

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions

These course descriptions are subject to change. While we make every effort to keep these online course descriptions as current as possible, you are advised to check with the instructor of a particular course to verify the information below.

Contact information for all English Department faculty is available via the English website at

<http://www.siu.edu/artsandsciences/english/>.

ENG 200-001: Introduction to Literary Study

MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Heather Johnson

In English 200, students will be inducted into the field of literary study. It is a discussion-driven course focused on helping prospective English majors and minors to interact with literature (and each other!) in pleasurable and productive ways. Students will learn strategies for reading and analyzing works from a variety of literary genres and periods. We'll review some of the central concepts and terms that underpin more complex discussions of literature both inside and outside the classroom setting. By the end of the course, students should have an understanding of the basic strategies used in writing about literature, what it means to be a student of literature, and how to approach an unfamiliar text with confidence.

ENG 200-002: Introduction to Literary Study

TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm

Josh Kryah

As a foundational course intended for English majors and minors (and whoever else would like to join us!), ENG 200 prepares students to analyze and interpret literature, including literary genres, critical approaches, and historical contexts. We'll spend the semester talking and writing about poetry, fiction, and drama, focusing on how "literary" reading is different from other kinds of reading. This will be a discussion heavy course, emphasizing student participation and preparation.

ENG 201-001: Intermediate Composition

TR 9:30am – 10:45am

Kimberly Sutherland

English 201 delves deeper into the fascinating world of rhetoric and writing. It builds on the research and argumentation skills developed in earlier writing courses, and places emphasis on academic reading strategies, analysis, and critical thinking as keys to the writing process. We will work collaboratively to examine rhetoric as an art form and engage with a variety of texts as a means to analyze and solve problems. At its core, this course approaches all academic writing as part of a series of ongoing conversations that have different sets of rules, purposes, and audiences. The ultimate aim of the course is to equip students to participate in those conversations, understand their audiences, and navigate their various conventions.

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ENG 201-002: Intermediate Composition

TR 3:30pm – 4:45pm

Kimberly Sutherland

English 201 delves deeper into the fascinating world of rhetoric and writing. It builds on the research and argumentation skills developed in earlier writing courses, and places emphasis on academic reading strategies, analysis, and critical thinking as keys to the writing process. We will work collaboratively to examine rhetoric as an art form and engage with a variety of texts as a means to analyze and solve problems. At its core, this course approaches all academic writing as part of a series of ongoing conversations that have different sets of rules, purposes, and audiences. The ultimate aim of the course is to equip students to participate in those conversations, understand their audiences, and navigate their various conventions.

ENG 204-001: Studies in Fiction

TR 9:30am – 10:45am

John Savoie

We will learn to read short fiction, classic and contemporary, for greater pleasure and deeper understanding of the human condition.

ENG 207-001: Language Awareness

TR 11am - 12:15pm

Seran Aktuna

Do you want to know how humans acquire language, how you can say something and mean something quite different, how you can be discriminated against on the basis of your speech, or whether women really do talk more than men? All of these topics and more about how languages work in and across communities are discussed in this non-technical introduction to language study. The overall goal of the course is to develop participants' awareness of different facets of linguistic behavior and their implications in various areas of life. The course has helped students in various fields of study enhance their understanding of human language and its use in society.

ENG 208-001: Topics in Early British Literature: The Body in Society

MW 3pm – 4:15pm

John Pendergast

A study of medieval through eighteenth century literature, including poems, drama and essays, with a focus on how bodies are defined, controlled, and acted upon in a variety of genres. We will consider how British literature conceptualized of different bodies, including but not limited to the heroic body, the gendered body, the sexualized body, and the victimized body.

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ENG 211-001: Topics in Early American Literature: Creating American Culture **MW 12pm – 1:15pm** **Jill Anderson**

When 21st-century Americans think back to the late 18th-century establishment of the United States, they tend to note a few key dates and remember a few founding fathers—and then most leap onward to the Civil War and forward to the 20th and 21st centuries. Our collective memory tends toward wars and politics and leaves out the social debates and identity-building that were crucial to the development of early American culture. English 211 slows the pace of our historical imaginings by filling the gap between 1776 and 1860 when writers in the revolutionary, early national, and antebellum United States self-consciously constructed American literary texts. The course will also investigate writings from earlier centuries to consider pre-colonial and colonial contexts in advance of the nation's founding.

Early American writers explore their contemporary social concerns while also reflecting on the paradoxical tensions brought about by such American foundational dichotomies as colonization and revolution, slavery and emancipation, tyranny and democracy, captivity and freedom, paranoia and optimism. These binaries point to anxieties about power-relations in early American contexts and, later, in a democratic republic “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” as [Lincoln](#) so eloquently imagined the nation in 1863. By looking through the lens of their literary productions—that is, letters, narratives, essays, poems, and novels—English 211 will consider what early Americans had to say about themselves and their/our culture.

ENG 214-001: Topics in World Literature: Ancient to Medieval: Great Books **TR 11am – 12:15pm** **John Savoie**

We will survey great books, from Homer and Virgil through Dante and Milton, that have inspired our culture and shaped how we think about life's large and enduring questions.

ENG 290-001: Introduction to Creative Writing **TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm** **Daniel Ising**

This course introduces students to creative writing practices and procedures, paying particular attention to terminology, technique, and genre. We'll read plenty and from our readings conduct several imitative experiments to familiarize ourselves with the writing process. These readings will be taking from canonical and contemporary texts and authors, focused on specific elements of writing. There will be lots of writing. We'll be expected to create our own work during the semester, without the aid of AI generated assistance.

ENG 290-002: Introduction to Creative Writing **MW 12pm – 1:15pm** **Adam Cleary**

This course introduces students to creative writing practices and procedures, paying particular attention to terminology, technique, and genre. We'll read plenty and from our readings conduct several imitative experiments to familiarize ourselves with the writing process. These readings will be

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taking from canonical and contemporary texts and authors, focused on specific elements of writing. There will be lots of writing. We'll be expected to create our own work during the semester, without the aid of AI generated assistance.

ENG 290-501: Introduction to Creative Writing

Online Learning
Lauren Gerber

This 3-credit course provides an introduction to the basic genres of creative writing (fiction, poetry, drama, and creative non-fiction) with an emphasis on craft and the writing process. This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of these four basic genres, teach you terminology, and provide an overview of techniques for writing— some of which are applicable to individual genres where others will apply across the board. Overall, it will expose you to a variety of texts, styles, and methods that will enrich your experience of writing, no matter your purpose or goal.

ENG 301-001: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism

MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Helena Gurfinkel

The study of theory is a truly eye-opening experience, and its reward is the acquisition of critical-thinking and writing skills that can be used both in, and far beyond, a literature classroom. Theoretical texts, though fascinating, are often quite complex and challenging, and the course format requires an intensive engagement with assigned readings. The course provides students with an overview of the principal schools of modern literary theory, both earlier ones, such as New Criticism, and contemporary ones, such as Animal Studies and Disability Studies. All students will acquire the skills to apply various theories to literary texts. Future English teachers will learn new strategies for engaging with literary texts in the classroom. We will accomplish these goals through reading, discussions, and the writing of analytical papers.

ENG 310-001: Classical Mythology and Its Influence

TR 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Nancy Ruff

In this course, we will read, discuss, and write about ancient Greek and Roman mythology and its influences on later literature and culture of the western world.

ENG 342-001: Topics in African American Literature: Black Girl Lit

TR 2pm – 3:15pm
Cindy Reed

“Not enough is known about the experience of Black girls in our society,” bell hooks once said. This course helps to fill in that gap by asking questions like: *What does it mean for a Black girl to be a bad girl? How are Black girls' bodies depicted and why? How does adultification bias impact Black girls?* We will find these answers and more as we focus on representations of Black girls and girlhood from a wide range of Black women writers and creators.

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ENG 392-001: Fiction Writing
MW 12pm – 1:15pm
Nicola Schmidt

This course emphasizes the elements of fiction and the writing process, focusing on the literary short story. Students will read stories and write exercises to help them deepen their understanding of the craft of fiction as they develop, draft, and revise up to two complete short stories by the end of the semester.

ENG 393-001: Poetry Writing
TR 12:30pm - 1:45pm
Treasure Redmond

Using a Black and Indigenous poetry canon, this course will introduce students to examples of traditional and new poetic forms, including sonnets, villanelles, sestinas, and many others. Through various prompts, readings, and exercises, students will familiarize themselves with poetic terminology and techniques. Students will also participate in workshop and produce a portfolio of their own creative work.

ENG 394-001: Playwriting
TR 11am - 12:15pm
Joshua Kryah

This course is structured as a workshop wherein we'll explore writing for the theater through imitation, discussion, and performance. We'll study foundational elements of playwriting, including setting, character, dialogue, action, and plot. These elements will help enhance our understanding of the creative production of theater and allow us to participate in several exercises, prompts, and activities. We'll also spend time becoming familiar with canonical works as well as that of contemporary playwrights. Students are expected to write and revise two ten-minute plays over the course of the semester.

ENG 400-001: Principles of Linguistics
TR 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Seran Aktuna

This course will introduce you to the key areas of linguistics (a field that examines language from a scientific perspective) and give you the skills in basic linguistic analysis of language structure and use. We look at the physiology of speech production, the systematic organization of sounds in languages, how meaning is held in words and particles of words, and how these words combine to form larger structures in sentences, conversation, and discourse. Students from a wide variety of majors (English, anthropology, sociology, history, education, computer science, psychology, etc.) have found this course useful in learning to think like a linguist as they gained the ability to analyze language data, identify linguistic structures (even in languages other than their own), and discuss language-related topics in technically precise ways. **No pre-requisite.**

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ENG 408-001: Phonological Analysis

TR 9:30am – 10:45am

Kristine Hildebrandt

Phonetics and phonology are two of the most fascinating and actively debated areas within Linguistics! Students will gain a critical understanding and appreciation of the fundamental concepts inherent to phonetics (the study of production & perception of speech sounds) and phonology (the study of the organization of sound systems in human language). While we will refer to English patterns, we will also consider sound patterns and systems as they are observed in other languages, allowing us to acquire a more well-rounded understanding of the role of phonetics and phonology in human languages. Note that you do not need to be able to speak another language beyond English to take this class. We will also cover topics of applied and vocational relevance to students, including the acquisition of phonological contrasts in first and second language learners.

ENG 411-001: Internship in Writing

TBA

Individualized Learning

Involvement in developing workplace writing. Supervised by selected faculty member and cooperating site. Prerequisite: ENG 102 with grade of C or better.

ENG 420-001: Topics in Film Studies: Film Noir

M 6pm – 8:50pm

John Pendergast

This course will explore the film noir genre, one of the most popular and influential genres in American and international cinema. We will watch and discuss at least eight films, with class discussion focusing on close readings of selected scenes from the films you will be assigned (a few of these will be on reserve in the library but you will be required to rent or purchase the individual titles on your own). Our films will range from the earliest examples of film noir to more contemporary neo-noirs like *Devil in a Blue Dress* and *Mulholland Drive*. Much of our class will be focused on adaptations, so we will also read novels by Walter Mosley, Dashiell Hammett and Ernest Hemingway as well as screenplay contributions by William Faulkner. Finally, we will view and discuss examples of international film noirs from Japan, France and Latin America.

ENG 445-001: Young Adult Literature

MW 3pm – 4:15pm

Valerie Vogrin

As we work toward a larger understanding of the contemporary YA literary scene, we will read a variety of YA novels from multiple cultural perspectives. We will study the genre's most prevalent tropes, themes, and subject matter. Beyond exploring the adolescent's developing sense of individuality, alienation, and cultural awareness, young adult literary texts often cover controversial topics, including drug use, sexuality, and violence. We will examine the boundaries of the genre and question what distinguishes young adult literature from children's literature or adult literature. Assignments will include reading logs, class discussion, and a final research and/or creative project.

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ENG 446-001: Studies in African American Literature

MW 12pm – 1:15pm

TBA

This course will examine the fiction, poetry, short stories, and essays of African American writers within the context of scholarship and criticism dedicated to the study of Black diasporic cultures. May be repeated up to 6 hours.

ENG 475-001: Methods of Teaching Secondary English Language Arts

MW 3pm – 4:15pm

Jill Anderson

English 475 focuses on approaches to teaching Secondary English Language Arts, including planning for reading, writing, and language instruction in contemporary American high schools. As we engage with and evaluate various methods of teaching English (while also addressing curricular concerns associated with the Illinois Common Core Learning Standards), we will explore reading and writing processes with the ultimate goal of developing useful teaching strategies. As the semester progresses, English 475 students—aka SIUE's Spring 2026 English student teacher candidates—will learn about ELA methods and materials, prepare and share lesson plans, and develop units of instruction for use in their future careers as high school English teachers. ENG 475 is restricted to English majors enrolled in the Secondary English Language Arts major concentration (May 2026 graduates) and must be taken concurrently with CIED 304, CIED 313, and CIED 314.

ENG/WMST 478-001: Studies in Women, Language and Literature: Women Writing Immigration

MW 12pm – 1:15pm

Helena Gurfinkel

The topic of (im)migration continues to be central to our political and personal lives. In this course, students will think through the complicated experiences of immigration from the standpoint of women and women-identified people. Such experiences involve negotiating multiple identities and power relations. The texts will include several diverse novels. The assignments are appropriate for an interdisciplinary/general-education course.

ENG 479-001: Major Authors: Shared Traditions: Hello Darkness My Old Friend: Poe and Hawthorne

TR 2pm - 3:15pm

John Savoie

Poe and Hawthorne recognized each other's genius as each set out in his own way to explore the darkness (and the redeeming light) lurking at both the fringes and the depth of broader society, transcendental optimism, and above all the human psyche. With an emphasis on their short stories as well as exploration of their poetry and novels, respectively, we will read the major works of these influential writers.

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ENG 482-001: Technology & Literature
TR 11am – 12:15pm
Margaret Smith

Description forthcoming.

ENG 485-001: Writing for Teachers of English*
MW 12pm - 1:15pm
Heather Johnson

English 485 has a dual focus; it is about both *writing* and the *teaching* of writing to young authors and is designed to help prospective teachers develop a teacherly understanding of composition as a complex process. We'll work on honing our own writing skills and then brainstorm the best ways to pass our discoveries on to students. We'll talk about how to give helpful feedback, and how to teach your students to do the same; we'll think carefully about how to design composition assignments, how to get students thinking about rhetoric, and how to introduce basic research. The course is designed to be of interest to future high school teachers as well as teachers of college-level writing in secondary school settings.

*ENG 485 required with CIED 302/310/312 and IT 300

ENG 488-001: Rhetoric, Law, and Society
TR 2pm - 3:15pm
Anushiya Ramaswamy

Given the interdisciplinary nature of this course – Rhetoric, Politics, and the Law – I imagine this class as a place where we will be able to braid new narratives about ourselves as participants in a modern democracy. Our conversations and readings will trace certain persistent ideas about citizenship, the state, and the law.

I am excited to have a chance to think through – as a class -- some of the foundational arguments of the West. We will study how persuasion works – how we tell our stories about ourselves, the distinctions between law and justice, and what it is to live a good life.

ENG 490-001: Advanced Composition
TR 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Anushiya Ramaswamy

This is an advanced writing course designed for students to explore various rhetorical styles and techniques. In the course of the semester, students will learn the various steps involved in writing for different audiences. We will work at understanding different kinds of writing with an emphasis on the politics of style. We will begin with personal narratives and move onto more formalized writing, identifying the choices we make in terms of diction, tone, organization, and even subject matter.

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ENG 494-001: Literary Editing

MW 4:30pm - 5:45pm

Valerie Vogrin

This course involves students in the production of SIUE's student literary magazine, *River Bluff Review*. Members of the class serve as the staff of the journal, participating in all aspects of its production, including the solicitation and evaluation of submissions, editing, design, proofreading, layout, publishing, and promotion. The course will also provide an overview of literary magazines.

ENG 497A-001: Senior Seminar: Ethnic American Literature

MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Charles Berger

This class will read a variety of American novels, memoirs, and short-story collections from the later 20th and early 21st century focusing on the culture, language, and historical experiences of ethnic Americans. We will explore representative texts written by Jewish-American, Native American, Chinese-American, Indian-American, Black, and Latina American writers. What we mean when we use the term "ethnic" will be a central question posed throughout the class. We will also read a number of theoretical texts on the nature of ethnicity within American culture. The kaleidoscopic nature of American literary (and verbal) ethnicity will be apparent. We will also consider the pervasive influence of what I call the "ethnic carnivalesque" in popular culture. Central issues to be discussed will include: the interplay of gender and ethnicity; ethnic humor; the role of the ethnic mother; ethnic histories; ethnic geo-cultural identities; ethnic literary dialects; and other topics as well.

The Senior Seminar (ENG 497a) requires a paper of approximately 15 pages (5000 words) to be submitted at the end of the semester, as well as participation in the Senior Colloquium, held on the last Friday of the semester, just before Finals Week begins. You will present a brief version of your final paper at that event in a format to be determined later on in the semester.

ENG 497A-002: Senior Seminar: Reading Games: Play in English Studies

MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Matthew Johnson

"Play" is one of those words that we all know, but if you try to define it, you'll see that expressing its definition (at least quickly and succinctly) is rather a challenge. Play is "not serious," but don't most of us play with considerable commitment? Maybe it's "unproductive," but consider its consequential benefits (and what would be the results if we never played)? Play seems detached from reality, even an escape from it, but it's intertwined in our everyday lives (one hopes). Play manifests in classes, games, performances, rituals, and tournaments; it can be ceremonial, comedic, competitive, creative, imagined, pretend, random, social, staged, unconventional, unpredictable. This course will focus on play – fun, games, amusement, enjoyment, diversion – and how it manifests in English Studies widely construed. What is it? (Really smart folks have been trying to tackle that one for ages.) How does play work? (See what I did there?) What is the role of play in literature, rhetoric, language, reading, writing? Play is often hierarchized beneath work, placed in opposition to it. In this course, we'll elevate it, both by seeing its productive potential and investigating play for play's sake. We'll explore the meaning, benefits, controversies, and myths that surround play. We'll take play seriously and experience some of its magic.

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ENG 499-001: Readings in English

TBA

TBA: Individualized Learning

Independent study in specific area of interest. Extensive reading. For English students only; may be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Requires consent of department chair and instructor.

ENG 505-001: Topics in Forms and Genres: Remixing Literary Madness

R 6pm – 8:50pm

Heather Johnson

In English 505, we'll turn a comparative lens on genre, thinking deeply about how form and content intersect and shape each other. We'll track the concept of *madness* across centuries and genres, examining how poets, essayists, novels, and playwrights use their forms to explore madness and madness to manipulate (or even destroy) forms. Though contemporary formulations of mental illness and wellness will be of interest to us, the course is more narrowly focused on madness as a literary trope. In this course, we'll investigate fictional depictions of insanity, from Shakespeare's lunatics to the inmates of Kesey's asylum. Literary madness takes many forms; it can be a sign of genius, a result of holy fervor, a side effect of love, or a violent disturbance of the body and mind. Conceptions of madness have been mobilized to support oppressive social and political programs, but they've also been used to explore new avenues of knowledge. In fiction, the madman or madwoman may symbolize the shameful secret or the irrational fear. They may represent all that is uncanny, the other who is both familiar and foreign. At the same time, the fictionally insane and those who are represented as "fools" are frequently bearers of uncommon wisdom. Madness can be a permanent condition or a transitory state, one into which anyone can fall, given the right circumstances. The mutability of literary madness makes it a fertile ground for imagining alternative perspectives, spaces, and values, as well as authorizing formal and generic transgression. Students will be responsible for weekly posts, an in-class conference presentation, and two larger writing projects.

ENG 521-001: Topics in Lit & Culture: Mapping African American Literary Studies

W 6pm – 8:50pm

Howard Rambsy II

"I'm simply trying to suggest that, in terms of seriousness, whether we call it work or play, what black critics have to be involved in is what I call a black and crucial enterprise." –Jerry W. Ward, Jr.

Let's get serious about the directions of African American literary studies so that we can figure out where we are, how we got here, and where we're going. We'll talk about key developments in approaches to the study of artistic writing by Black folks over the decades. We'll make stops over there with notable debates concerning Black aesthetics during the Black Arts era, right here with our field's greatest study of Black poetry, around the corner with the rise of Black women's literary criticism, and just down the way at those defining moments in the field between the late 1980s and into the 1990s. As our guy Henry Dumas wrote, "We have a journey to take and little time; we have ships to name *and* crews."

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ENG 554-001: Composition Pedagogy

MTWRF 9am – 1pm (Aug 4th- Aug 8th)

MWF 9am – 1pm (Aug 11th – Aug 15th)

TR 9am – 4pm (Aug 11th – Aug 15th)

TBD (Aug 18th – Dec 12th)

Matthew Johnson

This section of ENG 554 is exclusively for new Teaching Assistants in the Department of English Language & Literature and is designed to support and enhance students' teaching of college-level, first year writing courses. The course largely consists of training, demonstrations, and workshops (with a healthy dose of composition-rhetoric reading and discussion here and there) that focus on composition pedagogy, in general, and more specifically: writing as a process; invention strategies; syllabus and assignment design; class planning; classroom management; collaborative learning; grammar/mechanics instruction in college writing courses; reading, writing, and critical thinking (practices and motivations); visual and rhetorical analysis; assessment of students' academic work; conducting student conferences; discussion leading; university professionalism; and the teaching of writing with digital technologies. Plan to dedicate each day pretty much in its entirety to the course from August 4th-August 15th (the two weeks immediately prior to classes starting for the Fall semester); also required will be subsequent course meetings throughout the Fall semester (schedule to be determined, collaboratively).

Required texts include: Bean, John C. Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom, 2nd ed. (Jossey-Bass, 2011). Dethier, Brock. First Time Up: An Insider's Guide for New Composition Teachers (Utah State UP, 2005). Various other readings that will be made available via Blackboard.

ENG 578-001: Senior Seminar: Gender, Language, and Pedagogy

T 6pm – 8:50pm

Anushiya Ramaswamy

We will read the foundational texts on gender from Beauvoir to Butler; bell hooks to Gayatri Spivak. This is a graduate seminar that will trace certain persistent ideas about how gender is constructed. How do we in our classrooms, families, and other living spaces perform and speak about gender? What terminologies, vocabularies, and ideologies do we learn and employ in our child rearing practices to create identities that allow us to become fully human?

ENG 596-001: Preparatory Reading / Teaching of Writing

TBA

TBA: Individualized Learning

Reading of relevant research and writing of three essays under supervision of committee. Restricted to MA candidates within one semester of fulfilling requirements for teaching of writing specialization.

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ENG 597-001: Readings in English Studies

TBA

TBA: Individualize Learning

Individual readings in creative writing, linguistics, literature, Teaching English as a Second Language, or Teaching of Writing. May be repeated once for a maximum of 6 hours. Requires consent of instructor and advisor.

ENG 598-001: Preparatory Reading

TBA

TBA: Individualized Learning

MA candidates will prepare comprehensive reading lists and produce either three 20-page papers (3 credit hours max) or a scholarly exit project (6 credit hours max).

ENG 599-001: Thesis: Writing: Teaching and Practice

TBA

TBA: Individualized Learning

Students who choose to write a thesis, may enroll in English 599 for a maximum of six credit hours. We strongly suggest that students who take all six credit hours split the thesis work into two semesters rather than taking all six hours at once. An acceptable thesis for the literature specialization should be a cohesive, comprehensive research study of at least 60 pages in length. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours.