

2021 Spring- English Language and Literature MA Course Descriptions

ENGY 5594 Literary Genres II

Dr. Francesca Cauchi

This course will focus exclusively on the literary genre of poetry. More specifically, students will be introduced to the principal forms and genres of poetry, including epic, narrative, lyric, pastoral, elegy, lament, sonnet, satire, ode, soliloquy, and dramatic monologue. Spanning just over a millennium, the course will begin with the bleak Anglo-Saxon elegy *The Wanderer* and via Chaucer's uproariously satirical *Canterbury Tales*, the sonnets and soliloquies of the Renaissance, the Miltonic epic, and the lyrics and odes of the Romantics, will close with what is perhaps the bleakest of laments ever written, Eliot's 'The Dry Salvages'.

ENGY 5590 Fictions for the Future of the EU: Confronting Fears and Building Values in the European Union by way of Literature and Art

Dr. Ahmet Süner

This course, which is supported by the European Union as a Jean Monnet module, intends to show students how literary and artistic fictions in general and fictions of fear in particular might be thought of as significant sources of shared value for the EU. As students interpret some important literary and cinematic examples of fictions of fear during class discussions, they will be invited to engage with questions of value, especially with a view to some of the most important issues that EU has been facing and is likely to face in the future regarding democracy, equality, immigration and the environment. They will also familiarize themselves with the discourse of values as invoked in EU documents such as Lisbon Treaty and the EU Charter of Human Rights. **The students will obtain a "Jean Monnet certificate" upon successful completion of the course.**

These are some of the questions that we will investigate throughout the course:

How can we understand the role of literary and artistic fictions of fear in the project of building shared values in EU? How can we contribute to processes that concern "the becoming of the Union" by way of engaging with literature and art? How can literary and artistic fictions in general and fictions of fear in particular make us wonder about and reflect upon the future of EU, as well as motivate us to work towards finding solutions to its problems?

The fictions selected for class discussion, especially in the first half of the course, are mainly renowned examples from literary history, including works by Shakespeare, Voltaire and Mary Shelley. Among these fictions, we will look at *Frankenstein* as a quintessential

European fiction, where the main question consists in the necessity of, and failure in, building European values. The course will be supplemented by three informative lectures by specialists on European issues (democracy-equality by Aylin Güney; immigration by Ayselin Yıldız and environment by Defne Günay). In the second half of the course, we will have further discussions on acclaimed dystopias such as *1984*, *V for Vendetta* and *Never Let me Go*, where our particular focus will be the different ways these fictions invoke the value of human dignity and the idea of resistance against injustice. Students will carry out individual projects, make individual presentations and prepare final reports on several fictions of their choice.

ENGY 5578 Cultural Studies II

Dr. Jason Ward

The Cultural Studies II course offers an in-depth analysis of Intermediality through film studies, adaptation theories and the rhetoric of graphic novels as represented by theorists such as Andrew, Barthes, Balaz, Bluestone, Cartmell, Eisenstein, Gould-Boyum, Metz, Munsterberg, Stam, and McCloud. The aim is to ensure that students can engage with challenging readings, deploy critical theories, and discuss literature, film, adaptations and comic books using an informed approach and vocabulary inspired by, but not limited to, the Cultural Studies texts covered in the course.

ENGY 5558 Comparative Literature II

Dr. Evren Akaltun

Inspired from current debates on posthumanism and ecocriticism, this course focuses on the notion of human from a critical perspective and aims to question the boundaries between human and non-human, human and animal, human and machine in the selected works. The students will be informed about the movements and discourses, such as humanism, anthropocentrism, new materialism and posthumanism, while at the same time study novellas, short stories and science fiction from different geographies in order to trace these arguments in fiction. The required work to complete this course is one presentation, response papers, a midterm exam and a final paper.