ENGL2212 Introduction to Medical Humanities (Fall, Spring:3.0)

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.

Laura Tanner, Amy Boesky

ENGL4523 4th Genre: Contemporary American Creative Nonfiction (Fall:3.0)

The "fourth genre" refers to works of nonfiction that contain literary features more commonly associated with fiction, poetry, and drama. We will examine a few pioneers of the form, including Woolf and Thoreau, but our study will focus primarily on subgenres of contemporary American creative nonfiction, including immersion journalism, memoir, lyric essay, and travel writing. Readings will include work by Wolfe, Didion, Talese, McPhee, Dillard, Kincaid, Spiegelman, and Slater.

Lad Tobin

ENGL4527 ATS: Novels of the World (Fall:3.0)

What counts as a “novel of the world”? We will focus on contemporary novels by authors across the globe. We will explore ideas, narrative structures, and styles of writers such as Mahfouz (Egypt), Marquez (Columbia), Kundera (former Czechoslovakia), Pamuk (Turkey), Hosseini (Afghanistan), Tahar Ben Jelloun (Morocco), Cha (Korea), and Coetzee (South Africa). Through close reading, we will examine the aesthetics of each novel, comparing the books as we proceed. We will be attuned to their political, social, and historical dimensions. With sensitivity, we will address questions of cultural difference. Relevant post-colonial (Said) and psychoanalytic theory (Freud, Kristeva) will be included.

Frances Restuccia
UNCP5544 Capstone: Vision Quest: A Multicultural Approach (Fall:3.0)
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. Personal reflection papers and class participation are a main component of this course.

Dorothy Miller

UNCP5541 Capstone: Into the Woods (Fall:3.0)
Cross Listed with: ENGL4670
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.
All readers, young and old, share the wonder in fairy tales. This serves a deeper purpose: to experiment and learn our boundaries and responsibilities. There are dangers in woods, but Red Riding Hood learns a lot, frees herself, and embarks upon life. The symbolic journey into the woods allows seniors to leaves the "woods of BC" with optimism and commitment. How will you negotiate transitions into society with the wisdom from your journey here?

Bonnie Rudner

ENGL4671 Magazine Production and Publishing (Fall:3.0)
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