Fall 2015 – Genre and Form

TAL3314 Literature and Business
Cross Listed with: ENGL2206
Satisfies core requirement for: Literature
Conducted in English
Elective for Italian major and minor.
The course looks at businessmen as they are portrayed in short stories, plays, a novel, and films from the Middle Ages to the present. It takes as a premise the revolutionary nature of the businessman, and literature will serve as the microcosm to explore society's evolving ideas about business. Questions include the role of businessmen in urban development, the arts and philanthropy, business and meritocracy, reputation and the need for privacy/Secrecy, price vs. value, the ambivalent symbolism of currency, the commodification of the human body, the anxiety of poverty and of wealth, and inherited vs. earned money.

Laurie Shepard

ENGL2212 Introduction to Medical Humanities
This course will use literature as a springboard to consider the psychological, social, ethical and experiential dimensions of health and illness. In addition to exploring questions of physical and mental health, we will address topics including disability, aging, pregnancy, trauma, obesity, poverty, and care giving. Through the analysis of novels, poems, short stories and non-fiction, we will consider the way that bodily experiences, material conditions and cultural constructions of normalcy shape our understanding of identity in sickness and in health. A series of student presentations will also allow us to analyze representations of illness and medicine in film, television, and popular culture.

Amy Boesky

ENGL2237 Studies in Children's Literature: Disney and the Wondertale
Disney films have remained outside the critical landscape because they have been considered either beneath artistic attention or beyond reproach. The goal of this course will be to explore the issues presented in such Disney films as The Lion King, Aladdin, Prince of Egypt, and Pocahontas. To do this, we will read source material (The Arabian Nights, Hamlet, tales about Pocahontas, Bible stories about Moses, Exodus, etc.) and secondary studies.

Bonnie Rudner

ENGL2283 Comparative Drama
Fulfills the pre-1700 requirement
This comparative literature course is designed to explore plays from two richly productive periods of the drama in Western history. It takes up the Greeks, especially works by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, and examines the foundational theory of tragedy in the Poetics of Aristotle. It also attends to work by great playwrights of early modern England: Marlowe, Shakespeare, Jonson, and others. The course includes an orientation towards production and affords modest opportunities for experimenting with what may be learned in performance.

Dayton Haskin

ENGL3235 Second Voices: 21st Century American Immigrant Writing
This course will examine writing by 21st-century writers who have immigrated to the US, along with narratives about immigrant communities. We will think in layered ways about questions of diaspora, exile, choice, homeland,
and identity. We will probe what it means for many of these authors to be writing in their second language and consider the narrative strategies and formal choices that characterize these stories of crossings. Texts by Edwidge Danticat, Junot Díaz, Anne Fadiman, Eva Hoffman, Dinaw Mengestu, Gary Shteyngart, André Aciman. Edwidge Danticat will visit campus. Students will attend two of her events outside of class.

Elizabeth Graver

ENGL2288 God and the Imagination: Epitaphs for the Journey
An undergraduate course devoted to classic works dealing with questions of death, annihilation, tallies and losses, and the things that remain: love, faith, justice, hope, the endless questioning, & the endless quest. Readings will include passages from the Bible, especially Genesis, the Psalms and the Gospels, St. Augustine, Dante, Donne, Herbert, Hopkins, W.B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Isaac Rosenberg, Hardy, William Carlos Williams, Hart Crane, T.S. Eliot, William Kennedy, Flannery O'Connor, Wallace Stevens, Larkin, Berryman, Anthony Hecht, Robert Hayden, Lucille Clifton, Anne Sexton, Cormac McCarthy, Denise Levertov, Philip Levine, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Franz Wright. It will also include references to sacred and profane painting, iconography, Ekphrastic poetry, history, music and drama.

Paul Mariani

ENGL3351 British Romantic Poetry
Fulfills the pre-1900 requirement.
In this course we will read and discuss the poetry of Burns, Blake, Barbauld, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Hemans, Keats, Clare, and Landon. In addition to reading a few essays in literary criticism and theory by the poets themselves, we will consider a variety of critical perspectives, including formalism (the study of poetic and other literary devices and structures) and other approaches, such as feminism and the New Historicism, that bring out the cultural, social, and historical contexts of the poems.

Alan Richardson

ENGL3388 Autobiography
In this course, we will focus on the form, theory, and history of autobiography. In our effort to understand the conventions, varieties, and rhetorical features of autobiographical writing, we will pay particular attention to the boundaries this genre shares with both biography and first-person fiction. Readings will include autobiographies; personal essays; graphic memoirs; and some short autobiographical fiction. Writing assignments will include both academic and autobiographical essays.

Laurence Tobin

ENGL4478 Poe and the Gothic
Fulfills the pre-1900 requirement
Working with Poe as a central figure, this course examines the development of English and American Gothic fiction from The Castle of Otrantoto "The Yellow Wallpaper" and beyond. In addition to Poe, we will read work by some of the following writers: Horace Walpole, Matthew Lewis, Jane Austen, C. B. Brown, Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charlotte Gilman, H.P. Lovecraft, and Stephen King.

Paul Lewis

ENGL4495 Asian Cinema
Cross Listed with: FILM4495  
Satisfies core requirement for: Cultural Diversity

This class explores recent films from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, and India. Films will be approached through a variety of critical perspectives, including formalism, auteurism, and historicism. We will watch art films, commercial films, and films that fall between these two categories. We will ask how Asian film industries have been affected by globalization and how national cinemas are becoming increasing transnational.
Note: Required weekly film screening Wednesdays 7 – 9 PM

Christina Klein

ENGL4516 From Visual Text to Graphic Novel

This course will examine a range of works in which word and image converge. Selections will include: poetic texts—ancient to modern—that describe visual objects (Homer, Keats, Shelley, Stevens) or take the form of concrete poetry (Apollinaire, Cummings, Chopin); the Surrealist collage novel (Max Ernst, Aube Breton); graphic novel (Spiegelman, Ware, Herriman); and several contemporary artists creating visual narratives combining image and text (Simpson, Weems, Kruger, Walker). Course requirements will include midterm and final exams and several short essays.

Robin Lydenberg

UNCP5544 Capstone: Vision Quest: A Multicultural Approach  
Cross Listed with: ENGL4637  
Satisfies core requirement for: Cultural Diversity

You can take a Capstone class only as a senior or second-semester junior. Capstone classes may not be taken Pass/Fail. You may take only one Capstone class before graduation. This course will use the Vision Quest, a Native American ritual for finding oneself, as a metaphor for students’ four years at Boston College. Relating their own lives to the lives of the characters in the books, who have all gone on some variation of a quest, students will explore the ways their education and experiences at college have influenced their ideas of community, work, spirituality and relationships, and have prepared them to face the great mystery of life ahead. The main texts include The Grass Dancer, The Life of Pi, Their Eyes Were Watching God, The Bonesetter's Daughter, and The House on Mango Street. Films include Thunderheart and The Whale Rider.

Dorothy Miller

ENGL4671 Magazine Production and Publishing

This course will explore magazine publishing from both a critical standpoint and a practical one. We’ll conduct a comprehensive study of the medium and learn basic industry skills; these will include fundamentals of writing and editing, entry-level design concepts and principles of new media. ENGL4671 is taught in conjunction with Post Road Magazine (postroadmag.com), so special emphasis will be placed on literary journals. Students will work as interns at Post Road for the duration of the course, thereby gaining real-world publishing experience and putting their new skills to the test.

Christopher Boucher