

Department of English | Summer 2024 Courses

Summer I (May 6 – June 26)

ENGL 1050: Foundations in Written Communication

Asynchronous | CRN 20745 and 21651 | 3 cr | Instructors: TBA

These asynchronous sections of our foundational writing course offer you practice and guidance in the strategies and behaviors that contribute to success in written communication and information literacy. Emphasis on the production, reception, and revision of writing for varied audiences, situations, and information needs. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 1 – Writing Category.**

ENGL 1100: Literary Interpretation

Asynchronous | CRN 21518 | 4 cr | Denise Miller

An introduction to the study of literature, aimed at developing abilities to read literature and write about it with skill, sensitivity, and care. Students will read poetry, drama, and prose fiction, and through the writing of several papers will be introduced to terms and methods of formal study of literature. Course required for entry into most upper-level English courses. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 2 – Artistic Theory and Practice Category.**

ENGL 2110: Folklore and Mythology

Asynchronous | CRN 22021 | 3 cr | Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler

Exploration of folklore and mythology from around the world and through the ages using poetry, fiction, film, and other materials. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 2: Exploration and Discovery – World Language and Culture Category.**

ENGL 3060: Rhetoric, Writing, and American Culture

Asynchronous | CRN 21244 | 3 cr | Dr. Brian Gogan

Have you ever wondered how a viral hoax video on Mashable works? Or, have you considered why some speeches to Congress seemed so effective and others seem so bad? Or, have you ever thought about why readers believe some stories over others? If so, the study of rhetoric might provide you with some answers.

English 3060: Rhetoric, Writing, and American Culture will introduce you to the study of rhetoric—that is, the study of the various signs and symbols that make human communication possible. In this course, we'll investigate rhetoric's relationship to communication by practicing different methods of rhetorical criticism. In the process, you'll better understand and appreciate human communication in a way that provides you with knowledge about your own communication practices. Required coursework includes short readings, artifact analyses, and one five-page paper. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 3 – Local and National Perspectives Category.**

ENGL 3820: Literature for the Young Child

Partially Synchronous | CRN 21653 | 4 cr | TR 12:00 – 1:40 pm | Instructor TBA

An exploration of human and literary values in the best of children's works for the very young through age nine. Emphasis is on critical sensitivity and techniques necessary for interpreting and evaluating works representative of the major forms of children's literature. Discussion will focus on how literature is first

learned through adult-child interaction and how interaction creates changes that are influenced by time period and culture as well as the personal dynamics inherent in the oral tradition. Visual reading through picture books will be examined as well as the evaluation of good picture book literature. Developmental issues related to a child's reading capability and narrative skills will be considered through an examination of transitional reader (chapter books) and novels. Poetry, both in its oral form and its written form, will be considered as will be mythology and folklore: its versions, variants, and adaptations (both in book and film form). **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 2 – Societies and Cultures Category.**

ENGL 4100: Adapting Shakespeare: Race, Gender, and Queerness

In Person | CRN 22137 | 4 cr | TR 2:00 – 5:20 pm | Dr. Adrienne Redding

In this course, students will navigate three Shakespeare plays, experiencing them as textual artifacts, live performances, film adaptations, and vehicles for creative interpretation. Attention will focus on the language, performance history, and social and historical context of the plays, as well as the critical theory they inspire, spotlighting engagement with issues of race, gender, and queerness. Adaptation in the form of live performance and film will feature centrally, as we experience how these works encourage audiences to wrestle with issues at the heart of crucial and often violently debated social struggles.

ENGL 5970: Introduction to Comics Studies

Partially Synchronous | CRN 21420 | 3 cr | W 4:00 – 6:20 pm | Dr. Gwen Tarbox

We are living through a “golden age” of comics production, in which works by comics creators such as Alison Bechdel (*Fun Home*) adorn museum walls, and the comics sections of mainstream bookstores and independent comics stores are filled with avid readers. The challenge for scholars of traditional prose-based literature involves gaining an understanding of the medium, learning the technical vocabulary for analyzing it (for instance, the terms comics, graphic novels, graphic narratives, manga, and sequential art co-exist uncomfortably in scholarly discourse), and developing a set of interpretative stances that take into account what scholar Thierry Groensteen has termed “The System of Comics.”

This semester, we will read a number of important long form comics and refer to literary theory and visual theory as part of our interpretative work. You will write short reflections and create a class project that dovetails with your interests.

ENGL 5970: New Play Project

In Person | CRN 22138 | 3 cr | TR 9:00 – 11:30 am | Dr. Steve Feffer

“Narrative energy can never be vanquished.” – Steve Dietz

Our current media landscape has provided writers of all genres opportunities to share their stories in a remarkable range of platforms, from short form online digital video and podcasts to network web series and live fully staged performances. This summer's New Play Project is a workshop in the creation, development, and presentation of the episodic serial, especially as it has evolved for new media. The purpose of the class is to examine how episodic stories are created, written, and produced in a variety of media that may include web series, social media, performance art, podcasts, and virtual environments, etc.; and how these narratives may move, evolve, or transform, as they cross over these platforms. This course provides an opportunity for workshop participants to develop their own dramatic writing for and across an array of media platforms. Special attention will be paid to developing our work with actors, directors and producers in these genres. Our work will conclude with the reading or presentation of your own episodic series in the platform or genre of your choice. For more information please email steve.feffer@wmich.edu.

Summer II (June 27 – August 16)

ENGL 1050: Foundations in Written Communication

Asynchronous | CRN: 31093 | Instructor: TBA

This asynchronous section of our foundational writing course offers you practice and guidance in the strategies and behaviors that contribute to success in written communication and information literacy. Emphasis on the production, reception, and revision of writing for varied audiences, situations, and information needs. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 1 – Writing.**

ENGL 1060: Writing, Research, and Inquiry

Asynchronous | CRN 31405 | Instructor: TBA

This asynchronous section of Writing, Research, and Inquiry will show you how writing is key to the knowledge-making that occurs in your major discipline. You can expect to complete three major writing projects for this course. One will analyze the places where certain knowledge-making arguments stop and stand still. Another will compare how knowledge-making arguments shift alongside changes to situations and audiences. A third will ask you to conduct an empirical research project of your own and write for publication in an undergraduate research journal. Together, these unique projects are meant to introduce you to writing in your major discipline. The class e-textbook has been written especially for College of Arts and Sciences students at WMU. **This course satisfies the WMU College of Arts and Sciences Essentials requirement.**

ENGL 2660: Writing Fiction and Poetry

Asynchronous | CRN 31323 | 4 cr | Dr. Alen Hamza

This new, asynchronous section of our introductory creative writing course gives you the opportunity to explore the genres of fiction and poetry through reading published authors and producing your own work. You will learn about, and experiment with, the foundational elements of craft in writing exercises and discuss how published writers apply them. You will also be introduced to the creative writing workshop, in which you'll exchange constructive criticism of your fiction and poetry. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 2: Exploration and Discovery – Artistic Theory and Practice Category.**

ENGL 3080: Quest for Self

Asynchronous | CRN 31406 | 3 cr | Instructor TBA

This class explores literature as a vehicle for self-reflection and philosophical inquiry, with special attention paid to the concepts of agency, identity, and memory (both personal and historical). The reading list showcases a variety of literary forms and techniques and a variety of perspectives on the development of the self. Through close examination of these texts, students will be challenged to interrogate and articulate their own beliefs, in the process becoming confident narrators of their own stories. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 2: Exploration and Discovery – Personal Wellness.**

ENGL 3160: Storytellers

Asynchronous | CRN 31301 | 3 cr | Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler

Storytelling is both universal and specific to each society. The course examines storytellers in non-Western societies: how they work in traditional and written genres; how they transform inherited myths and tales into new narratives; and how they serve society by confronting pain and suffering and contextualizing them in art

through the power of words. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 2 – World Language and Culture Category.**

ENGL 4160: Women in Literature

Asynchronous | CRN 31407 | 4 cr | Dr. Christopher Nagle

This asynchronous course focuses on women protagonists and writers through an international perspective that explores how gender intersects with race, class, sexuality, history, and culture. **This course satisfies WMU Essential Studies Level 3 – Global Perspectives Category.**