

SUMMER 2026

English Course Descriptions

(except for ENG 1000, 1001, 1002, 1091, 1092)

4-week session: May 18 to June 13, 2026

ENG 5010-600 CRN 60210

Studies in 20th and 21st Century American Literature and Culture

Online

Instructor: Ames

Time is one of the most fundamental parameters through which narratives are organized and understood. Because this age is one of unprecedented flourishing for alternative ways of understanding and inhabiting time, it is not surprising that the cultural narratives of the last half-century have been obsessed with time itself. Non-linearity, or temporal distortion, is one of the most common features of modern, postmodern, and contemporary fiction. This course focuses on the temporal play found within various contemporary works, reading this stylistic device as a way of dealing aesthetically with an altered culture of time. Beyond sampling a range of fiction (canonical, mainstream bestsellers, graphic novels, and some experimental digital texts), the course study will also include media analysis (television and film) and scholarly research (delving into theories of temporality and narrative study more broadly). The class will consider how certain technological inventions, media influences, and national tragedies may have contributed to these new conceptions of temporality. Due to the compressed nature of this accelerated course, choice will be built into the syllabi both in terms of textual study and the final applied project, which can be directed to students' own disciplinary, professional, or personal interests. In addition, course materials, texts, and the course management system will be made available early for students interested in stretching out their own "time" in this course.

8-week session: June 1 to July 25, 2026

ENG 3405-600 CRN 60204

Children's Literature

Online

Instructor: Nance-Carroll

A study of the rich variety of texts written for or primarily read by children, including picture books, chapter books, fairy tales, graphic novels, and more! The texts are explored through historical, cultural, pedagogical, critical, and theoretical perspectives.

6-week session: June 15 to July 25, 2026

ENG 2504G-600 CRN 60203

Film and Literature

Online

Instructor: Martinez

English 2504G, Film and Literature, is "An introduction to practical and theoretical relations between film and literature." In this course, we will study a variety of film and literary approaches to and appropriations of real-life social and political incidents that had a profound impact on the body politic. We will encounter historical moments, novels, poetry, and films from around the world (specifically, for this course, in the U.S., Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, and Britain) in order to study how different practitioners of literature and film work to explore and make sense of human experience during times of personal or national difficulty.

ENG 4763-600 CRN 60205

Advanced Fiction Writing

Online

Instructor: McClelland

With online journals flourishing and print journals experience something of a renaissance, short fiction is in demand. Short fiction is a vast and surprisingly varied genre, and in this course we will investigate and practice a number of different executions, from flash fiction to short stories to novelettes to novellas. Special attention will be paid to linked collections of short stories, which are currently having a moment in the Sun. We will unearth underrated classics of the genre and probe the work of modern experts and explore venues for and methods of publication, though our focus will be on the practice of writing, workshopping, and revising short fiction. Specific emphasis will be placed on the development of the student's personal voice and style. As this is a summer course (and online) special attention will be paid to asynchronous workshop practices and we will also discuss and practice a variety of methods for giving and receiving feedback on short fiction. Specific emphasis will be placed on the development of the student's personal voice and style in their own fiction writing. This course will be online and asynchronous, which will allow students to tailor their experience to their specific creative goals, which they will do in collaboration with the instructor. This course may be repeated once (that is, it may be taken twice for credit).

ENG 4850-600 CRN 60206

Postcolonial and World Literature

Online

Instructor: Caldwell

Postcolonial Legacies and Cultural Memory in Contemporary Literature of the Middle East

Forms of racism instituted and active at the level of perception tend to produce iconic versions of populations who are eminently grievable, and others whose loss is no loss, and who remain ungrivable. The differential distribution of grievability across populations has implications for why and when we feel politically consequential affective dispositions such as horror, guilt, righteous sadism, loss, and indifference...

Judith Butler, *Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable?*

Using the literature of two prominent, on-going areas of violence and conflict in the Middle East—the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and conflicts in Iraq in the late 20th and early 21st century—we will explore the enduring effects of colonialism, which has led to the perpetuation of destabilization and power imbalances in these regions on the one hand, and great artistic innovation and output by writers on the other. Conflicts in both regions have received considerable attention by the U.S. media, opening up important questions about perception and how the representation of these conflicts has informed what Judith Butler terms the “differential distribution of grievability”—that is to say, the way in which we are often led to value different lives differently. In this 6-week class, we will read selected 20th-21st-century works written primarily by authors from these regions and in the diaspora to understand postcolonial legacies surrounding borders and homeland, migration and identity, nation building and violence, trauma and memory, and loss and reclamation. In addition to primary source readings, graduate students will be required to engage with postcolonial theory.

ENG 4906-600 CRN 60207

Issues in the Teaching of English

Online

Instructor: Binns

Teaching Argument Writing

English Language Arts State Standards as well as K-12 and college writing instruction (including dual credit classes) have increasingly emphasized teaching argument writing. This course will focus primarily on ways argument can be incorporated in English curricula and college courses as a means of teaching students to become stronger readers, writers, and critical thinkers related to diverse possibilities for teaching argument, including multimodal texts. Course participants will develop a range of instructional strategies and potential assignments for teaching argument writing.

ENG 5000-600 CRN 60208

Introduction to Methods and Issues in English Studies

Online

Instructor: Worthington

A required course for all MA students, this course provides a foundation for the MA in English, serving as an introduction to methods and issues of advanced-level research and scholarship in English Studies. In addition to short readings that profile the changing nature of English studies in the 21st century, we will use Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) as our core text, using it to identify and evaluate scholarly resources and using it as the basis for our discussions about how the many fields in English studies cohere and connect. Students will also gain practical experience in developing a professional research, creative, or applied project, while they study and practice some of the primary means of communication in the discipline of English Studies, such as conference proposals, statements of purpose and curriculum vita.

ENG 5005-600 CRN 60209

Special Topics in Literature and Language

Online

Instructor: Beebe

Searching for Jane Austen

In this 6-week seminar, we will use Emily Auerbach's *Searching for Jane Austen* as both course title and frame for our study of one of the most influential and popular writers in literary history. Auerbach (and other scholars we'll be reading) challenge the sanitized, romanticized image of Austen ("gentle Aunt Jane") by uncovering the sharp-edged social critique, irony, and subversive elements in her works. Too often, some of Austen's more radical themes have been softened by popular adaptations and selective critical interpretations. In this short course, we will look to historicize Austen's novels while also reviewing her enduring legacy.

Due to the compressed time frame of the course, we will dedicate the first three weeks to studying film adaptations of Austen's novels while also reviewing her biography. This approach will help us become familiar with the breadth of her canon and situate her work within its Regency contexts. During the second part of the course (3 weeks), we will focus exclusively on *Persuasion*, Austen's final novel. We will read the full novel together and view at least two film adaptations. The goal here is to study her narrative technique and gain awareness of her nuanced social commentary. Overall, this course will give students a strong grounding in both the academic and popular conversations about Austen's continued relevance.

ENG 5011-600 CRN 60211
Studies in Composition and Rhetoric
Online
Instructor: Taylor

Teaching Writing at the Two-Year College

This course is for people who aspire to teach at a two-year college or for teachers who work with students who will go to two-year colleges. Approximately half of undergraduate students in the U.S. who take first-year composition courses take them at community colleges. So the purpose of this course is to explore the profession and practices of teaching writing in the two-year college setting whether as an adjunct instructor or as a tenure-track instructor. The course will entail exploring the position of community colleges as “democracy’s college” and the benefits, challenges, and conditions of teaching at an open-access institution. Topics discussed in this graduate seminar will include developmental education, writing pedagogy, the nature of diverse student populations, and the profession and labor conditions of being a two-year college instructor. This six-week seminar (asynchronous online) will entail daily discussion board posts based on readings and writing projects focused on research and pedagogy.

ENG 5020-600 CRN 60212
Graduate Workshop
Online
Instructor: Abel

Creative Prose

This advanced graduate workshop will focus on the creation and revision of creative prose, whether fiction, nonfiction, or hybrid. Our course is themed around the idea of energy: How does a prose writer create energy to hook the reader and make them want to keep reading? How can we create or represent worlds that are alive and immersive to our readers? Whether you write short stories, novellas, novels, essays, or memoirs, you want your prose to sparkle with dynamic energy and movement, not get stuck in stasis or infodumps. This course will teach you to think more consciously about how to control your pieces' energy and is great for writers who wish to write short pieces or plan and begin longer works.

ENG 5061D-600

CRN 60213

Special Topics in Literature and Literary Theory

Online

Instructor: Beebe

Ghostwriting

This 6-week graduate seminar explores texts that seem, in one way or another, haunted. While “ghostwriting” conventionally refers to a text written by someone other than the named author, in this course we will broaden the term to include narratives that remain unresolved, unsettled, unreliable, or structurally ambiguous (by missing information, competing perspectives, buried histories, or interpretive gaps that resist closure). Rather than treating ambiguity as a flaw to be solved, we will approach it as a productive feature of narrative and seek to study (with some precision) the narrative structure of these texts. What gives certain stories their peculiar pull, the sense that something isn’t quite settled or explained?

Given the time frame of this course, we will work primarily with shorter narratives from a range of genres and periods (YA, historical, and contemporary) along with some films. Possible texts include James’s *The Turn of the Screw*, Cormier’s *I Am the Cheese*, and Saunders’s *Vigil*. Students will complete short response papers and a final showcase project in a format of their choosing (critical, creative, or multimodal) and will also be encouraged to work with texts/films not on the reading list.

ENG 5585-600

CRN 60085

Writing Project for K-16 Teachers

Online

Instructor: Fredrick

Based on National Writing Project principles, this workshop focuses on the theory and practice of teaching writing across the disciplines in K-16 schools and provides K-16 teachers across the curriculum with opportunities to experience and apply researched composition pedagogies for use in their own classrooms and in a wider professional community. A separate application is required to enroll in this class.

ENG 5742-600

CRN 60214

Studies in Genre for Writers and Teachers

Online

Instructor: Wixson

This course will explore why contemporary literary writers so frequently borrow from and splice together genres such as the fairy tale, migration narrative, bildungsroman, Afrofuturism, eco-fiction, horror, magical realism, and speculative fiction. Through close reading of a handful of quirky and challenging hybrid novels, we will trace how they mash up recognizable tropes to tackle questions of identity, authority, community, and justice and interrogate configurations of racial, gender, class, national, and sexual difference. The reading list will include recent fiction by Tananarive Due, Akwaeke Emezi, Mohsin Hamid, Cassandra Khaw, Victor LaValle, Karen Russell, Rivers Solomon, and Jeanette Winterson. Expect contact with mermaids, werewolves, aliens, and the supernatural.

ENG 5800-600

CRN 60215

Methods of Teaching English Language Arts at the Middle & Secondary Levels

Online

Instructor: Ames

This course centers on connecting pedagogical theory and its practical applications for integrating the English language arts, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and media analysis. Future teachers will have the opportunity to learn how to integrate a variety of methods grounded in theories in the teaching of English language arts, as well as strategies for teaching non-traditional texts from popular culture. Adapting written and oral communication to audience and situation; recognizing components of effective oral and written communication; and integrating technology and media into the language arts classroom will be key elements of this course. **Note:** this course is only available to graduate students enrolled in the College of Education's Accelerated Master of Arts in Teaching Program.

