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).

Undergraduate Course Offerings: Lower Division

English 1101: English Composition I

A composition course designed to increase the student's ability to construct written prose of various kinds. Focuses on methods of organization, analysis, research skills, and the production of short argumentative and expository essays; readings consider issues of contemporary social and cultural concern.

English 1102: English Composition II

This course builds on writing proficiencies, reading skills, and critical thinking skills developed in ENGL 1101. It incorporates several research methods in addition to persuasive and argumentative techniques. A passing grade is C. Prerequisite: C or above in ENGL 1101. By the end of this course, students will be able to: Analyze, evaluate, document, and draw inferences from various sources; identify, select, and analyze appropriate research methods, research questions, and evidence for a specific rhetorical situation; use argumentative strategies and genres in order to engage various audiences; integrate others’ ideas with their own; use grammatical, stylistic, and mechanical formats and conventions appropriate for a variety of audiences; critique their own and others’ work in written and oral formats; produce well-reasoned, argumentative essays demonstrating rhetorical engagement; and reflect on what contributed to their writing process and evaluate their own work. Projects will integrate a focus on academic writing with multimodal composition strategies designed to prepare students for working with and creating multimedia texts.

1102: English Composition II. Dr. Wharton

In this course, we are investigating the rhetoric of the built environment—interior, exterior, and digital. Places—parks, classrooms, social media sites—are rhetorical. That is, they are created for purposes, audiences, and contexts. Through rhetorical analysis, we can learn about their functions, who is welcome (and not welcome) within them, who built them and why. Rhetorical analysis also gives us a means to explore how the rhetoric of the built environment expresses and influences social relations such as class, gender, race, age, and disability.

Throughout the semester, students will explore the built environment of Atlanta. You will learn to analyze how the built environment employs the five rhetorical modes—linguistic, aural, visual, spatial, and gestural—to communicate information about its purposes, its creators, its users, and the social and historical context from which it emerges and with which it engages. You will also learn how to use these five modes in your own academic research and composition process. Think of everything we do in this course—reading,
research, writing, documenting, note-taking, etc.—as the multiple stages and processes in a single, semester-long project, culminating in the multimedia built environment analysis and contributing to a collaborative digital archive of information about the rhetoric of space and place in Atlanta.

English 1103: Advanced English Composition

This course is designed to develop students' ability to construct written texts on a sophisticated level. It emphasizes critical reading and writing of various sources and incorporates advanced research methods. In addition, it emphasizes advanced rhetorical issues, including invention strategies, arrangement, selecting and analyzing evidence, and developing appropriate style.

English 2110: World Literature.

English 2120: British Literature.

English 2130: American Literature.


Introduction to critical issues associated with the study of popular culture. Throughout the course, discussion of pop cultural texts (including television series, print ads, video games, web logs, and popular film and music) will be shaped by the critical methodologies exemplified in course readings. In the process, students will be encouraged to use these applications as models for their own work in selecting, analyzing, and critically reflecting on specific instances of popular culture.

Undergraduate Course Offerings: Upper Division

English 3040: Introduction to Literary Studies.

Materials, methods, and terminology used in the discipline of literary studies. Practice in effective critical writing and examination of the various critical theories available for interpretation and analysis. Serves as one of the two Critical Thinking Through Writing (CTW) courses required of all English majors.

English 3050: Introduction to Rhetoric and Advanced Composition. Dr. Lopez.

Introduces students to key terms, figures, and events in the global history of practicing and teaching rhetoric, with examination, through reading and critical writing, of the legacy of communication technologies from ancient to contemporary cultures. Serves as one of the two Critical Thinking Through Writing (CTW) courses required of all English majors.

English 3080: History, Theory, and Practice of Argumentative Writing. Dr. Burmester.
Introduces students to studies in analyzing written arguments, studying argumentation theories, and producing persuasive texts for specific audiences. Includes global readings from ancient to contemporary times.

English 3090: Exposition: History, Theory & Practice. Dr. Wharton.

English 3090 builds on the competencies developed in English 1101 and 1102, with a special emphasis on composition intended to explain, inform, and describe. As with any kind of composition, exposition is rhetorical; it has a purpose, audience, author(s), and context. Consequently, this course will continue to develop your ability to identify, analyze, and respond to rhetorical situations. In addition to writing, we use a variety of other modes—oral, visual, electronic, nonverbal—to interact with and communicate about the world. Developing your ability to integrate your writing with these other modalities using digital technologies and new media will improve your rhetorical expertise.

Regarding the purpose of the writing we’ll be doing this semester, the other primary subject matter of this course will be the material world of objects through which we move in our day to day lives. We will consider why we are driven to create, use, consume, and accumulate things. Why and how do we form emotional attachments to inanimate objects? What do the possessions we own say about us—about our social and economic status, our cultural and ethnic identities, our psychological profile? To what extent is human behavior and expression dependent upon tools, prostheses, and other material goods? Does being human require a world of objects against which or through which we can define ourselves? These are the sorts of questions the field of material culture studies has evolved to answer, and these are the questions we will take up and examine in our reading and writing.


Introduces students to current theories for composing and teaching writing, with emphasis on key figures and movements in the history of composition studies.

English 3105: Practical Grammar

This course teaches students to recognize and describe sentence components, syntactical relationships, and other verbal patterns. It will also practice application of grammatical principles to editing problems and literary analysis.

English 3110: Technical Writing. Dr. Gu.

This course provides intensive study of scientific and technical styles and practice at various formats, including reports, proposals, instructional manuals, and professional papers.

English 3115: Multimodal Composition. Dr. Hocks.

English 3130: Business Writing.

Advanced composition applied to business writing techniques and problems.
English 3140: Editing for Publication. Dr. Lopez

This course will develop the skills and resources needed for preparing unpublished documents for publication. May include academic publishing, textual editing, and commercial applications.

English 3150A: Introduction to Creative Writing – Poetry

Introduction to the writing of poetry for the novice writer; practice in styles, points of view, and structure.

English 3150B: Introduction to Creative Writing – Fiction

Introduction to the writing of fiction for the novice writer; practice in styles, points of view, and structure.

English 3160: Narrative Techniques. Dr. Russell.

For the student with a special interest in short fiction. Studies in character development, story, plot, and point of view; critiques of professional and student work.

English 3170: Poetic Techniques. Dr. Bottoms.

English 3180B: Contemporary Fiction Craft. Dr. Joseph.

Study of fiction technique through the reading and analysis of contemporary fiction. Designed for fiction writers.

English 3220: History of the English Language. Dr. Christie.

This course explores the development of the structure and history of the English language: Indo-European, Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Present Day English. Students must learn IPA for phonological study. Attention will also be given to the morphology, syntax, social and regional variations, and semantics of English.

English 3250. Theory of the Undead. Dr. Thomas.

In this course we will examine the theoretical reasoning behind the argument that as specifically human beings, or animals at the mercy of language, we are not simply alive or dead, as non-human animals arguably are, but more complicatedly undead—not fully alive but never totally dead either, mainly thanks to fact that we speak and write, and that our speaking and writing is forever animated by what Freud called the death drive. In the first part of the course, we will consider psychoanalytic, deconstructive, and philosophical theories of human “undeadness,” specifically in relation to the question of literature, by reading most if not all of a book called Ten Lessons in Theory: An Introduction to Theoretical Writing. In the second part of the class, we will engage with some literary and cinematic ghost stories: Shakespeare’s Hamlet, Henry James’s The Turn of the Screw, Alfred Hitchcock’s Vertigo, and
David Lynch’s *Mulholland Drive*. Though we will not be dealing with zombies per se, students who want to write about such figures in their final project will be welcome to do so.

English 3290: Victoria Underworld. Dr. McLeod. **Spring Break Study Abroad in London.**

Victorian London’s Underworld will examine nineteenth-century British literature that focuses on segments of the London population who were dispossessed, at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder: orphans, pickpockets, prostitutes, theater people, occultists. We’ll explore Victorian streets, alleyways, homes, music halls, and museums to learn about how the underclass lived. Victorian experiences will come to life through the educational walking tours, like the Jack the Ripper Tour and the Darkest Victorian London Tour. Stepping into the shoes of a homeless orphan or downtrodden prostitute will make the Victorian literature we study more understandable with cultural and historical knowledge.

We will be in London March 10-18; however, accepted students must agree to attend four required classes in January and February and one pre-departure orientation in early March.

English 3300: Medieval English Literature. Dr. Lightsey.

English 3510: Later 18th-Century English Literature. Dr. Brown.


English 3710: English Literature 1945-Present. Dr. Malamud.

English 3830: American Literature 1914-1945. Dr. Goodman

English 3810: American Literature 1820-1865. Dr. West.

English 3860: American Drama. Dr. Roudané.

This is a course in twentieth/twenty-first-century American drama, a class spotlighting selected playwrights who have shaped the modern and contemporary stage from Susan Glaspell to the present. We will examine not only individual plays, but the ways in which these plays animate American literature and culture in the 1900s and 2000s. Throughout the semester, we will construct an ongoing narrative history of the American stage, one providing students with a critical appreciation of both major and lesser-known but significant playwrights who, together, define the scope and range of American drama. We’ll cover such playwrights as Susan Glaspell, Eugene O’Neill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, Adrienne Kennedy, Sam Shepard, August Wilson, Suzan-Lori Parks, Paula Vogel, Amy Herzog, and, among others, Sarah Ruhl.

English 3920: Southern Literature. Dr. Caison.

English 3960: African American Literature by Women. Dr. West.

English 3980: Women’s Literature I. Dr. Snow.
English 3990. Women’s Literature II. Dr. Richardson.

This is a survey of literature by British and American women from the 1840s until today. Our approach will be both chronological and thematic. Chronology will allow us to explore the development of feminist ideas in the English-speaking world. Theme will allow us to analyze questions of economic equity, race, sexual orientation, subject position, and educational access.

We will read a wide variety of texts in a variety of genres: novel, poem, short story, non-fiction essay, graphic history, and graphic memoir.

The course will be a success if each student is present for every session, and has carefully read and thought over the assigned readings. To encourage this kind of success, a significant portion of the grade will be based on informal response papers, unannounced quizzes, and class participation. The rest of the grade will be based on one or two essays (TBD) and a final exam.

English 4100: Jane Austen. Dr. Snow.

English 4130: Shakespeare, Earlier Works. Dr. Voss.

This course will examine a diverse selection of works that Shakespeare wrote in the first half of his career. We will explore specific psychological, social, and philosophical issues raised by each play or poem as well as the artistic techniques it employs and the challenges it creates.
for playgoers or readers. Attention will also be paid to the social, political, intellectual, theatrical, and literary contexts in which Shakespeare wrote.

English 4202: Hamlet. Dr. Hirsh.


Over the past few decades, graphic novels have moved from the margins to the mainstream in academia. That Maus won a Pulitzer in 1992 demonstrates that even at the highest level of arts awards, the graphic novel has the recognized potential for greatness that other more accepted art forms have. That the Pulitzer category was “Special Awards and Citations” is a reminder that graphic novels don’t have a Pulitzer category. This course will explore the problems and possibilities of studying the graphic novel at the university. Do we judge graphic novels by literary standards? If not, what standards do we use? How do text and image function differently in combination? What are the common techniques, themes, genres, and styles that have developed over the history of comics?

English 4204. Science Fiction. Dr. Rajiva.

This course introduces students to the academic study of science fiction. We will treat science fiction with the same respect and critical consideration as any other type of literature, intertwining discussion of genre elements — such as the concepts of the novum and cognitive estrangement — with socially informed readings of the literary texts. Subgenres of study will include proto-SF, classic cyberpunk, space opera, and contemporary dystopian fiction.

English 4204. Introduction to Digital Humanities. Co-taught by Dr. Miller and Jennifer Olive.

This course aims to offer a broad understanding of digital humanities by introducing students to the field's critical issues, debates, ideas, and methods in areas such as creativity and criticism in digital environments, text and data visualizations, digital and interactive narrative, game studies, and global digital cultural studies.

English 4205: Literary Editing and Publishing. Dr. Sexton.

Students will learn skills and gain experience in literary publishing through participating in the editorial process and publication of an issue of Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art. Students will engage in the evaluation of works to be published in the journal and will gain practical experience in copyediting/proofreading, layout, and social media.

English 4205A: New York City Publishing Field School

During Spring Break 2017 this domestic Field School program will provide students exposure to the Publishing industry in New York. Students will meet with literary agents, editors, and other publishing professionals. Other activities will include visits to the main branch of the New York Public Library, museums, literary specific sites and literary readings.

English 4300: Senior Seminar in Literary Studies. Dr. Gabler-Hover.
English 4310A: Senior Seminar in Poetry. Dr. Stokesbury.
English 4310B: Senior Seminar in Fiction. Dr. Holman.

English 4320: Senior Seminar in Rhetoric, Composition, and Technical Writing. Dr. Holmes.

English 4330: Senior Seminar – Secondary Education. Dr. McLeod.

English 4500: Internship. Dr. McLeod or Dr. Snow.

Offers field experience in writing, editing, and research. Strongly recommended for those wishing to pursue a career in writing or editing.

SPRING 2017 FOLKLORE COURSES

Two of the English Department’s most popular Folklore courses will be offered this coming Spring semester, and come up in the schedule only once every two years.

Folk 4000, Georgia Folklife, while focusing on our state, is really about the South as a whole, using folk traditions to reveal the lives of ordinary Southerners, both past and present. The first part of the course shows how folkways can help define the South as a distinct region. The second part reconstructs the now mostly vanished traditions of Georgia’s late-18th and early-19th-century Native American and frontier populations. And the third part features selected living traditions and their historical origins (handcrafts, Atlanta’s role in popularizing early blues and country music, storytelling). TR 11:00.

Folk 4110/6110, Irish Folk Culture, explores the rich traditional culture of a small and relatively homogeneous country, set against the backdrop of her long and sometimes tragic history. Topics include ancient myths and heroic sagas, farmsteads and houses, handcrafts, instrumental music and singing, storytelling, and supernatural beliefs. MW 5:30.