This page provides details about the courses we are offering this semester. For the latest information about a course’s status, availability, time, and prerequisites, please consult GoSOLAR (www.gosolar.gsu.edu).

**Graduate Course Offerings**

**English 8001: M.A. Proseminar.** Jay Rajiva.

This course introduces MA students to the fundamentals of professional development. Though our primary focus will be generating a thesis topic and proposal, we will also cover other aspects of academic professionalization, including but not limited to academic genre writing (such as conference papers and journal articles), securing a thesis committee, and effective methods of research. The format of the class will alternate between roundtable discussion, individual or group writing assignments, guest speakers, and workshopping of draft material in a collegial but rigorous professional environment.

**English 8005: Practical Grammar.** Malinda Snow.

Practical Grammar offers you a vocabulary and techniques for understanding how to read, analyze, write, and edit standard written English. You will master terms and learn to recognize the sentence components that these terms describe. Once you can recognize and name components, you will be able to analyze sentences by various means. You will also gain skills at editing your own writing. Most especially, you should grow more confident as a writer of graduate seminar papers, theses, and dissertations. Those planning to teach English, language arts, or any other subject will be able to guide their students, both by example and by advice, to write well and edit effectively.

This is not a linguistics course nor a course in editing material for publication. This course does not teach advanced linguistic analysis of spoken English: it does not examine theories of language nor does it delve into the sociological, psychological, and anthropological bases of language. It does, however, establish groundwork for such courses if you take them later.

**Texts:** The required texts are Claire Kehrwald Cook, *Line by Line* (Houghton Mifflin, 1985) and Cindy L. Vitto, *Grammar by Diagram*, 2nd ed. (Broadview, 2006).

**Assignments:** We will analyze texts from the present day, including some you write, as well as some written earlier. Methods of analysis will include diagrams and other visual displays of grammar. Graded assignments will include frequent homework, an edited paper, and a final examination. The edited paper may be on a topic of your choice. What I advise is that you use a paper you have already written and that you can improve through editing.
In this class you will learn how to build a website from the ground up. You will also learn how to think and write (and learn) digitally, to compose for the screen rather than the page. You don’t need any prior experience. You do need to enjoy a challenge. Being a bit ocd wouldn’t hurt.

In this course we will read *Le Morte Darthur* in the context of a long British literary tradition of Romance as well as the philosophical tradition regarding human consciousness, against medieval theories of society and psychology as well as through contemporary critical theories.

*Le Morte Darthur*, the definitive English version of the story of King Arthur, was penned by Sir Thomas Malory between 1469 and 70 as he sat in prison on charges of treason, robbery, and horse rustling. Celebrated as perhaps the most "humanly accessible" version of these stories, extoling high chivalrous virtues, and yet composed by an author whose life "reads more like an account of exemplary thuggery" than Knightly virtue, Malory's text poses curious challenges to the modern reader. Translated and pieced together from antecedents in a sprawling tradition of both English and French literature, the stories exhibit humor and sensitivity yet their plot is driven through surreal landscapes by a barely perceivable logic. Malory’s knights, in the words of one critic, “seem to be almost involuntary agents in the stories in which they act; stories split and fragment so that the whole landscape through which they move appears to be littered with the residues of narrative.” Malory's work thus challenges us to assess our own expectations about authorship, narrative, and the literary evocation of subjectivity. Malory’s Late Middle English is easily understood and students require no special linguistic knowledge.
English 8460: “In Boswell & Johnson's Footsteps: Experiencing Literary Scotland.” Tanya Caldwell. **Spring Break Study Abroad.**

Taught both on campus during the semester and as a Spring Break study abroad course in Scotland. Contact Dr. Caldwell for more information: tmcaldwell@gsu.edu.

English 8756: Topics in 20th-Century English Literature. Renée Schatteman.


We will examine the evolution of this genre in America, some of the earliest novels written by and about women, and the problems of developing an independent tradition of American literature. The works selected are among the “rediscovered” classics returning to the canon of American literature—including works by Rowson, Foster, Cheney, Child, Neal, Sedgwick, W. H. Brown, C.B. Brown, Cooper, and Prince.


Focused on transnational American fiction from the late 1980s to the present. Will examine the depiction of refugee and immigrant experience; the blurring of boundaries between memoir and fiction; and the interrogation of globalization and U.S. exceptionalism. Authors to be studied include Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Lan Cao, Don DeLillo, Dave Eggers, Jamaica Kincaid, Viet Than Nguyen, and Ruth Ozeki.

English 8891: Major American Authors: Explorations of Epistemology and Race in Late 19th and Early 20th-Century American Literature. Elizabeth West.

English 8892: Female Indigenous Authors. Gina Caison.

English 8900: The Black 90s. Scott Heath.

English 8900: Book Histories and Digital Futures. Lindsey Eckert.

The interdisciplinary and interrelated fields of Book History and Digital Humanities have had an increasingly important role in shaping current literary scholarship. By the end of this course students will have a firm knowledge of the history and literary application of these growing fields. Reading foundational scholarship in Book History and Digital Humanities, we will ask questions fundamental to literary scholars and humanists more generally: What kinds of works qualify as “literature”? What does it mean to “read”? How does technology impact not only access to knowledge and literature but also the creation and interpretation of that very knowledge? Whom and what is silenced in the literary cannon and historical archives; how can we address and acknowledge these gaps? How can scholars best engage with and analyse (digitized) books and archival sources?
Ultimately, this course sees the history of printed (and manuscript) material as crucial to our understanding of contemporary shifts toward digitization, large scale data analysis, and multimedia narratives.

English 8900: Ecocriticism. Randy Malamud.

How do we write and read about the world? What is “nature,” and what are some better and worse ways of engaging that in our culture, and in our lives? What can we do, as writers and scholars, to advance ecological sustainability? What sorts of rhetorical strategies are more, or less, effective from the perspective of ecocritical advocacy?

I will invite students to bring their own special interests to the table, and we will look at a range of works in terms of what sorts of things we can do by looking at the ecosystems -- involving animals (human and nonhuman), landscapes, climates, toxicity, sustainability, extinction, exploitation, harvesting -- depicted therein.

English 8900: Memory and Writing: Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir. Tanya Caldwell.

This class looks at the construction of self and lives through multiple media. It is cross-period and trans-national and satisfies pre- and post-1800 requirements. We begin with the emergence in English letter of the biography and autobiography as genre and move in various directions from there. Texts include the following:

- Haynes (dir. biopic), I'm not there
- Excerpts from Samuel Pepys’s famous Diary
- James Boswell’s London Journal
- William Godwin, Memoirs of the Author of A Vindication of the Rights of Women
- Nightwalkers:Prostitute Narratives from the Eighteenth Century
- Mary Shelley, Mathilda
- Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano
- Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- Kathryn Harrison, The Kiss
- Jane Campion (dir. biopic) An Angel at my Table

English 8900. British Women Writings. Spring Break Study Abroad in London. Contact Melissa McLeod for more information: mmcleod1@gsu.edu.

English 9050: Trauma Literature, Culture, and Theory. Ben Miller.

Introduction to the complex literature of trauma theory in the context of modern, social, and political events. By surveying classic and contemporary contributions to the field and critical frameworks from psychoanalysis, literary studies and
postcolonial studies, the social sciences, and psychiatry, students will explore the complex implications of trauma on temporality, historiography, identity, and culture.