

ENG 7320 Global Modernisms (3,3,0) (E)

In acknowledgement of the broad plurality of modern experience, and of the literatures in English depicting it, the course will explore the broad canon of modern literature as constructed comparatively across diverse linguistic, cultural and national contexts. The course will search for a broader rendering of “Modernist” culture, embracing old and new and ranging across the arts and media.

ENG 7330 Graduate Research Seminar (3,3,0) (E)

This course is designed to engage students in critical discussions about aspects of literature from a world perspective. Students will examine major issues and concepts pertaining to the study of world literature and/or comparative literature with reference to selected literary texts. The relationship between literature and culture will be emphasized and different perspectives will be adopted for reading and interpreting world literature. Specific topics may vary from year to year.

ENG 7340 World Literatures in Modern Times (3,3,0) (E)

This course examines the conceptualization and historical moments of “literatures in the world”. It begins by discussing the problematics in the way academic disciplines historically and politically situate literature as institutionalized “study”—national, imperial and ideological. The course then looks at two examples of literary imagination travelling in the world, with a focus on the historical transformation of the idea of the Mongol Empire since the 18th century up to present times. The two examples comprise literary imaginations and constructions travelling around the world, as expressions of such industrial and global formations such as expansive colonialism, civilizational universalism, economic globalization, and global tourism. Together, these instances of travel demand that we rethink the linear structure of (comparative) literary history. Eventually, this course shows students of literature and culture in the 21st century how and why historical, comparative, critical and imaginative work sustains the Auerbachian humanist tradition.

This course will focus on the following topics: knowledge and institution; industrial capital and global capital; literary imagination, travel and influence; translation and trans-nation, intellectual globalization.

ENG 7350 Comparative Literature and Arts (3,3,0) (E)

This course compares and analyses different national literatures and their non-literary counterparts. Emphasis will be placed on widening students’ literary horizon, examining the similarities and differences among cultures, analysing the aesthetic exchange between literature, media, and nonfiction in a global context, and helping students develop their moral and ethical positions in response to different cultural, political, religious traditions.

ENG 7360 The Ecocritical Imagination (3,3,0) (E)

The course will examine the variety of texts and genres, literary and critical, that document the relationship between the living world and its physical environment—focussing on the urgent ecological relationship between sentient creatures and the non-sentient substrate. What are the global implications for the living world, and how has the awareness of potential and actual problems found reflection in the literatures of environmental consciousness?

ENG 7370 World Theatre (3,3,0) (E)

This course provides a platform for students to examine the history of world drama, and the influence of dramatic movements across cultural contexts. Topics of interest may include the study of genres, dramatic schools, theories, movements, and specific playwrights. Equal emphasis will be given to various theoretical pursuits, as we analyse plays in light of gender theories, ideology, historicism, and performance studies.

ENG 7380 Twenty-first Century Fiction (3,3,0) (E)

Twenty-first century fiction provides a forum from which to explore recent novels from around the world. Topics that may

be investigated include the transnational, the post-postcolonial, the late-postmodern, the spectacular, the performative, hybridity, immigration, mass culture, sexuality, reliability, disaster, and protest. Given the global context of the course, English-language texts are selected from countries as diverse as Canada, India, Ireland, the USA and broader regions like the Caribbean and Asia. Particular emphasis will be placed on the political, cultural, and global underpinnings of the texts under consideration, drawn from this still-young century. Students will be encouraged to juxtapose the contents and contexts of chosen works while charting apparent shifts and trends in early 21st century artistic representation.

ENG 7390 Advanced Topic in Literary and Comparative Studies (3,3,0) (E)

This course will define critical and disciplinary parameters necessary to in-depth study and research of literature(s) written in English. Students will be introduced to methodologies or approaches relevant to the study of the selected topic. Illustration of the topic will be done through close readings of selected primary and theoretical texts.

ENG 7400 Advanced Topic in Genre Studies (3,3,0) (E)

This course will examine the features and/or development of a genre or subgenre, up to the present time. In a particular year, the focus of the course may be on a specific period and/or a (sub) genre, rather than a broad survey. Aside from a solid theoretical component, the course will offer a focus on selected texts with a view to developing the analytical and critical tools necessary to unfold their artistry and meaning.

ENG 7410 Advanced Topic in Critical Theory: Popular Cultural Studies (3,3,0) (E)

This course will focus on the interdisciplinary, and still-emerging, field of cultural studies. Moving through the evolution of the critical discipline, which integrates its Marxist inceptions in 1950s Britain, its post-colonial and post-structuralist inclinations on the Continent in the 70s and 80s, and its contemporary multidimensional applications in places as different as the US and Hong Kong, this course will utilize the various discourses of culture and pop culture (including theory, the novel, and film) to excavate topics like stardom, the chic, the bourgeois, urbanism, democracy, globalism, reality television, mass identity, and eroticism. Students will be encouraged to develop their own informed ways of reading “culture” in its numerous modalities.

ENG 7420 Master’s Project (3,3,0) (E)

The project is an elective course conducted during the Spring semester designed for students who have (1) achieved a satisfactory grade in the Graduate Research Seminar during the Fall semester and (2) submitted a satisfactory prospectus to the MALCS Programme Management Committee no later than the end of November during the previous semester. As supervised by a core member of staff, students undertaking the project should develop habits of mind necessary to engage rigorously with their chosen topic(s). The project enables students not only to develop their own critical thinking but also the potential to build communities of scholarship in their chosen area(s) of focus. The project demands the highest standards of research and writing. Aside from its intrinsic value as a piece of scholarship, the project should provide evidence (in the form of an article-length research output) of a given student’s worthiness for academic appointments or further studies.

ENG 7430 The Erotics of Humanism (3,3,0) (E)

Taking its departure from the Western cultural project of historical humanism, this seminar will ask questions about the erotic and affective developments that occur within the processes of humanism’s emergence as the cultural dominant within domains of knowledge production, creativity and species formation. These questions presume that the erotic is both a necessary component in the development of humanism—one of its necessary conditions—and also one of the consequences of that emergence. Readings

will move from Plato to Foucault and shall include creative, critical and theoretical works.

ENG 7440 The Postcolonial and India (3,3,0)

This course considers “India” as a site of literary production within colonial and postcolonial discourse before and after Indian independence in 1947. A privileged site in diasporic Anglophone history, India was among the earliest nations to delink its history of English from colonial culture. As both material locus of postcolonial reality, and an imaginary site in language, “India” both constitutes and problematizes contexts of race, class and nation and the canons deriving from these.

Note: The prerequisites for the English courses marked with an asterisk () can be waived with the consent of the Head of the Department. All prerequisites, unless otherwise stated, apply to English Majors only.*

ENGL 1005 English, Creativity, and Cultures (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) examine the changing nature of language, and how creativity forms and transforms the English language and different cultures in English; (2) question and challenge students’ perceptions of language, culture and creativity; (3) reflect on how creativity has played a role in the production of literary and everyday texts; and (4) lay a foundation for linguistic and literary studies.

ENGL 2005 Introduction to the Study of Language (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) raise students’ awareness of language, especially the English language, as an object of study; and (2) lay a foundation for students’ knowledge of language use and language structure including its phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.

ENGL 2006 Language, Culture and Society (3,3,0) (E)

This course will help students (1) understand the interaction between social systems and language varieties; (2) examine the notions of standard and non-standard varieties of a language, especially as they relate to the language situation in Hong Kong; (3) understand how language use differs across individuals and groups based on social class, gender, identity, and ethnicity; and (4) understand how language ideologies and attitudes impact language policies and language education.

ENGL 2007 Literary and Comparative Studies (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) introduce students to basic concepts and terminologies used in literary and comparative studies; (2) introduce students to techniques and skills used in analysing literary texts across cultures; (3) explore the interrelations between literatures by exploring common themes, genres, etc.; (4) develop students’ literary and cultural literacy by introducing them to literary masterpieces; and (5) develop students’ basic research skills, critical thinking and analytical abilities.

ENGL 2015 Literature and Culture (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) introduce students to the notion of literary culture; (2) illustrate the impact of culture in redefining English literature as a discipline; (3) locate the reader of English literature as a consumer of culture in a variety of popular forms; and (4) encourage the appreciation of culture and literature in their imagistic, graphic, literary, critical, and iconoclastic forms.

ENGL 2016 Sounds of English around the World (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) provide basic knowledge of phonetics and phonology, one of the major subsystems of language; (2) expose students to subtleties in language sounds; (3) train students to transcribe language sounds in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA); and (4) familiarize students in the analysis of the sound systems of language, especially the sound systems of English in the speech of native and non-native speakers and of learners acquiring English as a first or a second language.

ENGL 2017 Stepping Stones in English Grammar (3,3,0) (E)

This course will lay the foundations for students’ acquisition of competence in and knowledge about the English language.

ENGL 2025 The Art of Storytelling (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) explore various forms of storytelling in literature; (2) analyse literary devices used in the selected texts; (3) examine the observance of literary conventions in different genres; and (4) assess literature and its impact on society.

ENGL 2026 Argumentation and Persuasion (3,3,0) (E)

Students will be introduced to salient uses and theories of public speaking in a disciplinary context, from Cicero to Austin and Searle, with emphasis upon laying out a foundation for further studies in linguistics and literary studies. Textbook examples and classroom assignments will cultivate students’ ability to persuade audiences through eloquent and articulate argumentation. A number of oral genres will also be introduced in addition to public speeches and debates, including oral narratives, discussion, humour and interviews. The emphasis of the class will be upon using the English language and its literary and linguistic devices in everyday communication, group discussion and public speaking formats. Students will be expected to conduct research, to prepare in written form and, subsequently, to deliver orally public speeches, and to engage in group activities (such as discussion, role playing and listening exercises). Contemporary issues of relevance to be discussed, formally presented and debated in the course may include racism, patriarchy, bureaucracy, gender, oligarchy, terrorism, fascism, the media, and the underclass.

ENGL 2027 Academic and Professional Writing (3,3,0) (E)

This course will (1) help students improve their skills when writing in English for academic and professional purposes; and (2) enhance students’ awareness of the appropriate uses of English in professional or academic contexts apart from everyday life.

ENGL 2035 The Short Story (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: ENGL 2007 Literary and Comparative Studies
This course will (1) examine representative short stories written in or translated into English; (2) demonstrate knowledge of different types of short stories, and different writers’ styles and literary techniques; and (3) evaluate the production of short stories in an international and inter-cultural context.

ENGL 2036 Pre-Modern Drama (3,3,0)

This course introduces students to the formative influences, subgenres, and the critical and creative traditions of pre-modern drama. It also introduces drama in its historical contexts, including the specific interests and techniques of significant playwrights.

ENGL 2056 Faces of Comparative Literature (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: ENGL 2007 Literary and Comparative Studies
This course will (1) introduce students to various theories and methodologies used in comparative literature; (2) study the interrelations of several literatures according to common themes and genres; and (3) familiarize students with the basic concepts involved in the study of comparative literature.

ENGL 2065 Literary World Masterpieces (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 2007 Literary and Comparative Studies
This course will (1) introduce students to representative and established literary works from different cultures; (2) engage students in literary discussion that will improve their skills in literary appreciation and critical thinking; and (3) equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for analysing literary works as a foundation for further studies in the discipline.

ENGL 2066 Literature and Society (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 2007 Literary and Comparative Studies
This course will (1) investigate the aesthetic and political dimensions of socially committed literature; and (2) highlight the interactive relationship between literature and society.