

Topic Courses – Fall 2022

ENGL 169T – Visual Narratives (Mandaville)

A comparative study of visual storytelling, including illuminated texts, illustrated texts, film, comics, and theater. A consideration of the history of the image in storytelling and contemporary forms in development, such as memes and other internet-based forms. Assignments will include weekly creative and critical writing as well as two longer projects.

ENGL 188T – Sandra Cisneros (Hernandez)

This single-author seminar examines the work of Sandra Cisneros, including her prose fiction, poetry collections, essays, picture books, and hybrid texts. Cisneros is amongst the most lauded living writers in the field of Chicana literature, and her most famous work, *The House on Mango Street*, is a cornerstone in K-12 curricula. This class will explore Cisneros' inventive uses of aesthetic form, but focus more heavily on her work as a cultural producer whose work provides a much-needed voice for marginalized groups located at multiple identity interstices. We will situate our analysis of Cisneros' work within the framework of Chicana and BIPoC cultural studies.

ENGL 250T – Toni Morrison (Mandaville)

A close study of works by the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, with close attention to historical and contemporary contexts. Texts will include novels such as *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Beloved*, *A Mercy* as well as her work in other forms: children's books, non-fiction, plays. Assignments will include weekly creative and critical writing as well as two longer projects.

ENGL 250T – Untimely Translations Appropriations (Weston)

Exploration of the way cross-temporal manipulations of literary tradition forge complex networks of influence and identity. The course will consider Medieval translations and adaptation, and with the untimely bonds and affiliations such things can create. How did medieval texts translate and adapt earlier texts? How did they appropriate earlier texts and adapt them by additions, expansions, or deletions? Besides translation within the medieval period, the course will also engage with translations between the medieval and the contemporary in ways beyond providing textbook trots.

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.

Seminars in English Studies – ENGL 193

ENGL 193 – Queer Latinx ID & Intersections LGBTQ+ YA Literature (Rodríguez-Astacio)

This course examines Latinx identity and its intersections to the LGBTQ+ spectrum in youth adult literature. The course will introduce students to a wide spectrum of texts that not only illustrate the unique experiences of queer members of the Latinx community in YA literature, but also the ways in which race and cultural identity frame those experiences. By sampling different genres, modalities, and grade levels, this course will provide a survey into the current voices of authors who centralize the experiences of members of the Latinx community who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

ENGL 193 – The Plantationocene (Age of Plantation) (Gordon)

The plantationocene, or “age of the plantation,” is an environmental humanities term that centers colonialism, capitalism, and race in discussions of climate change and social justice. Looking at genres such as fugitive slave narratives, plantation “romances,” nature writing, and abolitionist poetry and art, members of this seminar will apply research methods from the environmental humanities to ask what effects the plantation has had on U.S. literature and culture. Although our focus will be on the 19th century, we will also study the impacts of the plantation globally and in the present.

