

SPRING 2017

Course Descriptions for
ENGLISH 1050
THE LITERARY EXPERIENCE
All sections are writing intensive

1050-001

MWF 8:30 – 9:20

Cathleen Velez

An Existential Journey

The concepts of man's struggle to find justice in a world of injustice and his need to search for self are addressed in *The Stranger*, the 20th century work of Albert Camus. In Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit*, the conception of an afterlife is explored, questioning the existence of hell and its impact on the human mind. In Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, the relationship of man to a superior being is addressed while underscoring the need to believe. The course is interdisciplinary and while focusing on the literary experience will delve into the areas of philosophy, theology, sociology and psychology. It is a writing intensive course. In this course you'll improve your writing and critical thinking skills by reading, discussing, and writing about literature. You will also gain confidence and pleasure in your reactions to literature and related arts. You'll give close readings to selections of fiction, poetry, drama, and memoir and respond to them in class discussions, formal papers, and informal writing. To enhance the coherence and interdisciplinary nature of the course, we will focus on the explosion of literature created by American, Irish, British, and French writers living in Paris between WWI and the Great Depression: the so-called Lost Generation. We will examine how the artistic, financial, and social freedoms of this milieu led to creative surges not only in literature but also in art and music. We will visit the art museum to see literary innovations mirrored in art. To widen our perspective of literary modernism, we may also read works from contrasting historical periods.

1050-002

MWF 10:30 – 11:20

Cecilia Ready

The Beats and Their Spawn

Kerouac, Cassidy, Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti, DiPrima, Snyder...

These artists and many more exploded onto the post-World War II American literary scene. From Columbia University in New York to City Lights Book Store in San Francisco, they spread out across the country--beat, downtrodden; beat, moving to the rhythms of jazz; beat, seeking the beatific vision of America. Fueled by French Existentialism, Zen Buddhism, Catholicism, hungry for "kicks, joy, darkness," they voiced the dreams, fears, and obsessions of their generation. And they spawned a revolutionary aesthetic in literature, music, and film which lives on after them. Some of it is beautiful, some of it not, but none of it is boring. Can you dig it?

1050-003**MWF 11:30 – 12:20**

Robert O'Neil

War and Society

In this course we will survey different genres of literature in order to further understand the dynamic relationship between American culture and American war-making. The course will open with readings from *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Fiction*. This collection of stories will serve as the base for our understanding of the dominant themes that permeate American culture, including race, gender, and identity. How do these themes affect American war-making? We will then transition into books that explore how American citizens and soldiers experienced the War on Terror. *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers and *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* by Ben Fountain offer us a fictional approach to the relationship between the home and battlefronts. In addition, we will read a journalistic approach to war entitled *Generation Kill* by Evan Wright. At the end of the course, students will be expected to argue their own conclusions about the relationship between culture and war, and the responsibility citizens should bear for both fighting and returning American soldiers.

1050-004**MWF 12:30 – 1:20**

Joseph Kinney

Forms of Literature

The main purpose of this course is to develop an understanding and appreciation of literature in communicating human experience, mainly through reading and discussing fiction, poetry, and drama, as well as to improve each student's writing of critical essays. What better way to accomplish this purpose than to learn from the best writer in the English language, William Shakespeare, in addition to analyzing selected short stories and poems by various authors.

1050-005**MW 1:30 – 2:45**

Charles Cherry

Joy of Short Fiction

This course has two goals: 1) To give you additional writing practice in order not to teach you how to write--you can already write--but in order to make you better editors of your own prose; 2) to read and discuss a range of short stories in order to witness the range of human experience and grapple with the question of what constitutes an artful rendering of that experience.

1050-006**TR 8:30 – 9:45**

Cathleen Velez

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1050-007

TR 1:00 – 2:15

August Tarrier

It's the End of the World as We Know It and I Feel Fine

Every generation produces its own idea of the world's end. That vision often tells us a lot more about what preoccupies us at the time than it does about what the future might be like. If a utopian impulse leads us to imagine a better world, a dystopian one elicits a cautionary tale: if we continue in this direction, we're in deep trouble. We'll be studying some of these cautionary tales in order to discern what might bring about our downfall or enslave us, but also to examine the ways in which memory serves as a tool of resistance and a first step toward collective action against authoritarian or repressive regimes. We'll be reading and/or viewing *The War of the Worlds*, *The Road*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *Children of Men*. In addition to our class discussions, expect that you'll be participating in small group discussions, and writing and revising three papers.

1050-008

TR 2:30 – 3:45

Moir McCole

Voices in American Lit

This class will explore a number of American voices from the past (e.g. Nathaniel Hawthorne) and present (e.g. Jhumpa Lahiri), from various regions and ethnicities. Not a survey course, the class is arranged by theme to enjoy how writers use a variety of genres (poetry, short story, essay, novel) to express similar concerns. These writers help us explore others' lives and thoughts as well as our own. The class will read and analyze with scrupulous attention to detail, will discuss literature with clarity, and write with precision and purpose.

1050-009

TR 4:00 – 5:15

August Tarrier

It's the End of the World as We Know It and I Feel Fine

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1050-100

TR 6:00 - 7:15

Joseph Edgette

Viewing Human Condition

Literature has often been described as the written record of the human experience. This course will explore the literary account of the impact of nature, society, and self on the individual from a humanistic perspective.

Through the examination, analysis, and discussion of selected literary examples, and films, the student will have the opportunity to become better acquainted, more accurately informed, and more keenly aware of literature's overall influence on and by its human creator. A rich sampling from the writings of selected authors, poets, and dramatists, and others will shape the topics that comprise this excursion into the human condition.