

SPRING 2022 GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENG 632: Topics in American Literature		
Dr. Anthony Viola	Section 201	W 4-6:20p
The Presence of Absence: Literary Minimalism		
<p>Students will be exposed to the history and origins of the short story genre, although the focus of this course will be the study of the literary aesthetic known as Minimalism. In this class, we will trace the beginnings of Minimalism, starting with Edgar Allan Poe’s “intended effect,” escalating to Anton Chekhov’s use of objectivity and Ernest Hemingway’s “tip of the iceberg” metaphor. There will also be some scrutiny of Gordon Lish’s influence on the aesthetic, not only as a writer but also as a teacher and editor. Time will be spent analyzing Cynthia Hallett’s theories of how to approach, understand, and interpret minimalist stories. Much of this course will involve student presentations, sometimes collaboratively and sometimes individually. The culminating artifact will be a seminar paper. Students with a creative writing emphasis can choose to do a creative project prefaced by a critical introduction.</p>		

ENG 640: Teaching College English		
Dr. Megan Marshall	Section 201	T 4-6:20p (virtual)
<p>ENG 640 is the second course in a two-semester sequence of courses designed to prepare graduate students for teaching first-year writing at the university level. The course builds on ENG 560: Composition and Writing Center Theory by focusing on how new teachers can shape the theories they’ve learned in ENG 560 into teaching philosophies and practices that support the learning outcomes of the composition program. Students will read pedagogically-centered research and theory while designing and workshopping their own teaching materials. This work will culminate in a digital teaching portfolio that includes sample low- and high-stakes assignments, an ENG 101 syllabus, and a resume/CV. Students will also observe the teaching of experienced instructors and practice delivering classroom lessons among their peers. [The instructor may override the ENG 560 prerequisite in certain circumstances.]</p>		

ENG 646: Topics in Rhetoric and Composition		
Professor Meghan Hancock	Section 201	R 4-6:20p
Introduction to Rhetorical Genre Studies		
<p>What exactly are genres? How do they help us get things done? How are they socially constructed? Who has the power to change genres? These are just a few of the questions we will explore in this seminar introducing you to the world of Rhetorical Genre Studies. One of the major projects in the course will be to write a genre analysis paper on a genre of your choice (anything from a school-based genre like the lab report to a genre outside of academia like the true crime documentary) accompanied by an oral presentation, examining factors like common conventions and features of your genre, how your genre has changed over time, and more.</p>		

ENG 660: Literary Theory		
Dr. Tim Burbery	Section 201	M 4-6:20p
Ecocriticism		

Ecocriticism examines the intersection of literature and the physical environment. Join us this semester as we engage this dynamic approach to literary studies. We'll consider works such as Richard Powers's novel *The Overstory* and critical studies like Greg Garrard's useful overview of the field. Selected films and videos will also be studied from an ecological perspective.