

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT: FALL 2020

**If you do not have an English Faculty Advisor; if you do not have an English Major Advisor, please contact Prof. Matt Miller matt.w.miller@gmail.com before Fall term. If you are a junior, please go to Advising for your JUNIOR CHECK before enrollment for Fall.*

MEDIA AND CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

Note:

ENGL 1800: Introduction to Creative Writing
M/W 1:25-2:40

Prof. Matt Miller

This creative writing course will introduce students to two genres: poetry and short fiction. Students will explore what makes each of these modes of writing unique, as well as how they overlap, complicate, and enrich one another. Your workload will be comprised of both reading and writing with an emphasis on your own creative work. You will be expected to produce one revised and polished short story (about 20 pages double-spaced), several poems, and written critiques of others' writings. In addition, you will be learning terms and concepts important to these genres, and you will respond to several outstanding examples of poetry and short stories from established writers. You will share your writing with your professor and your fellow students, and we will try some exercises that will challenge you to write in new ways. This is not an "anything goes" creative writing course; rather, it is a course focused on how specific forms of writing can enhance and advance your creative potential. You may come to this course with little or no experience in writing, but you will leave having developed your natural potential for creative expression in language. Expect to write a lot and hear a lot back about your work.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This course *does not* fill the Interpreting Literature and the Arts, General Education requirement. It will count towards the Writing Minor. Required for Creative Writing track. Pre-requisite: English 1100 or 1200H.

ENGL 1815 Writing Women's Lives
T/Th 12-1:15

Prof. Ann Peters

In this course, we'll study examples of women writing about their lives and practice writing our own autobiographical narrative. We'll be asking a number of questions in the course. What happens when we take the seemingly shapeless events of our lives and try to construct them into a story? Can a personal story really be just about "me?" Is an autobiography ever really true? What part does fiction play in the writing of a life story, and what part does autobiography play in some writers' fiction? What makes women's memoir different in terms of subject or style? Is there a difference? What are some of the forms a memoir can take?

Some of the time we'll be reading, examining the characteristics of the memoir genre and considering the way 20th and 21st Century women writers explore and represent selfhood. But we'll also be doing lots of writing about our own lives. To get into the practice of writing personal essays, we'll keep a daily writing notebook, write three "mimic" exercises, modelling the writing of some of the masters of the form, and write three writing responses to prompts. At the end of the semester, you'll write a long final memoir piece in two drafts. Over the course of the semester, we'll share our work with our peers and offer feedback on the work of others. There is no midterm or final exam but there will be weekly quizzes to make sure you are keeping up with the reading.

Readings will include examples of autobiographical writing by Mary McCarthy, Maxine Hong Kingston, Maggie Nelson, Virginia Woolf, Joan Didion, Adrienne Rich, Zadie Smith, Patricia Hampl, Annie Dillard, and others. We will also read excerpts from Mary Karr's *The Art of Memoir*.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This course *does not* fill the Interpreting Literature and the Arts, General Education requirement. It is a Creative Writing class. It will count towards the Writing Minor. Strongly recommended for CW track. Pre-requisite: English 1100 or 1200H.

ENGL 2000 Ways of

II (Survey) Courses

ENGL 2005 Survey of British Literature III II C Intro. Prof. Seamus O'Malley
M/W 1:25-2:40

This is a survey course of British Literature, beginning around 1870 and culminating in recent years. We will sample of variety of genres, including poems, short stories, novels, plays, and literary criticism. The course will be divided into three units: Late Victorian (1870-1900); modernism (1900-1945); and postmodern/contemporary (1945-present). Classes will be mostly discussion-based, and students will be required to write three short

Requirements for this course include: three short reading response letters (about two pages each), one paper (about five pages), and one longer paper, The Immigration Project, which includes a response to a visit to the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side as well as a personal essay about an American immigrant from your own family. There is no midterm, but there will be a final exam as well as periodic quizzes to make sure you are keeping up with the reading.

This is a survey course. It is a “Traditions” course in English designed to pose questions about how texts, interpretive communities and reading practices generate histories. It is an Introductory course. It fulfills a Survey II C requirement for the English major. It can fulfill a requirement "Interpreting Literature and the Arts." Pre-requisite: English 1100 or 1200H.

