ENGLISH TOPICS COURSES  
(from Fall 1998 to present)

ENG 190 Lord of the Rings Revisited. Whether you read Tolkien long ago, met him at the movies, or still wonder what he’s all about, this course offers the pleasure of reading deeply into the novels, watching the films, and talking through how Tolkien captivates us with his visions of honor and friendship, obligation and desire. How do his hopes for global community help us understand our own?

ENG 190 Magical Realism. When a man awakens as a giant cockroach . . . when an owl perches on a window crying sweet warnings . . . when a dead baby rises from the grave or the local shopping mall draws us into fairylaid . . . what are we to think? Exploring works of magical realism, this course offers delightful metaphors, strange dreams, and a whole new way of understanding experience.

ENG 205 Language Studies for Writers. Extends knowledge, appreciation, and effective use of language. Aren't words wonderful! If you as a serious writer want to grow more resourceful and polished in using English by studying its history, word roots, rhetorical devices, and stylistic possibilities, take this course and add to the tools of your craft. Prerequisite: ENG 101 or ENG 140.

ENG 329N/THE 350K Topic: Troubling the Waters—The Plays of Tony Kushner. Kushner’s plays challenge our values, pose compelling questions, and offer pleas for compassion and understanding. Aligned with the Pulitzer prize-winning playwright’s visit to Rollins in April 2011, this course examines themes in Kushner's works including Angels in America: Parts One and Two; A Bright Room Called Day; the musical Caroline, or Change; and the children’s book Brundibar (a collaboration with Maurice Sendak). Co-taught by a Theatre and an English professor, Troubling the Waters will consist of both close readings, discussions, and staging of scenes/monologues from Kushner’s plays and adaptations. Previous performance experience is not required. Restrictions: Professor’s consent required.

ENG 234 Literary Themes: Caribbean Literature. Introduces students to the study of Caribbean literature with a focus on the legacy of colonization. Readings include slave narratives, novels, and poetry.

ENG 234 Selected Studies in World Literature: Lyric Nations. Considers how a range of poets and writers from former British colonies fashion nation, national identity, and homeland in many fantastic, nostalgic, and resistant ways. Looks at poems and novels from Ireland, the Caribbean, Africa, and India, next to popular music and cinema forms (reggae/Irish folk/Hollywood film/American pop). Examining such motley cultural registers, we will ask ourselves how we imagine other nations and our own as both fabulous fantasy spaces and necessary political entities.

ENG 234A Selected Studies in Literary Themes: Revisiting the Books of Childhood. Discusses the books that appealed to us when we were very young, and then moves to an analysis of a variety of fairy tales, exploring cultural, psychological, and philosophical interpretations of the tales. Six to eight classics for children and adolescents will be read and analyzed, chosen from works such as Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland; Bambi; The Wind in the Willows; The Wizard of Oz; Peter Pan; Little Women; Tom Sawyer; The Yearling; The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe. Suitable for non-majors.
ENG 234E Selected Studies in Literary Themes: Great Speeches. Explores how great speeches have the power to move people. Looks at how fictional authors have used speeches to further their plots and how actual historical speeches have propelled social change. Will use readings, audio, and film to study works of Shakespeare, Wilde, Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Gandhi, and others. Analysis illuminates the goals, values, emotions, local and general contingencies, and language informing text construction and interpretation. Suitable for non-majors.

ENG 234G Selected Studies in Literary Themes: Gruesome Anatomy. The minute focus of a medical examiner during autopsy; the seductive cry of the carnival Barker asking you to, “Step right in;” the varied ways in which doctors, both real and fictional, repurpose corpses for new ends – each of these acts associated with bodies is surprisingly similar to the skills of reading and writing well. We will read about bodies at all kinds of extremes: from medical cadavers, to monsters, to freak show performers. In the process, we will learn to think differently and more critically about reading by analyzing texts that are themselves strange, often both in subject matter and style.

ENG 235A Selected Studies in Environmental Literature: Literary Habitats – The River Community. America is a land of magnificent rivers. Many of her finest writers have imagined their world and community in the context of their watershed. After a brief survey of the major river writers, this course will focus especially on Florida’s waterways, the St. John’s River and it’s local tributary, the Wekiva. Here, we will see, in political practice and field trips, how the ideals of our nature writers can help formulate a community plan for Central Florida.

ENG 235C Selected Studies: The Poetry of Earth (L). This course is a subset of environmental literature, focusing exclusively on the best American nature poets from Whitman to the present. The course follows the development of an ecological imagination in the history of American poetry and features a creative project on a specific theme.

ENG 236 Themes in Mythology. May examine mythology, epics, international folk tales, Greek and Roman literature, movements in European Literature, and Third World Writings. Suitable for non-majors.

ENG 241 Images of Women in Fiction and Film. Focuses on the history and aesthetics of film and its relationship to literature. Emphasizes the female image presented in these two genres and examines cultural and intellectual trends that have influenced these views.

ENG 245 Studies: Afro-American Cinema. Focuses on the film genres and theories that African Americans have shaped by their participation and presence. Students will confront a variety of sources, theory, text, and context, in order to amass a working knowledge of the body of work we call African American film. Fulfills elective requirement in the African and African-American Studies and Film Studies minors.

ENG 245C Selected Studies in Popular Culture: Gender Images in Science Fiction (L). Examines hard and soft science fiction, and fantasy, focusing on cultural diversity in popular culture. Discusses metaphors science fiction offers to analyze social values and solutions to personal and planetary problems. Asks how we define ourselves as men and women, how genders interact, and how we come to appreciate the alien.
ENG 245D Selected Studies: Black Women Writers. Women of Africa and African descent, including the Caribbean, are scrutinized in this course. What are the particulars of occupying a racialized and sexualized space in the Western diaspora? Paule Marshall, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Mariama Ba, Bessie Head, Octavia Butler, and Jamaica Kincaid all contribute to this layered position. Also draws heavily from theories of black women’s writing. Such authors may include Hortense Spillers, Cheryl Wall, Barbara Johnson, and Bell Hooks. African and African-American Studies and Women’s Studies minor elective course.

ENG 245N Selected Studies in Popular Culture: Gender Adaptations. Given such contemporary shows as Extreme Makeover, we will ask whether our popular and literary narratives have “adapted” to allow for a greater range of gender identifications in the present. We will think about the different ways we “read” gender and sexual identities in autobiographical narratives, plays, novels, comics, films, and television. We will examine a range of sexual and gender identities from “straight” to “queer” – from acceptable, normative, and outrageous to outlawed, closeted, and pathologized. We will ask how these identities have varied radically over time and place. Finally, we will think about how gender and sexual roles in literary works have been reworked into Hollywood adaptations in such works as Susanna Kaysen’s Girl, Interrupted, and Chuck Palahniuk’s Fight Club. What is lost and what is gained in translations of gender scripts across mediums and across time?

ENG 255 African American Film. Explores "black" cinema, its influence on dominant media culture, and its critical scholarship. Reading and writing intensive, and will feature independent and major films along with critical essays that explore the black experience as portrayed by independent black filmmakers and by Hollywood. Preliminary texts include Donald Bogle's Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks and Valerie Smith's Representing Blackness. Films may include School Daze (1988), Daughters of the Dust (1992), and The Best Man (1998).

ENG 259 Exploring the Fringe Practicum. Explores alternative theater in Central Florida and provides practical experience with alternative theater organizations. Attendance at a series of experimental productions throughout the term and the Orlando International Fringe Festival required, along with projects for the Orlando Fringe Festival. Written series of play reviews, research projects on alternative theater, and individual class journals also required.

ENG 259 Florida Noir—Fiction and Film. Explores the evolution of crime fiction in Florida from John D. McDonald and Brett Halliday to Carl Hiaasen, Edna Buchanan, and Laurence Shames. Also examines crime films from classics like Key Largo and Body Heat to contemporary Florida movies like Ulee's Gold and Wild Things. Film Studies minor elective.

ENG 275 Studies: Afro-American Science Fiction. Critical examination of the black contribution to the science fiction literary genre including the novel, film, and theory. Investigates the boundaries of the genre on their own terms and will engage with critical discourses that have excluded the genre from the literary canon. Students will also confront marginalization within the genre, thus challenging their own assumptions about race and aesthetics. Fulfills elective requirement in the African and African-American Studies minor.

ENG 276 Writing for the Future. How do we depict ourselves when we’re communicating on the internet? How does our sense of audience shift? Course explores how our own personal reading and
writing are being changed by advances in technology, how online practices are reshaping corporate and academic writing, and whether our ability to learn is affected by our uses of technology.

**ENG 277 Writing in the Community.** Explores issues shaping communities and writing forms intended to gain voice (political, environmental, social, etc.). Through compelling service learning projects, students write responses, letters, field studies, documentaries, or other persuasive pieces to gather public support.

**ENG 290 Sophomore Seminar: Formalist Poetry.** Formalist poetry is the main tradition in English and American verse before the innovation of "free verse" a century ago, and it is still prominently practiced today. Our aim is to examine these traditional techniques and practices to learn the mysteries of meter, rhyme, and stanzaic pattern from Chaucer onward. You will also have the opportunity to try your hand at formal verse crafting, if you wish. *Prerequisites: ENG 170 and sophomore standing.*

**ENG 290 Sophomore Seminar: Magical Realism.** A man awakens as a giant cockroach. What are we to think? M.H. Abrams suggests that such writers “interweave, in an ever-shifting pattern, a sharply etched realism in representing ordinary events and descriptive details together with fantastic and dreamlike elements.” Magical realism is a new way of looking at experience, allowing us to fuse what we know and what we suspect. *Prerequisites: ENG 170 and sophomore standing.*

**ENG 290 Sophomore Seminar: Short Fiction.** Examines the short story as a literary form, with special emphasis on theories of narrative. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing and ENG 170, or instructor’s consent.*

**ENG 295 Creative Non-Fiction Workshop: Autobiographical Writing.** Introduces reflective writing and invites students on the journey to the land of self. Considers self-expression via journals and memoirs, letters or confessions, poetry and fiction, songs of the self, familiar and not-so-familiar essays.

**ENG 295 Studies in Nonfiction: Writing for the Future.** Explores the forms and practices of writing online that are reshaping corporate, academic, and personal futures. Focuses on options for integrating visuals with text, exploring the potentials of cyberspace, and writing in a hypertext environment.

**ENG 295A Studies in Non-Fiction: Writing in the Community.** How do we give voice to private and public concerns in shaping the places we live? How do we become active members influencing decisions in our various communities (political, environmental, religious, social, or intellectual)? By practicing the genre of civic writing students will gain a better understanding of issues. Course allows students to develop selected forms of civic writing (letters to the editor, fact-finding summaries, field studies, proposals, documentaries, and other persuasive public project pieces organizations use to develop cases and gain support), write for an organization, and practice service learning.

**ENG 295C Selected Studies in Non-Fiction: Writing Australia.** Been to Australia? Preparing to go? This travel writing course lets us write in creative ways about expectations and discoveries, examining how our experiences of a place shape our knowledge and change us as individuals. Opportunities to write what we’ve learned and read about what we missed as we focus on the people, the place, and the mystique of Australia. *Note: Students may substitute another country for Australia. Prerequisite: ENG 140.*
ENG 300 Introduction to Professional Writing. Provides English majors with tools for analyzing writing tasks, producing effective documents, and evaluating writing quality, specifically in professional situations. Organized around four major types of writing that represent common tasks for professional writers – proposals, resumes, business correspondence, and technical writing – and the features unique to these genres. Culminates in a writing portfolio suitable for employment applications. Prerequisite: ENG 101.

ENG 300C Expository Writing: Argumentation. Focuses on strategies for persuasive writing, speaking, and presentation. Topics include logic, word choice, audience analysis, and presentation skills.

ENG 308 Shakespeare on Film. Few authors’ works have been translated into film as often as Shakespeare’s. This course will examine that translation process, the way, for example, the original Romeo and Juliet became Zeffirelli’s highly romantic 1968 version, the hip hop Baz Luhrman 1996 version, and the American musical West Side Story. In addition to fairly classical film interpretations of plays like Macbeth (e.g., Welles and Polanski) and King Lear (e.g., Olivier), we will discuss Kurosawa’s samurai version of Macbeth (Throne of Blood) and Jane Smiley’s Midwestern revision of Lear (A Thousand Acres).

ENG 310 Studies in Anglo Saxon and Medieval Literature: Chaucer's Women (L). Examines the representation of women in a selection of Chaucer’s middle English texts including The Canterbury Tales, Troilus and Criseyde, The Legend of Good Women, and The Book of the Duchess, along with some of his shorter poems.

ENG 310 Studies in Medieval Literature: Transformers in Medieval Literature. Examines transformers not from a different planet, but from a different era. Through readings of romance, fabliaux, confessional, allegories, and drama, explores conditions that made transformations of gender, legal status, and social class possible, thinking critically about consequences of these changes upon earlier cultures and our own. In the case of medieval transformers, there is always more than meets the eye.

ENG 314C Topic: The Age of Milton. Examines the major poetry of John Milton in the context of the political and religious history of 17th-century England. Students will do a close reading of Paradise Lost and selected other works, including poems by Andrew Marvell, and will focus on issues raised by these texts, including questions of freedom and religious tolerance, gender roles, and the problem of evil. Students will be expected to do background readings in selected biblical, historical, and mythological texts and to be actively engaged in discussing the issues involved.

ENG 315 Studies in 19th-Century British Literature: English Romantic Poets. Examines major writers and writings of the Romantic and Victorian periods. Emphases may include movements in poetry, the rise of the novel, or literary movements in their cultural contexts.

ENG 319/419 Studies in 20th Century British Literature: 20th Century English Novel. Examines the novel (both in theme and technique) as a reflection of the increasing complexity of life in the twentieth century. A principal concern is the passing of traditional English values.

ENG 319 Studies in Twentieth Century British Literature (Playwrights). Examines major writers and writings of the modern and contemporary periods. Emphases may include movements in poetry, fiction, or drama – especially those that represent experiments in new modes of expression at the beginning and
end of the century.


ENG 328 Contemporary American Literature: Connie May Fowler. Offers a unique opportunity to consider trends in contemporary American literature through an examination of the work of Rollins’ Writer-in-Residence, Connie May Fowler. Students will read Fowler’s best-known novels and memoirs, and view the film based on her book Before Women had Wings. Class will be unusual in that guest lecturers with expertise in specific subjects, such as memoir, Southern literature, film theory, etc., will each lead a segment of the course. As a result, students will learn not only about Fowler’s fiction, but also about how her work reflects contemporary fiction.

ENG 329 Studies in American Literature: Contemporary American Literature (Welty, Tyler, and Morrison). A critical and historical study of American literature in the last half of the twentieth century, from the end of World War II and the emergence of the Beats, through the tumultuous '60s and '70s, and on to the final years of the millenium.

ENG 329C Studies in American Literature: (20th-Century American Playwrights). A critical and historical study of American literature in the last half of the twentieth century, from the end of World War II and the emergence of the Beats, through the tumultuous '60s and '70s, and on to the final years of the millenium. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing.

ENG 367E Creative Writing: Poetry. From the instructor, Billy Collins, "This course will be a study of poetic maneuvers. Using The Seagull Reader as our text, we will treat poems not as static containers of meaning, but as kinetic procedures. We will look at the gambits poets use to open poems, the shifts and turns that keep poems going, and the various types of closure that give poems a reason to stop. That is to say, we will look at poems from the poet's point of view. Our course is not a workshop, rather an examination of poetic tactics, yet students are invited to submit one of their own poems in our final class as an example of something we have learned." Credit: One (1) semester hour. Meets: Four consecutive Mondays (September 13, 20, and 27; October 4), 4:00-6:00 p.m.

ENG 390 Expository Writing: A Voice of One’s Own. Explores current literary forms for the voice of the so-called “traditional” college student. Provides practice in writing techniques used by published writers who are, in many ways, peers, comparing these techniques to those used by classical and modern writers.

ENG 390 Junior Colloquy: Jane Austen: Fiction and Film. Focuses on the work of Jane Austen, regarded by many as the finest novelist in the English language. Through a close reading of her six novels and a close viewing of films those novels have inspired, students will discuss not only her achievement as a writer, but the ways different films have translated her style and stories into their medium. Prerequisite: junior standing and ENG 290, or consent. European Studies and Film Studies minor elective.

ENG 414 Studies in the Eighteenth Century (The Novel). Examines how the English novel originated in the work of such writers as Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, and Henry Fielding and how it evolved
through Laurence Sterne, Oliver Goldsmith, and Jane Austen. Explores the ways each author helped shape our modern ideas of such issues as character, plot, setting, and theme. Note: This course, formerly numbered 455, fulfills the British Literature requirement of the English major.

ENG 429A Studies: Postmodern Culture. The content of this course will give new meaning to the term, “shock and awe.” The course will introduce students to the main theorists of postmodernism and apply their criticisms to a wide range of contemporary “texts”: novels, plays, magazines, films, music videos, hip-hop, TV, virtual reality, bodies, and architecture. We’ll learn what a whole lot of really cool terms like “historiographic metafiction” actually mean and be able to use them to impress parents and deconstruct reality, among other things. This course will ruin your ability to be a mindless complacent consumer of media — so be forewarned! We will read some fairly difficult material, but since no one really understands what any of it means, you might as well go along for the ride. So if you think The Daily Show is the most factual thing on TV, this course is perfect for you.

ENG 444 Topics in Advanced Literature and Cultural Studies. Offers advanced study in literature and culture with focus on critical theory. Specific topics vary. Possibilities include theories of gender and sexuality, critical race theory, post-colonialism, performance, and formal innovation.

ENG 450 Topics: Autobiography. Explores the history and diversity of the forms of writing one's life, from the Confessions of St. Augustine, to the dream visions of Carl Jung, to the prison diaries of Life and Death in Shanghai. Some lives will be read in common and others as part of a research project to be reported to the group. Each student will also write her or his own life, in a variety of short forms or in one accumulating record, as fact or fiction.

ENG 450C Kindred Spirits: Exploring a Writer's Lifework. Discussing attractions to writers, we enter into a community of kindred spirits. Students choose favorites for a compendium of commentaries (analytical, creative, personal, critical), and review studies in English for first drafts of the Senior Portfolio. Prerequisite: junior/senior standing or instructor's consent.

ENG 467A Advanced Creative Writing Workshop: Winter with the Writers Internship. Add-on section to the Winter with the Writers Festival, the Winter with the Writers Master Class, and the Winter with the Writers course. Students will submit creative writing manuscripts that will be critiqued by a Winter with the Writers visiting author. Students will act as teaching assistants in the Master Class and will receive hands-on experience in all phases of the planning and execution of Winter with the Writers. Prerequisites: consent, ENG 267 and/or ENG 367 Creative Writing--Poetry or ENG 367 Creative Writing--Fiction.