

Instructional Guidelines: English 205, English 206

I. General overview

The ENGL 205, ENGL 206 courses focus on the study of literature and culture from around the globe and across historical periods. While students may study novels, plays, films, and poems written in English, emphasis is placed on works originally in other languages, read in translation. The sequence is well suited for students interested in international issues, the history of inter- and cross-cultural contact, and the ways in which literatures and cultures dialogue with one another across time and space.

Students will acquire considerable analytical, interpretive, and expressive skills, an awareness of cultural differences and interrelations in both western and non-western literatures, and the flexibility to do interdisciplinary work between literature and philosophy, literature and history, literature and the other arts.

All instructors who teach these courses will engage the approaches described herein in order to address three key Global and Multicultural Perspectives Area of Inquiry objectives:

- Examine the interactions and interrelationships among cultures, especially the relationship of marginalized to mainstream cultures (required)
- Assess how culture impacts and informs the development of creative expression/movements, politics, economics, or philosophy
- Analyze how concepts of “self” and individuals in various cultures differ and/or intersect

Each course will design assignments that prioritize the Foundational Skills of the Liberal Learning Core: information literacy, writing literacy, and oral communication literacy.

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTORS

A. ENGL 205: World Literatures in Dialogue.

This course studies the dialogues between literatures and cultures in a historically intensive way. Instructors will strive to create a balanced reading list featuring works from across the major historical periods (Antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Neo-Classical/Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, Postmodernism); works by authors from diverse backgrounds, genders, and racial/ethnic origins; and coverage of many different cultures and literary traditions.

In accordance with the principles of academic freedom, instructors are encouraged to pursue the lines of thought and interpretation which they find most useful and congruent with their training and intellectual disposition. Thus, the following should be construed only as a representative selection of possible guiding themes and methodologies, one or more of which can be interpreted in the context of a topic chosen by the individual instructor.

Sample course topics: "Adventure and Exploration: Literature About Travel (and About Those Who Stay at Home)"; "Homelands Lost and Regained: The Literature of Exile"; "Islam and the West Through Literature"; "Literatures of Reconciliation"; "Madness and Literature"; "Mediating Otherness," "Love and Death from the Bible to Contemporary Israeli Fiction"; "Near Eastern Literature in Translation: From Gilgamesh to Reading Lolita in Tehran," "Don Quixotic Tales Across Borders," etc.

B. ENGL 206: Forms and Expressions in World Literature.

This course studies literatures and cultures through the lenses of genre and media. Instructors will create a balanced reading list that focuses on understanding the concepts of form and meaning. Students will explore the ways in which form (epic, lyric, romance, novel, drama, satire, biography, film, hypertext, blog, etc.) influences how a text is produced and received. The course may also examine the relationships between material textuality and expression, studying the ways in which material texts and technology (memorization and songs, tablets, manuscripts, stage productions, printed books, digital media, etc.) influence audience, meaning and reception.

Sample Course topics: "Poetic Self-Fashioning," "Epic, Lyric, and Drama," "Fictional Spaces: Histories, Fantasies, and Masques" "Orality and Literacy," "Biography, Autobiography, Fiction," "Hybrid Genres: Reading Prose Poems and Poetic Novels," "Performing Dissent," "Hypertext: Genre in the 21st Century."

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