

**Topics in the 200-level English Courses
Fall 2021**

ENGL 201—British Lit. I

Dr. Elizabeth Rambo – *Loves and Hates*

Selected British literature from 500 AD through the 18th century exploring the “Four Loves” as described by C.S. Lewis: friendship, affection, *eros* (both romantic love and sexual attraction), and charity (*agape*)—and their opposite hatreds—that have been celebrated in various ways since the earliest recorded literature. Some questions to be considered: Where do our ideas about love and hate come from? How do our loves (or hates) motivate us to act or reject action? Is love different in different cultures and/or historical periods? What can we learn today from these earlier writings about loves and hates?

ENGL 202—British Lit. II

Dr. Stephanie Womick –*The Nature of the Supernatural*

This course examines selections of British literature from the late 18th century through the present through the lens of the strange and supernatural. From Gothic romances to Victorian mysteries, from science fiction to ghost stories, writers have explored human nature by looking at the supernatural. Questions for this course will include: Why are horror and mystery enduringly popular in literature? How do the external monsters and ghosts in a piece of literature reflect or comment on the inner demons of an individual or a society? How does the transformation of the terrifying from one generation to the next reflect shifting cultural concerns?

ENGL 203—American Lit. I

Dr. Sherry Truffin - *American Dream/American Nightmare*

This class will examine American literature from the early 1600s to the mid-1800s as it oscillates between optimistic and pessimistic conceptions of human nature, religious mission, and the American experiment.

ENGL 204—American Lit. II

Dr. Gina Peterman – *Growing Up in the South*

Southern writers grapple with the historical, political, racial, and gender issues that make this region of our country complex, puzzling, and complicated. During this semester we’re going to explore the South through the perspective of the child and young adult. What’s it like growing up in the South, especially at various times in the South’s social history? What are the influences of this region on its young generations? What values, assumptions, and attitudes does one generation pass down to the next, intentionally or not?

ENGL 205-MC01—World Lit. I

Ms. Patricia Fix – *The Journey*

This course will focus on literature up to 1600 that describes mankind's journeys in the search for fulfillment - mental, physical, and spiritual. We will explore poetry, dramas, and personal accounts that reveal these searches and their results.

ENGL 206—World Lit. II

Ms. Kimberly Ward – *Literature of Migration*

People are and have long been on the move. This section of World Literature II focuses on Migration Literature in terms of four aspects: departures, arrivals, generations, and returns. Our “traveling” companions will be Franz Kafka, Albert Camus, Pablo Neruda, Bessie Head, Edwidge Danticat, Gish Jen, Etgar Keret, and Cristina Henríquez.

ENGL 208—Health & Literature

Dr. Eric Dunnum – *Trauma and Trauma Narratives*

This course will explore the intersections of traumatic events, traumatized individuals, and imaginative literature. To do so we will be utilizing trauma theory, a critical lens that has been developed in the last 30 years that traces the patterns, tropes, and narrative devices that tend to be deployed within works of literature that represent trauma. Trauma theory is particularly interested in highlighting the way in which fictional texts tend to mirror the experience of traumatized individuals and groups.

ENGL 219—Special Topics

Dr. Kenneth Morefield – *Jane Austen*

Perhaps no other author in modern literary history has enjoyed such lasting popularity as Jane Austen. Yet Austen is frequently dismissed or marginalized, even in academia. Does Jane Austen deserve to be counted as one of history's greatest novelists? In this class, we will read closely three of Austen's most popular novels: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Emma*. We will focus on identifying meaningful variations in plot, theme, and technique to challenge the claim that Austen's fiction is "all the same." We will also ask whether the conflicts and problems her heroines face are relevant to today's readers.