Eastern Illinois University
New Course Proposal
ENG 3809, Contemporary British and Anglophone Literatures

Please check one:  ☑ New course  ☐ Revised course

PART I: CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Course prefix and number, such as ART 1000: ENG 3809
2. Title (may not exceed 30 characters, including spaces): CONTEMP LITS
3. Long title, if any (may not exceed 100 characters, including spaces): Contemporary British and Anglophone Literatures
4. Class hours per week, lab hours per week, and credit [e.g., (3-0-3)]: 3-0-3
5. Term(s) to be offered: ☑ Fall  ☑ Spring  ☐ Summer  ☐ On demand
6. Initial term of offering: ☑ Fall  ☑ Spring  ☐ Summer  Year: 2008
7. Course description (not to exceed four lines): Studies in fiction, poetry, and drama published since 1950 in one or more of the following countries: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Writers may include Martin Amis, Margaret Atwood, Eavan Boland, Angela Carter, Caryl Churchill, Seamus Heaney, Phillip Larkin, Iris Murdoch, Zadie Smith, Tom Stoppard, and Patrick White
8. Registration restrictions:
   a. Identify any equivalent courses (e.g., cross-listed course, non-honors version of an honors course). N/A
   b. Prerequisite(s), including required test scores, courses, grades in courses, and technical skills. Indicate whether any prerequisite course(s) MAY be taken concurrently with the proposed/revised course. ENG 1001G, 1002G
   c. Who can waive the prerequisite(s)?
      ☑ No one  ☑ Chair  ☐ Instructor  ☐ Advisor  ☐ Other (Please specify)
   d. Co-requisites (course(s) which MUST be taken concurrently with this one): N/A
   e. Repeat status:  ☑ Course may not be repeated.
      ☐ Course may be repeated to a maximum of hours or times.
   f. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class to which registration in the course is restricted, if any: N/A
   g. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class to be excluded from the course, if any: N/A
9. Special course attributes [cultural diversity, general education (indicate component), honors, remedial, writing centered or writing intensive] Writing Intensive
10. Grading methods (check all that apply): ☑ Standard letter  ☐ C/NC  ☐ Audit  ☐ ABC/NC (“Standard letter”—i.e., ABCDF--is assumed to be the default grading method unless the course description indicates otherwise.)
11. Instructional delivery method: ☑ lecture  ☐ lab  ☐ lecture/lab combined  ☐ independent study/research
Part II: Assurance of Student Learning

1. The objectives for undergraduate students will be to:
   - understand various genres of literature written in English since 1950 in one or more of the following countries: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.
   - identify the central literary innovations and tendencies of this period
   - explain the social, historical, and cultural context of the period, through readings and discussions of a number of selected literary works.

2. & 3. Sample Assignments/Activities and Determination of Grades:
   - Participation and in-class writings and presentations: 30%
   - One short paper (5-6 pages long): 15%
   - One research paper (8-10 pages long): 25%
   - Midterm exam: 10%
   - Final Exam: 20%

4. N/A
5. N/A
6. This course is writing intensive. Several writing assignments and writing activities are required. Students’ writing will constitute no less than 35% of the final course grade.

Part III: Outline of the Course

Class will meet for fifteen weeks, with either three 50-minute class sessions per week (MWF) or two 75-minute class sessions (TR) or one 150-minute session in the evening (3-0-3).

Sample Syllabus

Weeks 1-2: Angry Decades
Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming* (1964)
Poetry by Phillip Larkin and Thom Gunn

Week 3: End of Empire
Lawrence Durrell, *Mountolive* (1958)

Weeks 4-5: New World of Women’s Writing
Short Fiction by Muriel Sparks, Fay Weldon

Week 6: Rethinking the Past

Weeks 7-8: Magical Realism and Insular Postmodernism
Short Fiction: Ian McEwan, Angela Carter, Martin Amis, Rose Tremain, Salman Rushdie, and Julian Barnes

Weeks 9-10: Irish Poetry
Selected works by: Eavan Boland, Nula Ni Dhomhnaill, Medbh McGuckian, Seamus Heaney, and Paul Muldoon

Weeks 11-13: Irish Fiction
John Banville, *The Book of Evidence*
Edna O’Brien, *Down by the River*
Roddy Doyle, *The Woman Who Walked into Doors*

Week 14: Irish Drama
Brian Friel, *Translations*
Frank McGuinness, *Someone to Watch Over Me*

Week 15: Immigrants and “Black Brits”
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Part IV: Purpose and Need

1. **Department Rationale for Course.** The current course in Twentieth-Century British Literature, English 3808, covers the period from 1900 to the present. While this was a manageable period fifty years ago, when the course was developed, a broadening of the canon and new approaches to the field have substantially expanded the number of writers that should be introduced in order to prepare students to understand the field as it is now defined.

   Those who teach English 3808 find inevitably that they emphasize one half or the other of the century, making its inclusive title misleading and depriving students of an in-depth exposure to the period as a whole. Redefining 3808 as “modern”—as distinct from “contemporary”—British literature will put a clear emphasis on the first half of the century. This revision of English 3808 necessitates the introduction of a new course that will allow for study of the literatures of English-speaking countries from 1950 until the present day. In keeping with the increasingly global character of literature, the proposed course allows for inclusion of post World War II literature from not only the United Kingdom and Ireland, but also from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

2. **Course Level and Prerequisites.** English 3809 is a 3000-level course, as is consistent with previous practice in the English Department regarding literary period courses. English 1001G and English 1002G are appropriate prerequisites.

3. **Similarity to Existing Courses.** Courses with a global emphasis currently taught in the English Department include English 2850 and English 4850, but these courses are very different from 3809. They focus on issues of postcolonialism and the Third World, and they often include literatures translated into English.

4. **Impact on Program.** As noted above, this course is made necessary by the redefinition of English 3808, which will no longer cover the second half of the century. The addition of English
3809 will not cause a change in the English major or minors, nor will it impact other university programs.

**Part V. Implementation**

1. This course will be initially assigned to a member of the staff who teaches contemporary British and Anglophone literatures: Bredesen, Hoberman, Worthington, Zahlan.
2. There are no additional costs to students.
3. Sample texts and supplementary materials to be used (for sample syllabus as outlined above)
   - Thom Gunn, Selected poems (Library reserve)
   - Philip Larkin, Selected poems (Library reserve)
   - Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming* (1964)
   - Selected poems by: Eavan Boland, Nula Ni Dhomhnaill, Medbh McGuckian, Seamus Heaney, and Paul Muldoon (Library reserve)

**Part VI: Community College Transfer:** A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

**Part VII: Approvals**

Date approved by the department or school: **September 27, 2006**

Date approved by the Arts & Humanities Curriculum Committee: **November 8, 2006**

Date approved by CAA: **November 30, 2006**