

ENGLISH MA: Spring 2026 Courses

ENG 501: Critical Theory, Mondays 4:25-7:10pm

Dr. Rachel Banner, Mondays, 4:25-7:10pm

***Required of all tracks**

Study of various methods of theoretical analysis and critique associated with the discipline of literary, cultural, and rhetorical analysis and the application of these methods to specific literary and cultural texts.

ENG 502: Rhetorical Traditions

Dr. Tim Dougherty, Thursdays 7:15-10:00pm

***Required for WTC track; elective in CRW and LIT tracks**

A historiographic survey of cultural rhetorical theories from the ancients to the 19th century, with special emphasis placed on the pedagogical aspects of these varied traditions and their implications for the teaching of rhetorical literacy in the 21st-century classroom.

ENG 503: Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures

Dr. Kristin Kondrlik, Hybrid, 3 Tuesday Meetings, 7:15-10:00pm (Jan 20, March 17, April 28)

***Required for Publishing Certificate; elective for all tracks**

This course studies the history of the creation, production, distribution, circulation, and reception of the written word. As it traces how authorship, reading, publishing, and the physical properties of texts have altered over time, the course examines, both historically and analytically, the intellectual, social, and cultural impact of changing communications technologies against the backdrop of our current digital age. This historical perspective uniquely equips students with the skills and knowledge to navigate effectively the transformations affecting the publishing and related media industries.

ENG 508: Writing Seminar

Dr. Kristine Ervin, Wednesdays 4:25-7:10pm

***CRW seminar option; elective in WTC and LIT tracks**

Experience in nonfiction prose writing; discussion and development of major projects.

ENG 509: Writing Seminar in the Novel

Dr. Virginia Wood, Tuesdays 4:25-7:10 pm

***CRW seminar option; elective in WTC and LIT tracks**

A course in the writing and preparing of book-length manuscripts (novels, novellas, and 'nonfictional' novels) with the intention of submission for publication. Also includes coverage of fictional aspects and techniques used in writing memoirs, biography, and current history.

ENG 514: Theory and Practice of Visual Rhetoric

Dr. Kyle Vealey, Mondays 4:25-7:10pm

***Elective in all tracks**

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles and practices of visual rhetoric. Drawing from scholarship in a diverse range of fields such as visual studies, rhetoric and composition, technical communication, and comic studies, this course will consider the rhetorical impact of images as students investigate the ways visuals shape individual and collective thoughts, feelings, and actions. In our time together, students will traverse the field of visual rhetoric in three distinct but interrelated phases: (1) an introduction to the theory and practice of visual rhetoric, (2) a survey of diverse and timely topics in visual rhetoric, and (3) a hands-on approach to putting the fundamental principles of visual rhetoric into practice.

ENG 560: Locating Literature

Dr. Cherise Pollard, Thursdays 4:25-7:10pm

***Required for LIT track; either ENG 560 or ENG 550 required for WTC track; elective for CRW track**

Study of critical approaches to literary texts that focus on the historical construction of literary value, canonicity, and norms of reading, including the idea of national literature and cross-cultural approaches to literature (postcolonial, transnational, multiethnic).

ENG 615: Special Topics Seminar (Theme: Poetry? Novel? Why Not Both?: Reading Contemporary Novels in Verse)

Dr. Jason Vanfosson, Wednesdays 7:15-10:00pm

***Literature between 1900 and the present required for LIT track; elective in CRW and WTC tracks**

In this course we will read a range of novels in verse to explore how authors combine different forms to tell a complete story in verse. To guide our thinking, we will ask questions, such as what distinguishes a novel in verse from a novel written in prose? How does the form reflect or respond to larger cultural issues in the United States and the globe? Why do writers decide to tell stories in verse? How do authors, such as Renée Watson, already challenge the emergent concept of novels in verse? More specifically, this course will study novels in verse written by a diverse set of authors to consider how Black, Indigenous, writers of color, LGBTQIA+ writers, working class writers, disabled writers, and other marginalized groups use this hybrid form as an act of resistance, storytelling, and art. We will read novels in a variety of genres, which may include contemporary realism, romance, memoir, and historical fiction. No experience reading, writing, or analyzing poetry required!

ENG 616: Research Methods for Writing, Teaching and Criticism

Margaret Ervin, Mondays 7:15-10:00pm

***required for WTC track**

Research class in which students design independent research projects derived from their prior interests, expertise, and coursework in areas of writing, teaching, and criticism. Class includes instruction in research methodologies and collaborative critiquing and workshopping.