

Course number	Course Title	Faculty	day/time	Room
Engl.GA-1085.001 x-listed with Irish Studies	Topics in Irish Lit: Philosophical Comedy in Irish Writing	Waters, John	Monday 6:10-8:40pm	Ireland House
Engl.GA.2075.001	MA Thesis Colloquium	McLane, Maureen	Wednesday 2:45-4:45pm	105
Engl.GA.2270.001 x-listed Italian Studies	Dante and his World	Ardizzone, Maria	Monday 3:30-6:10pm	TBA
Engl.GA.2323.001	Oscar Wilde and the Milieu of Aestheticism	Guillory, John	Tuesday 4:30-7:15pm	306
Engl.GA.2626.001	Romanticism: Race and the Life Sciences	Hanson, Lenora	Wednesday 6:15-9:00pm	306
Engl.GA.2838.001	American Environmental Literature	Baker, Jennifer	Thursday 2:00pm-4:45pm	306
Engl.GA.2839.001	Zora Neale Hurston: on the Page, in the Field, and on the Stage	Posmentier, Sonya	Tuesday 9:30am-12:15pm	105
Engl.GA.2901.001	Postcolonial/Cold War	Watson, Jini	Wednesday at 9:30-12:15pm	105
Engl.GA.2917.001	Imperial Fiction	Vargo, Greg	Thursday 9:30-12:15pm	306

Engl.GA.2944.001	Social Life of Paper	Gitelman, Lisa	Thursday 3:30-6:15pm	105
Engl.GA.3323.001	The Culture of the Renaissance: A Re-translation	Fleming, Juliet	Wednesday 2:00-4:45pm	KIMM 808
Engl.GA.3629.001	Freudian Scenes	Jarcho, Julia	Tuesday 1:30-4:15pm	105
Engl.GA.3810.001	Ezra Pound	Nicholls, Peter and Richard Sieburth	Wednesdays 2:00-4:45pm	306
Engl.GA.3900.001	Postcolonialism and the Question of Nation	Sunder Rajan, Raji	Monday 6:20-9:00pm	306

Engl.GA-1085.001

x-listed with Irish Studies

Topics in Irish Lit: Philosophical Comedy in Irish Writing

Professor John Waters

Monday 6:10-8:40pm

This course will explore the persistence of an Irish mode of writing that questions basic philosophical premises and formal categories in Western epistemology and metaphysics. We will question what social, cultural, linguistic, and institutional factors can account for the forms of radical skepticism, conceptual parody, formal experimentation, and delightful perversion that mark Irish philosophical and fictional writing from the early 19th century to the present. We begin with Swift's corrosive, free-wheeling assaults on free-thinking and convention (in *A Tale of a Tub* and *Gulliver's Travels*), Bishop Berkeley's weird but conceptually effective assaults on perception, materialism, and rational discourse (in *An Essay Towards a New Theory of Vision*, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonus*, *The Querist*, and *Siris*, his book-length essay on tar water), and Maria Edgeworth's ambiguous accounts of Irish modernity (in *Castle Rackrent* and *An Essay on Irish Bulls*). After briefly surveying some 19th century playfulness by disgruntled writers and disturbed Irish poets and physicists, we will read works by Joyce, Beckett, Flann O'Brien, Paul Muldoon and Paul Murray that both drive and question central issues in philosophy, literary criticism, and critical theory.

Engl.GA.2075.001

MA THESIS COLLOQUIUM

Professor McLane

Wednesday 2:45-4:45pm

This course supports MA students in the research, writing, and oral presentation of their culminating project, the MA Thesis. We will meet approximately every other week all semester; assignments and

readings and deadlines are designed to foster research and writing trajectories but also feedback loops among students and the instructor. Course will culminate in a public MA Thesis Conference Presentation.

Engl.GA.2270.001

Dante and his World

Professor Maria Luisa Ardizzone

Mondays, 3:30 – 6:10 p.m.

This course proposes a reading of Dante's work from Vita nuova to the Commedia, considered in light of the theological, rhetorical, and philosophical learning of Dante's time. Dante's Commedia will be considered in the context of his minor works. The objective of the course is to familiarize students with one of the most significant authors of Western culture. Through Dante's texts, students will gain a perspective on the Biblical, Christian, and Classical traditions as well as on the historical, literary, philosophical context of medieval Europe.

Attention is directed to literature, art, and music, in addition to political, religious, and social developments of the time. The course emphasizes the continuity of the Western tradition and its intellectual history, especially the classical background of medieval culture and its transmission to the modern world.

Readings include selections from Dante's works as The New Life, The Banquet, The Divine Comedy, and The Monarchy, along with texts by St. Augustine, Severinus Boethius, Thomas Aquinas, and Boccaccio. Works of vernacular poets of 13th century and artists from Romanesque to Gothic will be considered. Texts to be read will be available as photocopies.

Engl.GA.2626.001

Romanticism, Race and the Life Sciences

Professor Lenora Hanson

Wednesday 6:15-9pm

This course will situate Romanticism (and the long nineteenth century more generally) through recent critical reevaluations of Romantic science, of the biopolitical and of the co-emergence of the terms race and biological life.

Critics of the biopolitical turn have increasingly put pressure on Foucault and Agamben's treatment of the concept of life as an abstract and disembodied one. Instead, they argue that there is no modern concept of life that can be adequately defined outside of systems of racialization that classified and organized living things. But what do these problems look like from within the Romantic period, the period that Foucault first associated with the emergence of biopower?

We will answer this question through literature, aesthetic treatises and early life science writing of the long nineteenth century. We will engage with critical methods that allow us to deftly treat the co-emergence of biological life and race, terms which remained unstable and unsettled during the Romantic period. And we will reevaluate some of the major themes of Romanticism through the lens of this conjuncture.

Animating questions of this course include: How were race and life articulated together in a period of immense debate over what constituted life and living things? How do our notions of Romantic and nineteenth century figuration, poetics and aesthetics change when we approach them through this question? Is it possible to read the conjuncture of race and life in this period not only as one of power and knowledge—as suggested by the biopolitical—but also as one of struggle and fugitivity?

Readings will range from the literary (Mary Shelley, Percy Shelley, William Blake, William Wordsworth and less canonical authors) to the physiological and anatomical (Albrecht Haller, John Hunter, William Lawrence and Charles White) to continental philosophy and critical race studies (Immanuel Kant, Michel Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Alexander Weheliye and Sylvia Wynter).

Engl-GA.2838.001

American Environmental Literature

Professor Jennifer Baker

Tuesday 2:00-4:45pm

This course will examine the relationship between American literature and environmental experience. We will study American literary environmentalism, emphasizing, in particular, its early roots in New England Transcendentalism and its revival in the counter-cultural environmental movements of the 1960s and 70s. We will consider how literature shaped and was shaped by debates over the moral and social value of preserved (or conserved) natural spaces; the advent of modern biology, Darwinian evolutionary theory, and the concept of *ecology*; westward expansion; aesthetic theories of the picturesque and the sublime; tourism and the creation of national parks; and growing concerns with species extinction and environmental destruction. We will consider a variety of environments (wilderness, garden, farm, sharecropping parcel, park, frontier, painted landscape) as well as various modes of perception framed by aesthetic, literary, and scientific paradigms. Our secondary readings will draw on science studies and ecocriticism, but we will also think about environmentalism as an entry point for thinking about American literature and culture generally—taking up Bill McKibben’s claim that American literature, “from the beginning...concerned itself with the story of people and the natural world.” Authors studied will likely include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Emily Dickinson, Rebecca Harding Davis, Stephen Crane, Willa Cather, Jean Toomer, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Edward Abbey, Leslie Marmon Silko, James Dickey.

Engl-GA.2839.001

Zora Neale Hurston: on the Page, in the Field, and on the Stage

Professor Sonya Posmentier

Tuesday 9:30-12:15pm

In addition to being a well-known novelist, Zora Neale Hurston was also a prolific cultural critic, anthropologist, folklorist, singer, and dramatist. In this seminar we will study Hurston's production of music, drama, dance, and literature, but also her critical theories about black aesthetics, racial identity, and literary form and her legacies for black feminism and black studies. We will inquire into disciplinarity, modernism, and diaspora through an analysis of Hurston as an incredibly mobile and versatile figure who defined all of these key terms. In that sense this is not a single author course. Readings include *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Dust Tracks on a Road*, plays, music, and her major ethnographic works *Mules and Men* and *Tell My Horse*. We will also consider other important thinkers with whom Hurston studied and created, with whom she shared a cultural milieu, or who have extended her work, including Langston Hughes, Franz Boas, Melville Herskovitz, Louise Bennett (“Miss Lou”), Richard Wright, and Alice Walker. Students will write literary research papers and will also have opportunities to engage in archival research. and to experiment with different modes of analytical and creative writing

ENGL-GA 2901.001

Cold War/Postcolonial

Professor Jini Kim Watson

Wednesday 9:30-12:15pm

How did the Cold War shape decolonization and the postcolonial world? What kinds of political-aesthetic genres emerged from the Cold War crucible, and how have recent cultural texts looked back on the period? This seminar examines cultural production and institutions that grapple with the intersection of decolonization and the Cold War. In the first section of the course, we will investigate the ways writers, politicians and scholars have theorized the shift from colonial rule to new forms of authority conditioned by the superpower contest. Examining non-alignment as the cultural-political attempt to escape ideological binarism, we will examine literary texts and institutions that emerged at this juncture, including speeches and accounts of the 1955 Bandung Conference, histories of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, and publications of the PEN Asia conferences. In the second half of the course, we think through the politics of memory around the Cold War in East and Southeast Asia, and engage with contemporary transpacific literary (and some filmic) texts that look back to Cold War/decolonial conflicts, state violence and authoritarianism in Korea, Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines (Hwang Sök-yŏng, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Tan Pin Pin, Sonny Liew, Han Kang, Gina Apostol,).

Likely Texts:

- Selected Documents of the Bandung Conference.* (1955)
Richard Wright. *The Color Curtain: A Report on the Bandung Conference.* (1956)
Odd Arne Westad. *The Global Cold War.* (2007)
Kwon Heonik. *The Other Cold War.* (2012)
Chen Kuan-Hsing. *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization.* (2010)
Christopher J Lee, ed. *Making a World After Empire: the Bandung Moment and its Political Afterlives.* (2010)
Gina Apostol. *Gun Dealer's Daughter.* (2010)
Han Kang. *Human Acts. [Sonyŏni Onda]* (2014).
Tan Pin Pin. *To Singapore with Love.* (2014)
Viet Thanh Nguyen. *The Sympathizer.* (2015)
Liew, Sonny. *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock-Chye.* (2015)

Engl.GA.2917.001

Imperial Fiction

Professor Greg Vargo

Thursday 9:30-12:15pm

This course will explore how the experience of empire shaped nineteenth-century British identity, literature, culture, and politics. In particular, we will take up two questions. First, we will examine the thesis that the dislocations of empire helped foster modernist literary style. Frederick Jameson and others have suggested that literary experiments around the turn of the twentieth century arose in response to the existential uncertainty of living in a global system, in which important factors influencing peoples' lives were out-of-sight and difficult to imagine or comprehend. What, then, does one make of the British empire in the early and mid-nineteenth century? Can we find "proto-modernist" formal experiments in such Romantic and Victorian genres as the slave narrative, *Bildungsroman*, and Gothic romance?

Second, we will trace—in part by looking at nineteenth-century periodical in a variety of genres—the diverse and conflictual responses colonial issues provoked. Slavery and abolition; the mass emigration of working-class Britons to Australia, Canada, the United States, and southern Africa; a missionary project which sought to spread Christianity to all corners of the world; and colonial revolts in India and the West Indies each gave rise to strenuous and soul-searching debate. Examining literary and historical texts from 1789 to 1915, we'll explore how Britons' sense of self, nation, and race changed confronting the world system they helped create as we consider how the empire shaped nineteenth- and early twentieth-century prose narratives.

Likely readings include: Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*; Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness and other Tales*; Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*; L. Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*; Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince*; Olive Schreiner, *The Story of an African Farm*; Bram Stoker, *Dracula*; H.G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*; Virginia Woolf, *The Voyage Out*

Engl.GA.2944.001

Social Life of Paper

Professor Lisa Gitelman

Thursday 3:30-6:15pm

What is the cultural work performed by or with the technology of paper? How can a history of paper supplement and enrich recent histories of printing technology and printed artifacts like "the book"? What would it mean to imagine a paperless future? Organized around discussions of readings in common, this seminar considers the history, production, circulation and use of paper in the social production of knowledge, the shared imagination of value, and the mutual relations of consumers and commodities.

Engl.GA.3323.001

The Culture of the Renaissance: A Re-translation

Professor Juliet Fleming and Christopher Wood

Wednesday 2:00-4:45pm

This class will provide an introduction to the *past* and the *future* of Renaissance Studies. It is designed for graduate students across the disciplines. Our broad aim is to 'translate' — that is, carry forward into the future and so reactivate — the Renaissance as an object of study, first by sketching the historiographical and disciplinary fortunes that produced it; and then by assessing opportunities for new approaches and research paths.

Our title invokes the work of Jacob Burckhardt, *Die Kultur der Renaissance in Italien* (1860), the pioneering work of cultural history that is responsible in large part for what we mean when we use the term 'Renaissance'. We will follow the development of this period concept as it was consolidated and re-reflect in the early 20th century by the scholars associated with the Warburg library.

The course is interdisciplinary to a high degree but does not pretend to survey the entirety of European experience in this period. Rather the focus will be on *symbolic expression* and its medial and rhetorical formats, including painting, poetry, prose, architecture, theater, dance, music and their various codings, inscriptions, and archivings. But the concept of the symbol is broad, and we mean it to unfold eventually into an anthropology of meaning that can potentially embrace all aspects of life.

ENGL-GA 3629.001

Topics in Literary Theory: Freudian Scenes

Professor Julia Jarcho

Tuesday 1:30-4:15pm

In course we will read works of and responses to psychoanalytic theory, and think about the implications these texts might have for questions of aesthetics and performance. In addition to Freud, readings will likely include Bersani, Deleuze, Edelman, Felman, hooks, Lacan, Laplanche, Rose, Silverman, Spiller, and Zizek. Course requirements will include presentations, a seminar paper, and a shorter writing assignment.

Engl.GA.3810.001

Studies in post-Symbolist Poetry: Ezra Pound

Professor Richard Sieburth and Peter Nicholls

Wednesday 2:00-4:5pm

Designed to introduce students to Pound's oeuvre as a whole—and to its central place within ongoing debates about modernism and post-modernism—the course will include readings from *Personae*, *The Cantos*, and *The Translations*, as well as from *The Chinese Written Character*, *Literary Essays*, *Selected Prose*, *Guide to Kulchur*, and selected wartime radio broadcasts. Background readings will include not only such standard works as Kenner's *The Pound Era*, but also more recent reassessments of Pound's poetics, politics, and economics. The seminar will provide, as Pound quipped of his name, “an enclosure for stray animals.”

Engl.GA.3900.001

Postcolonialism and the Question of Nation

Professor Rajeswari Sunder Rajan

Monday 6:20-9:00pm

Why did colonized territories (almost) always re-invent themselves as *nations* when they achieved political independence? And what happened when they did? How have liberation struggles and decolonization been defined by the prospect and process of nation-state formation?

This course will explore the extent to which postcolonialism has been defined by the concept of the ‘nation’, and conversely, the ways in which the nation question has been shaped by postcolonialism. We will engage the theoretical issues of ‘imagination’ and community, derivativeness, cultural nationalism, the narrativity of nation, the citizen-subject, the tension produced by postcolonialism's leanings towards *transnational* phenomena (migration, diaspora, exile, cosmopolitanism, globalization), and others that arise from this dialectic. These theoretical debates are shaped, as we would expect, by the dominant historical events of the second half of the twentieth century, namely the emergence of nearly a hundred new nation-states as a result of decolonization in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean (as earlier in Latin America). Our study will therefore also of necessity be grounded in empirical, historical case studies.

Some of the topics that will be covered include: the violence of nation formation (partition in India and Palestine, forcible unification in Nigeria); non-national alternatives (for example, pan-Africanism, various sub-nationalisms, non-alignment); refugees, exiles, immigrants, cosmopolitans; ‘good’ (anti-colonial) nationalisms and ‘bad’ (reactive, nativist) nationalisms; subject and citizen; nation and narration; feminism and nationalism; transnationalism, internationalism, and globalization. We will read the writings of anti-colonial intellectuals and liberation fighters like Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti, M. K. Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Muhammad Iqbal, Kartini, Frantz Fanon, Aime Cesaire and CLR James, among others; and recent theorists, including Eric Hobsbawm, Benedict Anderson, Partha Chatterjee, Homi Bhabha, Neil Lazarus, Achille Mbembe, Mahmood Mamdani, Vijay Prashad, Kumari Jayawardene, Nira Yuval-Davis and Anne McClintock. We will refer as required to relevant texts of western thought, among them Hegel, Renan, Marx, Lenin, Virginia Woolf, and Hannah Arendt. Students may also identify and invoke literary and cinematic texts that they consider relevant to the discussion.