



Calvin University English Department
2023-2024 Course Offerings

English Department Course Offerings

Fall 2023

English 101 and 102 (Written Rhetoric, fulfilling Foundational Writing) are offered throughout the day MWF and TTh. The rest of our classes are as follows:

Course Number	Course	CORE	Instructor	Time
ENGL 200A	Intro to Global Lit: Russian Literature	Humanities + Global Regions & Culture	Engbers	MWF 1:30 p.m.-2:35 p.m.
ENGL 215A	Intro to Later British Lit: Greatest Literary Hits	Humanities	Holberg	MWF 11:00 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
ENGL 220A	Intro to American Literature: African American Literature	Humanities + Diversity & Difference	Naranjo-Huebl	TTh 12:15p.m. -1:55 p.m.
ENGL 220B	Intro to American Literature: Native American Literature	Humanities + Diversity & Difference	Naranjo-Huebl	TTH 2:10 p.m.-3:50 p.m.
ENGL 240A	Introduction to Journalism		Holcomb	MWF 11:00 a.m.-12:05p.m.
ENGL 241A	Business Writing		Visser	MWF 12:15 p.m.-1:20 p.m.
ENGL 270A	Introduction to Linguistics		Burkholder	MWF 11:00a.m.-12:05 p.m.
ENGL 275A	English Syntax		Burkholder	MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
ENGL 290A	Ways of Reading		Engbers	MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
ENGL 300A	Advanced Studies in Global Lit Nigerian Lit from Achebe-Adichie	Humanities + Global Regions & Culture	Zwart	MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
ENGL 325A	Advanced Studies in Children's and Adolescent Literature: Reading Across Genres	Humanities	Hettinga	TTH 12:15p.m.-1:55 p.m.
ENGL 335A	Advanced Studies in a Major Authors: Shakespeare	Humanities	Urban	MWF 2:45 p.m.-3:50 p.m.
ENGL 350A	Teaching of Writing		Johnson	MWF 1:30 p.m.-2:35 p.m.
ENGL 361A	Creative Writing: Poetry		Klatt	MWF 1:30 p.m.-2:35 p.m.
ENGL 372A	Sociolinguistics and Issues in Language Education	Social & Behavioral Sciences	Burkholder	MWF 2:45 p.m.-3:50 p.m.
ENGL 380A	Internship		Hettinga	T 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
ENGL 395A	Senior Seminar	CCEQ	Rienstra	TTh 2:10 p.m.-3:50 p.m.

2023-2024 Courses, pending hiring approval:

- English 290 (spring)
- English 315 (spring)
- 2 additional creative writing (probably 362: Fiction and one other)--one fall, one spring

Fall 2023 Course Descriptions

English 200A

Intro to Global Lit: Russian Literature

Engbers

This course investigates the Golden Age of Russian literature, including major works by Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov. How do reason, feeling, and faith help us to address major problems in society and in ourselves? And how does the art of fiction help us in that process? In nineteenth century Russia, these questions combine with questions about Russia's role on the world stage--an abiding issue that remains relevant today.

English 215A

Introduction to Later British Literature: The Greatest Literary Hits

Holberg

The 19th and 20th centuries contain incredibly formative periods in both history and literature, covering Victorian (authors like Charlotte Bronte and Alfred, Lord Tennyson), Modernism (T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf) and contemporary. This class features the “greatest hits” from these two centuries in order to ask many important questions that still intrigue us today. Come for literature that will speak to you!

English 220A

Introduction to American Literature: African American Literature

Naranjo-Huebl

In this course we will read, discuss, and examine significant African American literature to introduce students to voices in African American culture and history and their contribution to American identity, history, and literary traditions. Together we will learn why Black stories matter and how they challenge dominant U.S. culture. Diversity & Difference tag.

English 220B

Introduction to American Literature: Native American Literature

Naranjo-Huebl

This course in American Literature will have a specific focus on Native American literature. It will introduce students to the oral narratives, prose, poetry, and film of Native (North) Americans within their cultural-historical contexts, including those systemic societal structures that have affected the writers and their communities.

English 240A

Introduction to Journalism

Holcomb

We live in a society that is at war over the facts and where truths are contested. A journalist's job is to play detective. In this course you will learn the skills of reporting, and the art of shaping raw information into a story that equips communities with the knowledge they need to flourish in uncertain times.

English 241A

Business Writing

Visser

In this class you will learn how to write effective messages for business and professional settings. Business Writing is conducted as a workshop, so you will consult with each other as well as with me, the instructor. You will also partner with a local nonprofit to produce some real-world writing such as social media posts, blogs, website text, and donor/volunteer profiles.

English 270A**Introduction to Linguistics****Burkholder**

A study of some of the more interesting and important characteristics of language, with particular attention given to the processes of language acquisition; to patterns and effects of linguistic change through time; to variations in language from region to region, social class to social class, and gender to gender; and to the assumption informing the study of various grammars.

English 275A**English Syntax****Burkholder**

A course that reviews the fundamentals of English grammar and examines the possibilities and limitations of teaching grammar in the ESL classroom. Students must research or practice the teaching of some of this grammatical material.

English 290A**Ways of Reading****Engbers**

There are over 500,000 books in Hekman Library, but at the moment most of them don't mean anything, because no one is reading them. The printed letters on a page mean nothing in the darkness of closed book; they come alive only when an actual person opens the book and begins to read. But how does that person actually know what the book means? This course is designed to make students better readers and writers of anything by studying the different kinds of questions and assumptions people use to make sense of written texts.

English 300A**Advanced Studies in Global Literature: Nigerian Literature From Achebe to Adichie****Zwart**

Chinua Achebe, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, says that "storytellers [...] threaten all champions of control." In this course, students will read literature by Nigerian writers, Achebe among them, considering what "champions of control" these storytellers threaten--as well as why and how.

English 325A**Advanced Studies in Children's and Young Adult Literature: Reading Across the Genres****Hettinga**

What makes a good book a good book? In this class, you'll work to answer that question as you read different types of fiction--fantasy, realistic, and historical--as well as folktales, poetry, and non-fiction. You'll also focus on visual literacy as we read picture books and graphic novels, and you'll discuss social issues as we consider ways that books written for elementary, middle grade, and young adults present windows or doorways from one culture to another. Students in the education program will have the opportunity to create projects targeting the grades they hope to teach.

English 335A**Major Authors: Shakespeare****Urban**

In this course we will study a range of Shakespeare plays, encompassing his greatest comedies, tragedies, and histories, culminating with an examination of his wondrous redemptive romance, *The Tempest*. Our reading of these plays will be accompanied by exposure to important film versions.

English 350A
The Teaching of Writing
Johnson

English 350 prepares English secondary education majors and elementary education majors to become writing teachers. In this course, you'll learn the theory behind the writing process and what happens in our minds as we write, and we'll trace writing development from crayon scribbles to college essays. The course also includes practice in lesson and assignment planning, paper grading, and grammar instruction. If you're not an education major but are interested in teaching someday, contact Professor Johnson for more information

English 361A
Creative Writing: Poetry
Klatt

Poetry is a genre where language struts its stuff. In this class, as poets or "makers," students will try their hands at playing with words, crafting verses, sounding off. Because they are apprentices, they will read extensively in the field. The selection of poems and poetics assigned for the course are intended to give students strategies for self-expression, illuminate their own artistic preferences, and generate new directions for their writing. Students will also explore the love/hate relationship Americans have with poetry. What is at the heart of the animosity? What inspires the love?

English 372A
Sociolinguistics
Burkholder

A course involving two major activities: (1) an examination of selected topics that have arisen in recent sociolinguistic research, particularly those topics centering on questions about how standard and nonstandard languages and dialects appear to affect people's educational success; and (2) an evaluation of how these topics should affect approaches to language education, particularly approaches to teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Prerequisite: ENGL 101 or ENGL 102.

English 380A
Internship
Hettinga

A course requiring students to work ten hours per week in a job related to English studies. This practicum asks students to reflect on vocation broadly and to apply theoretical, technical, and ethical principles to their work. Students will work with the Career Center to secure a suitable position.

English 395A
Senior Seminar
Rienstra

The required capstone for the English major. Pre-registration is required.

Spring 2024

Course Number	Course	CORE	Instructor	Time
ENGL 205A	Special Topics: Gender and Literature	Humanities + Diversity & Difference	Naranjo-Huebl	TTH 12:15 p.m.-1:55 p.m.
ENGL 220A	Intro to American Literature: Asian American Literature	Humanities + Diversity & Difference	Naranjo-Huebl	TTh 2:10p.m. -3:50 p.m.
ENGL 230A	Introduction to Genre: Poetry, Drama, Fiction	Humanities	Klatt	TTh 8:00 a.m.-9:40
ENGL 235A	Major Text: Dante's Divine Comedy	Humanities	Holberg	All Term: M 6:30 p.m.-8:10 p.m.
ENGL 235B	Major Text: Dostoyevsky's The Brothers Karamazov	Humanities	Engbers	First Half: MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 am.
ENGL 235C	Major Text: Herbert's The Temple	Humanities	Engbers	Second Half: MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 am.
ENGL 241A	Business Writing		Visser	MWF 12:15 p.m.-1:20 p.m.
ENGL 250A	Literature of Faith: Bible as Literature	Foundations of Christianity II	Urban	First Half: MWF 1:30 p.m.-2:35 p.m.
ENGL 250B	Literature of Faith: The Reformation	Foundations of Christianity II	Engbers	MWF 11:00 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
ENGL 260A	The Craft of Writing	Arts and Rhetoric	Zwart	MWF 11:00 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
ENGL 270A	Introduction to Linguistics		Burkholder	MWF 11:00a.m.-12:05 p.m.
ENGL 275A	English Syntax		Burkholder	MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
ENGL 305A	Advanced Special Topics: Environmental Literature	Humanities + Sustainability	Rienstra	TTh 10:20 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
ENGL 325A	Advanced Studies in Children's and Adolescent Literature: Reading Across Genres	Humanities	Hettinga	TTH 12:15p.m.-1:55 p.m.
ENGL 341A	Advanced Journalism		Holcomb	MWF 9:15 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
ENGL 360A	Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction	Arts and Rhetoric	Rienstra	TTh 2:10 p.m.-3:50 p.m.
ENGL 372A	Sociolinguistics The Language of Gaming	Social & Behavioral Sciences	Burkholder	MWF 2:45 p.m.-3:50 p.m.
ENGL 373A	Discourse Analysis		Johnson	MWF 1:30 p.m.-2:35 p.m.
ENGL 380A	Internship		Hettinga	T 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
ENGL 395A	Senior Seminar	CCEQ	Klatt	TTh 12:15 p.m.-1:55 p.m.

Spring 2024 Course Descriptions

English 205A

Special Topics: Gender and Literature

Naranjo-Huebl

In this course we will read, discuss, and examine significant literature by women and gender minorities and their supporters. We will study fiction, poetry, and essays within their cultural-historical contexts and through gender theory lenses with a special emphasis on intersectionality with ethnicity, class, ability, and faith. The featured texts deal specifically with issues of gender dynamics, including gender oppression and variance (LGBTQIA+ identities). Students will complete the course with a richer understanding of how gender affects identity and culture through storytelling.

English 220A

Introduction to American Literature: Asian-American Literature

Naranjo-Huebl

This course in American Literature will have a specific focus on Asian American literature. It will introduce students to the prose, fiction, and poetry of significant Asian American authors within their cultural-historical contexts, including those systemic societal structures that have affected the writers and their communities.

English 230A

Introduction to Genre: Poetry, Drama, Fiction

Klatt

An overview of the exciting ways that different literary forms (genres) work and affect what is being told.

English 235A (2 hours; semester long)

Major Text: Dante's Divine Comedy

Holberg

This class allows you to go deeply into just one book: Dante's Divine Comedy. This spring go with Dante on his pilgrimage through hell, purgatory, and paradise!
Open to all but **required pre-requisite** for May trip to Florence.

English 235B (2 hours; 1st half)

Major Text, Dostoevsky's The Brothers Karamazov

Engbers

The Brothers Karamazov: An intensive reading of Dostoevsky's magnum opus, which explores the challenges of faith and active love in the context of rationalism, materialism, and the problem of evil.

English 235C (2 hours; 2nd half)

Major Text, Herbert's The Temple

The Temple: George Herbert's landmark volume of poetry, growing out of both the Bible and the literary flourishing of the English Renaissance, sets the standard for the Christian devotional lyric. This course analyzes the entirety of The Temple in its biblical, literary, and theological contexts.

English 241A

Business Writing

Visser

In this class you will learn how to write effective messages for business and professional settings. Business Writing is conducted as a workshop, so you will consult with each other as well as with me, the instructor. You will also partner with a local nonprofit to produce some real-world writing such as social media posts, blogs, website text, and donor/volunteer profiles.

ENGL 250A (4 hour version)**Literature of Faith: The Reformation****Engbers**

This course investigates biblical and theological issues of the English Reformation through the literature of that period, with a particular focus on the theology and literature of repentance. It covers roughly 100 years, from the early humanist writings of Desiderius Erasmus and Thomas More through the devotional writing of John Donne and George Herbert in the early seventeenth century. The Reformation continues to shape many aspects of contemporary Christianity, and students are encouraged to consider their own faith in light of this historical and literary context.

ENGL 250B (2 hour version; 1st half)**Literature of Faith: Bible as Literature****Urban**

This course studies, in English translation, the narrative and poetic literature of the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) and the narrative and rhetorical literature of the Christian scriptures (New Testament). The course specifically emphasizes literary analysis of these texts, paying attention to how these texts function within the framework of their specific genres. Emphasis will be placed on the narrative literature of the Old Testament and the gospels of the New Testament

ENGL 260A**Craft of Writing****Zwart**

From creative non-fiction to memoir to poetry to short fiction, we'll work with craft elements that are essential to all of these genres, focusing on the work of freelance writing. The four projects--some of which will be submitted to literary journals--are aimed at developing skills for anyone interested in writing as a part of their vocation.

ENGL 270A**Introduction to Linguistics****Burkholder**

A study of some of the more interesting and important characteristics of language, with particular attention given to the processes of language acquisition; to patterns and effects of linguistic change through time; to variations in language from region to region, social class to social class, and gender to gender; and to the assumption informing the study of various grammars.

ENGL 275A**English Syntax****Burkholder**

A course that reviews the fundamentals of English grammar and examines the possibilities and limitations of teaching grammar in the ESL classroom. Students must research or practice the teaching of some of this grammatical material.

ENGL 305A

Advanced Special Topics: Environmental Literature

Rienstra

The course will look to classic and contemporary fiction, poetry, and nonfiction to understand how humans have imagined their relationship with the divine and with the rest of creation. In the ancient conquest narrative Gilgamesh, biblical creation stories, the Romantics' ecstatic poetry, contemporary nature writing, or recent climate fiction, we can discern a range of underlying mythos systems that shape our attitudes and actions. What role, then, might the imagination, story-telling, and imaginative literature play in addressing the climate crisis? Other authors we read include Octavia Butler, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Shakespeare, Robert Macfarlane, Richard Powers, Aldo Leopold, and many more.

ENGL 325A

Advanced Studies in Children's and Young Adult Literature: Reading Across the Genres

Hettinga

What makes a good book a good book? In this class, you'll work to answer that question as you read different types of fiction--fantasy, realistic, and historical--as well as folktales, poetry, and non-fiction. You'll also focus on visual literacy as we read picture books and graphic novels, and you'll discuss social issues as we consider ways that books written for elementary, middle grade, and young adults present windows or doorways from one culture to another. Students in the education program will have the opportunity to create projects targeting the grades they hope to teach.

ENGL 341A

Advanced Journalism

Holcomb

Journalism is a passport to every far-flung corner of the world. In this course you will learn how to tell true stories that are grounded in facts, but elevated by elegant prose, vivid description, and the richness of human experience. Learn the secrets of how to conduct a stellar interview, discover a wild story idea, and pitch your article to real-life publications.

ENGL 360A

Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction

Rienstra

Creative nonfiction is the practice of making literary essays out of what is. To do this well requires practice developing a range of prose styles, along with passionate curiosity and careful reflection. Anything is fair game for a topic: working at the Whip-ee-Dip, the ethical quandaries of border agents, competitive horse-jumping, DC vs. Marvel, how you felt going to four friends' weddings in one summer. In this course, we read a delightful assortment of (mostly) very recent essays and practice writing social commentary, memoir, reviews, and "enter-this-world" pieces. Along the way, we ponder the ethics and spiritual implications of artful truth-seeking with the raw material of our own and others' lives.

ENGL 372A

Sociolinguistics: The Language of Gaming

Burkholder

As the name suggests, sociolinguistics looks at the intersections of language and society. In this special version of Sociolinguistics, we'll be focusing on the language of gaming (as in, computer gaming). Come study this exciting area! Prerequisite: ENGL 101 or ENGL 102.

ENGL 373A**Discourse Analysis****Johnson**

What can you do with language? How is your identity shaped by your language? In English 373 you will use powerful linguistic and rhetorical tools to help you begin to answer those questions. In small-scale linguistics projects, you'll put those tools to work analyzing how people (you and others) use language to express themselves, to establish their identity, and to accomplish things in the world.

ENGL 380A**Internship****Hettinga**

A course requiring students to work ten hours per week in a job related to English studies. This practicum asks students to reflect on vocation broadly and to apply theoretical, technical, and ethical principles to their work. Students will work with the Career Center to secure a suitable position.

ENGL 395A**Senior Seminar****Klatt**

The required capstone for the English major. Pre-registration is required.