ENGL 5103: Proseminar

Professor Elizabeth Maddock Dillon

- CRN: 12876
- 3 semester hours
- Monday, 6:15-8:30 pm
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: MA Core or Theories & Methods

For all first-year students in the Master’s and doctoral programs. This class introduces students to the historical arc and current scholarly practices of the discipline of English studies and to the nuts and bolts of graduate school and the academic profession of English. Texts may include writings by Gerald Graff, Gregory Semenza, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Sharon Marcus, Alan Liu, Saidiya Hartman, Christopher Newfield, and John Guillory. Visits by members of the graduate faculty will introduce departmental strengths and foci, including theoretical and methodological approaches to literature, visual studies, digital humanities, rhetoric, and composition. The class will also offer opportunities for practice in fundamental scholarly tasks such as research methods, using research databases and archives, and drafting and revising short scholarly forms (conference proposals, oral presentations, book reviews, etc.).

ENGL 7211: Topics in American Literature: Color, Race, and Literary Tricksterism

Professor Bonnie TuSmith

- CRN: 16200
- 3 semester hours
- Wednesday, 6:15-8:30 pm
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: 19th Century/20th Century

Trickster is the mythical figure that represents liminality, ambiguity, and change. Lewis Hyde defines the trickster principle as “the disruptive imagination” used to dismantle conventional notions and hierarchies, including those of color and race. Drawing upon contemporary trickster theory (e.g., “Signifyin(g),” “trickster discourse,” “trickster aesthetic”), the course studies selected prose narratives from mid-19th century to the present by authors such as Melville, Stowe, Morrison, and Diaz. Requirements include critical analyses posted on Blackboard, a class presentation, and a final analytical paper.
ENGL 7286: Topics in Victorian Literature: Gender and Victorian Literature

Professor Laura Green

- CRN: 16201
- 3 semester hours
- Thursday, 3:30-5:45 pm
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: 19th Century/20th Century and WGSS

Gender is a foundational category of Victorian literature and culture—one that has been of interest to twentieth- and twenty-first century literary scholars since at least the 1970s, when second wave feminism drew attention to the representation of women within Victorian literature and the recovery of women authors of Victorian literature. The four decades since that moment have seen the development of gender studies and queer theory and brought into view a more expansive set of questions about how questions of gender and sexuality motivate, enable, and organize literary representation. We will read poetry by Tennyson and Barrett Browning and fiction by Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Oscar Wilde, and Olive Schreiner.

ENGL 7392: Writing and the Teaching of Writing for New Teaching Assistants

Professor Neal Lerner

- CRN: 12780 (For New TAs, only)
- 3 semester hours
- Wednesday, 3:30-5:45 pm
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: Rhetoric & Composition

Writing and the Teaching of Writing is intended to provide new Northeastern English Dept. PhD students with disciplinary and professional preparation to teach composition and writing-intensive courses. Students will acquire a strong grounding in the theory and practice of composition-rhetoric at the university level. The course includes reading and writing on four key intellectual areas in the study and teaching of college writing (multilingual writers, multi-media composing, community engagement, writing across the curriculum), as well as extensive practical coverage of issues germane to our work in the College Writing classroom. Students will develop syllabi and assignments for College Writing, explore a range of teaching strategies, develop and articulate their teaching philosophy, and learn how to represent and document the intellectual work of teaching writing in a teaching portfolio (paper or electronic). Overall, course materials, discussion, and assignments are intended for students to deepen their understanding of composition-rhetoric theory and practice, and to develop the materials and intellectual framework they will need to teach College Writing at Northeastern.
ENGL 7395: Topics in Writing: Literacy in Crisis: The Politics and Practices of Writing

Professor Mya Poe

- CRN: 16523
- 3 semester hours
- Thursday, 6:15-8:30 pm
- Location: 400B Holmes Hall
- Fulfills: Rhetoric & Composition

“Middle-class anxieties about loss of status and downward mobility have repeatedly been displaced and refigured in the realm of language practices and literacy.” – John Trimbur, “Literacy and the Discourse of Crisis”

This course provides a historical view of literacy in the U.S. to understand why we ask certain questions about writing. We will trace how debates about the “literacy crisis” can be found repeatedly throughout U.S. history and how these discourses about writing reflect various cultural tensions around immigration, national security, and economics. Contrasting these discourses of writing found in the public sphere to writing done in community and school contexts, we find that writing practices are actually complex and fluid, deeply shaped by literacy sponsors, and meaningful in specific ways to the people who use those practices. Readings will include literature and writing research, such as, Voices of the Self, Writing From These Roots as well as historical documents such as “Why Johnny Can’t Write” and “A Nation At Risk.”