

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

**ENGL 201—British Lit. I**

**Dr. Stephanie Womick – *Evolution of the British Hero***

This course will explore the evolving identity of the British hero, from Beowulf to King Arthur to Swift's Gulliver and how these heroes reflect changing national and cultural values. We will also look at how the literary process of myth-making influences the formation and legacy of these heroes.

**ENGL 202—British Lit. II**

**Mr. Nathan Salisbury – *Romantics & Victorians: Their Influences into the Twentieth Century***

This class traces English literature from the Great French War period through World War II. Starting with the "big six" English romantic poets, we will explore humanity, divine right, monarchy, and epistemology in the context of England's history through works from the late 18th to mid-20th centuries.

**ENGL 203—American Lit. I**

**Dr. Kenneth Morefield – *America, a Christian Nation?***

We will be focusing on questions nearly 300 years old – is America a Christian nation? Should it be? Has it always been? As we focus on literature written and produced in America between 1600-1850, we will look at the role Christian faith had in motivating settlers of what is now America. We will also examine how Christian assumptions about art and literature influenced both the types of stories we tell and the ways we tell them.

**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. Alan Davy – *Tradition vs. Modernism***

We will start with Hemingway's comment that "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*." We will discuss what "modern" means, and we'll look at the struggle between Huck's inherited values and the new "modern" values he developed through his experiences. Then we'll look at how modern thinking emerged and developed, sometimes even in works by authors who are not considered "Modernist." Our discussion will also consider the ways that non- or anti-traditional thinking influenced form as well as content.

**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—World Lit. I**

**Mr. Todd Truffin – *Heroic Epic, Focused Lyric***

While epics invite us to explore the worlds of the gods and the world outside our own communities, lyric poetry—as Frederick Buechner says—helps us see the "ineffable ordinariness and particularity" of everyday things. Our study of heroic epics will examine the "myth of redemptive violence," while our examination of lyric will put to the test Buechner's idea of framing a moment. Both projects will help us see our neighbors and think about what it means to love them as ourselves.

**ENGL 206-MC01—World Lit. II**

**Ms. Patricia Fix – *Literature in Revolution***

This course will examine the literature written during times of major conflict in various parts of the world. This, in turn, will provide a glimpse into how societies were affected by not only war, but by what was written during times of war.

**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. Donna Waldron – *The Oxford Christians***

This class will focus on the literature of Tolkien, Lewis, and Sayers in context of their times, including influences that inspired them, as well as the on-going legacy of their works in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will learn to think more deeply about beloved titles such as *The Lord of the Rings* or *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and be exposed to works previously unexplored, including essays, plays, and poetry by these authors.