

Fall 2020 Topics Courses

English 1842-001: Literature of Magic

Still waiting for your admission letter from Hogwarts to arrive? Perhaps this is the course for you! This class will explore how literary and cinematic depictions of magic help us understand and imagine the process of growing up, love, and the limits of human possibility. We'll focus on works that imagine the fantastical extension of the human will through supernatural powers or the human encounter with magical otherworlds and their inhabitants. We'll read/watch, discuss and write about works by J.K. Rowling, Hayao Miyazaki, Nnedi Okorafor, Sigmund Freud, and others.

English 1842-002: Write from the Start

This course, designed to allow you to have fun while learning a lot, is for those ready to experience the serious pleasures of writing fiction, poetry and personal essays. Each week you'll generate new work according to formal, strategic, playful and experimental prompts. These will focus on a series of craft elements fundamental to each genre, in order to help you find your voice. You'll do in class and at-home writing exercises, and present some of your work for supportive, frank critique by the instructor and the group. You'll revise your writing, attend readings by established writers, and read samples--diverse in content, aesthetic and author identity--of published work in each genre, in order to discover fresh ways to create and think about your own work.

English 1842-003: Perspectives In Publishing

Have you ever wondered how a rough draft becomes a published essay or book? Are you curious about jobs in the publishing industry? This course explores the "intersection of art and commerce" that publishing represents. Students can expect to learn about publishing from contemporary and historical perspectives. Essays by book and journal editors will introduce students to the art of editing. By reading unpublished poetry and prose, students will practice editorial skills by rigorously evaluating and responding to an author's original work. Along the way, students will consider the way questions of diversity and inclusion influence the making of culture. This is a hands-on course. Students will engage in editorial sessions, discuss readings by writers and industry professionals, and develop projects reflecting their editorial values. The Villanova community and surrounding area offer a wealth of literary and publishing resources. As part of the course, we will explore literary culture by occasionally attending readings, visiting archives, and other activities. Assignments will include a presentation, journals, and a final project. No previous editorial or publishing experience is required.