Registraion for Spring 2014

by Karen Redfield

The enrollment period for Spring 2014 is fast approaching. Seniors will be sent notices for time slots that begin the week of November 12. Along with my regular advising hours, I will be available on the first floor of College Library on November 6, 13 and 20, all Wednesdays, from 5-7 p.m. I will also have specific days and times for seniors, juniors, and sophomores, and perhaps try a few group advising sessions. Please watch for e-mails from me with the subject line “Enrollment advising.”

Here are a few tips to help you get started: English 215, 216, and 217 are survey courses with a heavy reading load. Best not to take more than one a semester. You can balance that with an elective or two.

Do not leave the pre-1800 course until last. There are several interesting American and British lit options. You may be surprised by how much you enjoy work from this period.

If you are planning to study abroad, it may be best to fulfill the five required courses for the major before you do. It is often easier to find electives that transfer to UW without any problems. Courses must be taught in English and be about writers who write in English. Check the course descriptions given by faculty to help make your decisions. You can also watch videos about courses on the English Dept. website.

There is a new online course, Rebels in American Literature, being offered during the “J-term” or “winterim” session. It is being taught by Prof. Castronovo. It will begin December 30 and last for three weeks. This course will be counted as a Spring course in terms of credit and tuition. You may register for it along with your other Spring courses.

Many of you have heard that there are new course numbers and new major requirements coming for Fall 2014. This will not be a factor when you register for Spring 2014. Nothing you take this academic year, including summer, will be a “wasted” class. We will start rolling out the changes well in advance of Fall 2014 registration. You will have the chance to compare the current and new requirements, and ask all the questions you have, at that time.

As always, let me know if you have questions. If you find that you cannot make an appointment during my regular advising hours, let me know and we’ll work something out.

Dr. Karen Redfield is the UW-Madison Undergraduate English advisor. Use her WisCal scheduler to set up an appointment.

You’re Invited to the Chair’s Chat!

Do you have questions about the English major that you’ve always wanted to ask? Would you like a chance to have some quality "face-time" with the English Department Chair, Professor Caroline Levine?

If so, come to the Undergrad Lounge, 7188 Helen C. White, for a Chair’s Chat on Tuesday, November 5 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Feel free to stop in anytime and stay as long or as short a time as you like.
You’ve Got the Interview - Congratulations! Now What?

by Karen Knipschild
(Note: All hyperlinks are underlined).

It’s the last step before actually getting the job. Exciting? Yes! Frightening? Even more so! Here are a few tips to make it less spooky.

Prepare! Review the company website, re-read the job description and be prepared to relate your experience to the job description. And be ready for the different types of job interview formats. CareerOneStop offers an excellent chart that describes what you can expect from each.

Practice! Make an appointment with me or sign up to participate in a Mock Interview with actual employers through the L&S Career Services Office.

Dress Appropriately and to Impress! Think conservative! Women can use the photo above as an example on how to dress. Men should always wear a tie and nice suit or slacks and blazer. Perhaps most importantly, dress comfortably so that you can approach the interview relaxed and undistracted.

After the interview take a deep breath, relax, review the experience and send a Thank You Note. It’s best to e-mail everyone who interviewed you via e-mail. I believe the most effective interviews are those where you can be yourself. Try to be calm and enjoy the experience. It may not lead to a job, but it’s still great training for the next one that comes along.

Karen Knipschild is the UW-Madison English, Philosophy and Comp Lit. Departments Career Advisor.

Job/Internship Hunting? Set Up a LinkedIn Profile ASAP!

Many students are experiencing job hunting success through LinkedIn. Why? LinkedIn is the world’s largest professional network with millions of members and growing rapidly. They can help you:

1. Establish your professional profile and control one of the top search results for your name.
2. Build and maintain a broader network of professionals you can trust.
3. Find and reconnect with colleagues and classmates.
4. Learn about other companies.
5. Leverage powerful tools to find and reach the people you need.
6. Tap into the knowledge of your network.
7. Discover new opportunities.

Click on the LinkedIn logo to the left of this article for an informational LinkedIn video.