long and short written film analyses are required.

Diverse Voices in American Culture: Native American Literature

Surveys representative literary texts from the margins and boundaries of the American experience. Concentrates on familiarizing students with issues, questions, and motifs that recur in works which diagnose ongoing conflicts in the American temper. Readings are drawn from both contemporary and classic Native American literary traditions.

Courses

Senior Writing

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Diverse Voices in American Culture: Literature by Women

This introduction to works by women aims to examine the ways in which women relate to one another. "Girls have to stick together" has become a common cliché, and yet many of us can cite examples of betrayal and disloyalty. What accounts for the difference between what women say and what they do? What do women owe to other women, and what do they owe to themselves? By closely examining a variety of works by women in different media (novels, essays, film, television shows, etc.), we will think carefully about how the complex realities of daily life (school, work, ethnicity, economics, sexuality, motherhood, etc.) interfere with the way women interact with other women. In addition, we'll attempt to construct methods that reduce the difference between what we say and what we do. Readings and viewings may include: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen; *Heathers* by Amy Heckerling; *Queen Bees and Wanna Bees* by Rosalind Wiseman, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich; *Passing* by Nella Larsen; *Sex and the City* by Cindy Chupack. L04

Survey of Drama

A survey of both modern American drama and early dramatic forms. The primary focus will be on representative works by 20th century playwrights as well as on major theatrical movements in this country, but will include the study of one Shakespearean play. Works such as *Death of a Salesman* and *Fences* will be studied.

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Public Speaking

Develops basic speaking principles and provides extensive practice in speaking skills necessary for successful college-level performance. Covers adapting topics to purpose and audience; using substantial support for each point; logically developing concepts; speaking with a clear, consistent tone; developing good listening skills; and preparing oral presentations in a variety of settings.

Modern Short Story

Examines the short story form by reading and analyzing short fiction from the twentieth century. Students will be asked to read a variety of short works, keep a journal, write short response pieces, and prepare and edit a full length analysis of a short story.