

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Fall 2026 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
TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm
Laura Soderberg

English 200 introduces students to the field of literary study. While the class is designed for potential English major or minor, we welcome everyone curious about novels, poems, media literacy, or generally arguing about a good book. We'll spend the semester learning what it means to discuss literature, how to consider different kinds of texts from different perspectives, and how to approach an unfamiliar text with confidence.

ENG 200-002: Introduction to Literary Study
MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Heather Johnson

In English 200, students will be introduced to the field of literary study. The discussion-driven course is 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 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 205-501: Introduction to African American Texts

Online Learning - Asynchronous

Donavan Ramon

In this online asynchronous course, we will explore major texts from all genres of African American Literature: prose, drama, and poetry. We will study the texts chronologically, including music, visuals, folklore, and other media types. Students in this course will explore important creative techniques, themes, ideological perspectives, and more that shape African American literary studies, from the colonial era to the present. We will grapple with the following questions: How do these writers negotiate multiple identities through their texts? How is identity fundamentally tied to space and place? What is the relationship between self and community? How do African American writers negotiate both public and private selves? How have Black writers responded to and interrogated American history?

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: Beginnings

MWF 11:00am – 11:50am

John Savoie

We will survey the great works of earlier British literature from *Beowulf* through Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Swift and other voices who have enriched our language and imaginative literature to form the basis for all further reading.

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ENG 214-001: Topics in World Literature: Ancient to Medieval: Great Books
TR 2:00pm – 3:15pm
Nancy Ruff

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
TBA

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.

ENG 290-002: Introduction to Creative Writing
TR 2pm – 3:15pm
Treasure Redmond

English 290 is an introduction to the four genres of creative writing: fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, and drama. A special emphasis is placed on craft and on revision as a part of the creative process. Students will be asked to write both poetry and prose, and to provide critical feedback to their peers' work. At the end of the semester, students will turn in a portfolio of the creative work they have generated.

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.

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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 341-001: African American Women's Writing

MW 12:00pm – 1:15pm

Angel Dye

In this course we will read, analyze, and discuss African American women's writings: poems, short stories, essays, and more. We will examine texts and audio by African American women writers to trace how Black women construct and design their visions of liberated womanhood and identity within and beyond conditions of enslavement, white supremacy, and patriarchy. With an emphasis on joy and self-definition, we will collectively begin to name the frameworks that Black women have historically and contemporarily relied on to foreground their lives and experiences.

ENG 342-001: Black Arts Movement

TR 11:00am – 12:15pm

Treasure Redmond

This course examines the Black Arts Movement of the late 1960s to mid 1970s, a multi-faceted group of African-American artists, writers, and musicians who were committed to creating politically charged socially relevant art and saw themselves as the cultural wing of revolutionary movements sweeping the country at the time. We'll examine the work of several writers, poets, visual artists, and musicians of the era and situate their work within the political, historical, and artistic context. We'll also ask key questions that remain relevant to artistic production: what is the relationship between art and politics? What is the role of the politically conscious artist?

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ENG 369-500: Grammatical Analysis
MW 10:00am – 10:50 am + online asynchronous
Kristine Hildebrandt

In ENG 369, students engage in the analysis of formal spoken and written English sentences, along with some consideration of how these patterns vary in more informal contexts. Through a variety of in-class and assigned activities, this course encourages critical thinking about conceptions of grammar. This course helps students gain a greater awareness of our (mostly unconscious) knowledge of language. This class is especially useful for those pursuing secondary education licensure or those pursuing language teaching professions more generally. But it is also useful for those who are interested in the English language more generally, especially as it is (and has been) structured in formal environments and in everyday use.

ENG 392-001: Fiction Writing
TR 2pm – 3:15pm
Nicola Schmidt

This course emphasizes the elements of fiction and the writing process, focusing on the literary short story. We will read and discuss short stories, we will collaborate informally on writing exercises and activities and small workshops, and students will work on writing assignments to help them deepen their understanding of the craft of fiction. By the end of the semester, each student will develop, draft, and revise a complete short story.

ENG 393-001: Poetry Writing
TR 9:30am - 10:45am
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 410-001: Rhetoric, Writing, and Citizenship
R 6:00pm – 8:50pm
Anushiya Ramaswamy

Examination of rhetoric's role in US citizenship both past and present. Students will read legal documents, travel writing, news accounts, case studies to write analytical and persuasive essays on the topic of modern democracy. Of value to those interested in legal writing.

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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 416-001: Language and Society
TR 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Seran Aktuna

How does the way we talk reflect our geographical roots, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and gender? When, why, and how do people develop special codes to communicate with each other? How does the way we communicate differ across cultures and subcultures? Can we be discriminated against on the basis of our speech patterns? And what is happening to the English language as more people learn and use it in different parts of the world? These are some of the main questions we will discuss in ENG 416. The goal of this course is to build your awareness of major topics in sociolinguistics and help you examine their applications/implications for solving problems in education, communication and other areas of life.

No prerequisite needed.

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 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 hot button topics, including drug use, sexuality, and violence. We will examine the boundaries of the genre and consider the perspectives of teen readers, YA authors, publishers, librarians, and educators. Assignments will include reading logs, class discussion, and a final research and/or creative project.

ENG 446-001: Topics in African American Literature: Black Sci-Fi & Survival
TR 2pm – 3:15pm
Cindy Reed

Exploring the imaginative, unearthly, and supernatural, this course uses Black science fiction, horror, fantasy, afrofuturism, and other speculative genres to examine topics central to Black identity and ultimately, Black survival. Using Black speculative artistic expression of various forms, students will consider how African American authors reimagine the past, present, and possible futures.

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ENG 465-001: Screenwriting
TR 11am – 12:15pm
Joshua Kryah

We'll work through various film genres as we write scripts that update familiar tropes, themes, and cliches. These will range broadly, from the setting in horror films to the use of dialogue in film noir to the creation of character in big action spectacles, among others. As we move through genres, we'll learn more about their conventions and devices while also critiquing them. What, as writers, do we need to learn about the fundamentals of these genres? And how can we use this knowledge to write scripts that better represent the issues, concerns, and audiences of the 21st century?

ENG 470-001 Methods for Teaching Foreign Languages PK-12
W 5:00pm – 7:50pm
H. Cuervo

Practical study of second language acquisition, cognitive variations, instructional methodologies, and assessment in foreign language classrooms. Required for state teacher certification of all majors intending to teach foreign language in PK-12 schools. (Crosslisted with FL486.)

ENG 475-001: Methods of Teaching Secondary English Language Arts
MW 12pm – 1:15pm
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 2027 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 2027 graduates) and must be taken concurrently with CIED 304, CIED 313, and CIED 314.

ENG 479-001: Major Authors: Shared Traditions: Body and Soul, Milton and Friends
TR 12pm - 1:15pm
John Savoie

We will range widely through the wildly imaginative seventeenth-century, mixing major figures and surprising perspectives, with concentrations in Donne, who riddled the perplexing relationship of body and soul, and in *Paradise Lost*, the singular masterpiece of English literature.

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ENG 480-001: Magical Realism
TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm
John Pendergast

“Magical Realism” is largely a Latin American genre and two novels, Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *A Hundred Years of Solitude* and Isabel Allende’s *House of the Spirits*, will serve as the centerpieces of our exploration of the limits and expectations of the genres. In addition, we will read fiction from North American and Europe (including Kafka’s “The Metamorphosis”) in order to understand the possible precursors and historical heritage of the genre. We will also read several contemporary short stories and study at least one film, all of which express the dynamic nature of this genre.

ENG 482-001: Technology & Literature
TR 2:00pm – 3:15pm
Margaret Smith

In this class, we'll use literature about technology to engage critically with our own technologies. As we engage with digital theory, electronic environments, and texts (both analog and born-digital), we'll explore our relationships to technology, to one another, and to our pasts, presents, and futures. Along the way, we'll work with a variety of tools for digital humanities scholarship and storytelling.

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. It is designed to help prospective teachers develop a critical awareness of literacy practices and an understanding of composition as a complex process. We'll hone 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 our 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 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 491-501: Technical and Business Writing
Online Asynchronous
Maggie Black

In this class, we'll explore many kinds of workplace writing (including emails, resumes, proposals, reports) as well as instruction and practice in writing style and document design. This course is intended for English majors as well as majors in engineering, business, nursing, basic and applied sciences, social sciences, public administration, and all professional schools with the aim of preparing students for writing in professional settings as distinct from academic settings.

Because this is an online course, students must have reliable internet access on a daily basis. The course will be conducted primarily through Blackboard, SIUE's course management system. It is assumed that students will be familiar with Bb and seek assistance as necessary before the course begins. Support for using Blackboard is available by calling 618-650-5500. A "course check-in" will happen via SIUE email on (or just before!) the first day of regular classes. Prerequisites: 102, junior standing.

ENG 491-502: Technical and Business Writing
Online Asynchronous
Maggie Black

In this class, we'll explore many kinds of workplace writing (including emails, resumes, proposals, reports) as well as instruction and practice in writing style and document design. This course is intended for English majors as well as majors in engineering, business, nursing, basic and applied sciences, social sciences, public administration, and all professional schools with the aim of preparing students for writing in professional settings as distinct from academic settings.

Because this is an online course, students must have reliable internet access on a daily basis. The course will be conducted primarily through Blackboard, SIUE's course management system. It is assumed that students will be familiar with Bb and seek assistance as necessary before the course begins. Support for using Blackboard is available by calling 618-650-5500. A "course check-in" will happen via SIUE email on (or just before!) the first day of regular classes. Prerequisites: 102, junior standing.

ENG 494-001: Literary Editing
MW 4:30pm - 5:45pm
Valerie Vogrin

This course involves students in the hands-on production of SIUE's student literary magazine, *River Bluff Review*—now back in print. Students 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. Students complete short, exploratory writing assignments with no lengthy papers and no final exam. The course also provides a lively overview of literary magazines and literary publication in the US.

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ENG 497A-001: Senior Seminar: What is Contemporary African American Literature?
MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Donavan Ramon

In recent years, scholars have debated the definition of "Contemporary" in "Contemporary African American Literature." A few trends have emerged: *contemporary* African American Literature includes the prominence of Black women writers, Black-authored texts receiving prestigious awards, and formal innovation. Beyond these observations, literary scholars do not agree on when it began and what else constitutes this current period of a rich literary tradition. In this senior seminar, we will attempt to define *contemporary* African American Literature—its time frame, themes, images, and key questions. We will engage in prose, poetry, and hip-hop as we come up with some answers.

ENG 497A-002: Senior Seminar: Reading Games: Play in English Studies
MW 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Matthew SS 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.

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 501-501: Modern Literary Studies
M 6pm – 8:50pm Online Synchronous
Helena Gurfinkel

The course will serve as a survey of selected literary theories, an introduction to the profession of literary studies; and training for graduate-level research and writing. Time permitting, we will also touch upon issues facing the contemporary university/liberal-arts education.

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ENG 506-001: To Hell and Back

W 6pm – 8:50pm

Joshua Kryah

This semester we'll take numerous trips to hell and back. Starting with Dante's *Inferno* and then traveling through some "wild, and rough, and stubborn" collections of poetry, we'll investigate what hell means for contemporary poets. Our guides will include works by Alice Notley (*The Descent of Alette*), Srikanth Reddy (*Underworld Lit*), Shane McCrae (*New and Collected Hell*), Eileen Myles (*Inferno: a Poet's Novel*), and others. We'll also descend into our own poetic journey through hell with specific writing prompts and assignments.

ENG 554-001: Composition Pedagogy

MTWRF 9am – 1pm (Aug 10th- Aug 14th)

MWF 9am – 1pm (Aug 17th – Aug 21st)

TR 9am – 4pm (Aug 17th – 21st)

TBD (Aug 24th – Dec 18th)

Matthew S.S. 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) 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 10th-August 21st (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 556-001: Theory of Composition

T 6:00pm – 8:50pm

Anushiya Ramaswamy

Barthes points out that Rhetoric was born in a slave society and that it thrived in this uneven city state that disallowed its women and the unfree to enter public spaces. We will critically study the early texts of this time – Plato, Aristotle moving into Quintilian, Cicero, among others – in order to plot a trajectory of a disciplinary apparatus that has located itself now in Writing programs across the nation. This course would be of interest to all those studying Theory of Writing, literary history, and postmodern notions of the speaking self. The current theorists associated with Critical Theory – from Althusser, Adorno, Foucault, Derrida and Agamban will be part of a rich conversation about the teaching of writing in our nation.

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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.

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.