

Topic Courses – Fall 2021

ENGL 168T – Mighty Girls in YA Literature (Godfrey)

An exploration of literature that represents the power of young women to create changes in their communities.

ENGL 169T – Chicana Feminist Cultural Production (Hernandez)

Explores Chicana Feminist Cultural production as a cohesive body of work engaged acts through culturally-specific themes, tropes, aesthetic gestures, and epistemologies.

ENGL 188T – Analysis of African American Valley Writers (Najmi)

Analysis of African American Valley Writer, Sherley Anne Williams.

ENGL 250T – Language, Literacy & Global Movement (Krichevsky)

Exploring and interacting with theories on literacy and language diversity through a global movement lens.

ENGL 250T – Multiethnic Literature in the San Joaquin Valley (Najmi)

Analysis of diverse Valley literature including fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and drama.

ENGL 173/278T – Cultural Rhetorics (Sias)

Examines American Ethnic Rhetoric(s) through debates about the social histories of rhetoric. Traces classical, neoclassical, and/or contemporary rhetoricians. First-hand investigation of primary cultural artifacts, including review of archival studies, rhetorical/feminist historiography, and/or qualitative research approaches.

Seminar in English Studies – ENGL 193

ENGL 193 – Moby-Dick (Hales)

We'll read, of course, Herman Melville's lengthy meditation on whales, whaling, and the meaning of life, a book referenced routinely in popular culture (Lisa Simpson: "Dad, you can't take revenge on an animal. That's the whole point of *Moby-Dick*." Homer: "Lisa, the whole point of *Moby-Dick* is 'be yourself.'"), but few people have actually read. We'll also examine relevant works that preceded its publication in 1851, some later works that locate themselves in the *Moby-Dick* tradition, and we'll watch some of the many attempts to bring Ahab, Ishmael, and the White Whale to the big screen. We'll explore the complicated literary, intellectual, political, and historical contexts in which the book was written—in particular, the national conflict over slavery that would erupt within a decade into a civil war—and ponder what *Moby-Dick* contributes to ongoing discussions regarding race, gender, social justice, and our increasingly threatened environment.

ENGL 193 – Saga Heritage of Murder (Weston)

Old Norse sagas like *the Laxdaela Saga* and *Njal's Saga* represent a vibrant tradition in Old Norse literature, filled with mystery and history and psychological nuance. And, of course, violence—their themes and narratives often highlight the tragic consequences of spirals of escalating cycles of murder and revenge. Still read (and not just for academic reasons) in Iceland, they continue to influence exemplars of "scandinoir" crime novels as well as some of the most creative and vibrant new voices—writers now fortunately available in accessible translations. The medieval sagas as well (and as read in conjunction with) contemporary novels like Sjón's *From the Mouth of the Whale* or *Blue Fox* and Gerður Kristny's *Drápa: A Slaying* (written as a sequence of *drápa* or "shield verses" like those that punctuate and predate the sagas) raise provocative theoretical questions about the connections between violence and narrative.