Spring 2022 Graduate Course Descriptions

ENG 642 Atlantic Crossings: Donne, Herbert, Dickinson, Bishop (Topics in Pre-1800 Literature)
Dr. Christopher Hodgkins
Monday 6:30-9:20pm
Fulfills the Pre-1800 Requirement
Approved AMP Course

In this seminar we will trace the complex transatlantic lines of influence running from John Donne and George Herbert through two of America’s finest lyricists, Emily Dickinson and Elizabeth Bishop; take a deep dive into a world-class Renaissance archive here at UNCG; and make you present at the creation of a definitive scholarly edition for Oxford University Press. Though the substantial majority of readings will be from the early modern Donne and Herbert—including some of their earliest printed books—we will intersperse many poems by Dickinson and Bishop. Our approach will be literary-historical, as we consider Donne, Herbert, their poems and prose in their times and places; archival, as we dig deep in the Jackson Library’s famed Herbert collection—which houses every edition of his poetry since 1633, and first editions of all other Herbert works; and closely textual, as the instructor, co-editor of George Herbert: Complete Works for OUP, brings you into the process of developing an Oxford Texts edition. We’ll also think trans-historically, combining and interrogating historical and formal approaches, and inquire into how such factors as nation, religion, gender, and sexuality inflect the lyric mode. Readings will include Donne’s Songs and Sonnets, his Elegies and Satires, his Divine Meditations (Penguin edition) and excerpts from his Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions (online); Herbert’s The Temple (the instructor’s UVaP/Rotunda digital edition— https://digitaltemple.rotunda. upress.virginia.edu/ ) and excerpts from The Country Parson (OUP edition drafts); selections from Final Harvest: The Poems of Emily Dickinson; and selections from Bishop’s Complete Poems.

Requirements: Seminar members will present two brief written responses and one 15-minute oral report (with handout) during the semester, one critical-interpretive seminar paper of 15-20 pages for workshop discussion during the last weeks of the seminar, and one response to another’s workshopped paper. Some seminar meetings in the Jackson Library’s Hodges Reading Room. Fulfils the Pre-1800 Requirement

ENG 664: Topics in Post-1800 British Literature: Thatcherism and its Afterlives
Dr. Ben Clarke
Thursday 3:30-6:20
Fulfills the Post-1800 Requirement
Approved AMP Course

As Chantal Mouffe argues, Margaret Thatcher did not just change the priorities of government but engaged in a far-reaching “hegemonic struggle” that transformed “common sense.” The impact of her ideas and policies is still visible in both the material fabric of Britain and the public understanding of the function and scope of politics. In this course, students will explore the foundations of Thatcherism, including the theories and narratives it drew upon, its
transformation of established economic, political, and cultural forms, and its long-term implications. Beginning with Hanif Kureishi’s *The Buddha of Suburbia* and ending with Sarah Moss’ *Ghost Wall*, the course uses the analysis of Thatcherism, its foundations and its legacies, to consider broader questions about the ways in which literature not only represents but intervenes in complex historical struggles. Students will read texts written in a variety of forms and genres. The course will be assessed by two short essays and a term paper.

**ENG 706: Theories of Embodiment**
Dr. Risa Applegarth
Wednesday 3:30-6:20
Fulfills a Rhetoric Requirement
Fulfills a WGSS Requirement

How does theory emerge from lived experience? How do concepts of normativity, agency, and capacity take form in relation to bodily ideals, and how are such concepts transformed in conjunction with experiences of illness, frailty, and incapacity? This course focuses on feminist, antiracist, queer and disabled writers and intellectuals who develop their theories out of their embodied experience, and who include elements of narrative and self-representation in their theoretical writings. Readings will include authors such as bell hooks, Patricia Williams, Eli Clare, M. Remi Yergeau, Audre Lorde, Sunaura Taylor, and Karma Chávez.

**ENG 713: Race-thinking in the 17th Century**
Dr. Jennifer Park
Thursday 6:30-9:20
Fulfills a Pre-1800 Requirement
Fulfills a WGSS Requirement

How do we approach the study of premodern race? How were early ideas about race constructed, developed, and exploited in seventeenth-century England, the time of Shakespeare, Milton, and the so-called scientific revolution? In this course, we will engage with cutting-edge scholarship on the history and afterlives of early modern race, dwelling with premodern and contemporary critical race thinkers as we explore the racial formations, gaps, and erasures of English literature and/in the seventeenth-century archive. This course is intended to guide students to consider our methodological approaches/practices in the study of premodern race and how we apply those practices to the content and materials that we examine.

**Eng. 730: Topics in American Literature: “American Romanticism and Its Discontents”**
Dr. Maria Sanchez
Tuesday 6:30-9:20
Fulfills a Post-1800 Requirement
Fulfills a WGSS Requirement
The romantic era in the United States, which flourished in the four decades leading up to the Civil War, not only encompassed an explosion of creative and cultural endeavors, but also constant critique of the paths the young nation was taking – and not taking. These years were marked by demographic growth, territorial expansion, war with other nations, armed conflict with populations within shifting U.S. borders, technological innovation, slavery, abolition, the birth of temperance and labor organizing, immigration from Ireland and parts of Asia, and the continued denial of the franchise to all women, among other things – as well as the appearance of poetic and fictional works still considered significant today, and the arrival of the novel as a dominant marketplace form. Oh, and there was also Transcendentalism.

This course will study both big names and lesser known figures, so as to articulate historically, culturally, and theoretically informed responses to the following: what were romanticism and Transcendentalism in the U.S.? How did they function as engagements with and critiques of the social and material worlds of the pre-Civil War U.S.? How did they shape our understanding of what U.S. literature is and should be? Figures to be covered include Douglass, Stowe, Emerson, Sigourney, Harper, Crafts/Bond, Thoreau, Fuller, Hawthorne, Melville, Arthur, Poe, and Ruiz de Burton. Assignments will include short response papers and a semester-long research project.

ENGLISH 740-01: STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY AND POSTMODERN AMERICAN LITERATURE:
The Recent American Novel and the Object of Fiction (3 CR.).
Dr. Christian Moraru
Tuesday 3:30-6:30
Fulfills a Post-1800 Requirement
Fulfills a Theory Requirement

This is a graduate seminar that focuses on the American novel of what some critics have called the (“new”) contemporary period. According to them, “contemporary” designates the decades after the Cold War or even, closer to us, the post-September 11, 2001 interval. Understood as a period, then, contemporaneity is postmillennial. Moving beyond periodization, our class will deal with a distinguishing feature of this body of work, namely, with its profound interest in our material environments, more specifically, in the world of objects as defined by Object-Oriented Ontology. Novelists discussed will include Ben Lerner, Mohsin Hamid, Richard Powers, Michael Chabon, Emily St. John Mandel, Colson Whitehead, Jonathan Safran Foer, and Xhenet Aliu. We will also read theory by Graham Harman and other “speculative realists.” This course has a strong professional development component, with emphasis on advanced research, graduate writing, and publication. Individual presentations; midterm (5-6-p.) and final (20-p.) papers.