

Topic Courses – Spring 2023

ENGL 169T – Sci Fi Film (Skeen)

We will be focusing primarily on robot/cyborg films of the 50's, 60's and 70's as apocalyptic narratives. If the apocalyptic narrative means, in part, the scourging of human beings, then can replacing humans with robots be seen as part of that biblical (from St. John) narrative? If the narrative form is one way to understand the human experience, then is the narrative insufficient for understanding artificial intelligence? Transformation themes, from human to cyborg, or from cyborg to human, are a part of many of these films—what are some of the implications for the future?

ENGL 250T – Bloomsbury Group (Foster)

The Bloomsbury Group, based in and named after the Bloomsbury neighborhood in London, were artistic and literary avant-garde pioneers of the first half of the 20th Century. Comprised of writers Virginia Woolf and EM Forrester, artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, economist John Maynard Keynes, political theorist and designer of the League of Nations Leonard Woolf, and art critics Clive Bell and Roger Fry, the Bloomsbury group collaborated amongst themselves and with a global network of other artists and writers in innovative ways that transformed the art and literary worlds.

ENGL 250T – Corporeal: Writing the Hungry, Horny, Unruly Body (Jarrar)

Western thought has long viewed corporeality through a patriarchal, mind-body binary lens. This course will examine the myriad methods through which women, trans, and nonbinary nonfiction writers have "unthought" this lens and moved away from social myths and taboos to re-appropriate the body, its hungers, disabilities, sexualities, and unruliness as a powerful confrontation to the question of self-definition. The authors we will read use race, gender, culture, and sexuality to create nonfiction that transgresses culturally and historically imposed rules of silence around the body as a topic.

Seminars in English Studies – ENGL 193

ENGL 193 – Multiethnic Memoir (Najmi)

Analysis of multiethnic memoirs in prose, poetry, and graphic form. Focus on formal innovations from traditional, linear prose to the episodic and imagistic, and from poetry to graphic narrative. Diversity of form matched by racial diversity of authors giving voice to communities, concerns, and aesthetic values that far exceed the individual self. Our approach to the genre will be as readers and literary critics, but for the creatively inclined among you this course will also offer the option to write/draw a memoir piece for one of your assignments.

ENGL 193 – Mexican Racial Formation (Hernandez)

The course explores the process of Mexican Racial Formation from a U.S. perspective from the 1830s through the turn of the 20th century. While many peoples of Mexican descent living in the U.S. today self-identify as people of color, it can come as a surprise that in the mid-nineteenth century, U.S.-based Mexicans were legally classified as "white" – a racial designation that over the centuries has shifted. This course tracks the slow and subtle cultural shift that led to this racial reclassification, using an array of archival materials and methods as the vehicle for exploration.