



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

### Spring 2026 Graduate Course Descriptions

#### **Structure of English, English 314**

**Wanner, Anja**

**TR 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, VAN VLECK B309**

[English Language and Linguistics] (Mixed Grad/Undergrad) This mixed undergrad-grad course introduces students to the study of English grammar from a linguistic perspective. You will learn to identify linguistic constructions (such as passive constructions or nominalizations) and analyze their form and function verbally and visually (in so-called tree diagrams).

---

#### **Second Language Acquisitions, English 318**

**Cho, Jacee**

**TR 02:30 PM - 03:45 PM, HUMANITIES 2637**

[English Language and Linguistics] (Mixed Grad/Undergrad) This course will introduce the field of second language acquisition. The course will cover research topics including the differences between first and second language acquisition, language perception and production and how the first and second language are affected, and what the second language teaching implications are.

---

#### **Global Spread of English, English 414**

**Huynh, Juliet**

**MWF 9:55 AM - 10:45 AM, VAN VLECK B115**

[English Language and Linguistics] This course provides an introduction to conducting linguistic experiments to address theoretical questions in the study of syntax. We will discuss how to design linguistic experiments, collect and analyze data, and make generalizations beyond the data you have collected. This is a hands-on course which requires your active participation.



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

Although the focus of this course is syntactic research, the fundamentals of research design and data analysis methods should carry over to research in other areas of language study such as semantics, pragmatics, or language acquisition. By the end of this course, you will have the knowledge and skills necessary to do your own linguistic experiments to explore theoretical issues in linguistics.

Notes: There is no required textbook. All course readings will be available on the course website.

---

### **Quant. Methods for Linguists 1, English 420 - LEC 001**

**Raimy, Eric**

**MWF 1:20 PM - 2:10 PM, HUMANITIES 1101**

[English Language and Linguistics] Survey and introduction to descriptive statistics, visualization, and hypothesis testing for linguistic data with RStudio. Organization, manipulation, classification, and visualization of continuous and discrete data are the main focus. Identifying appropriate statistical approaches to both types of data will be developed. Example data are drawn from phonetics and sociolinguistics. Topics of fundamental statistical methods, null hypothesis significance testing, and others facilitate future acquisition of more sophisticated statistical methods.

*Open to students (both undergraduate and graduate) with prior linguistics coursework with instructor approval.*

---

### **Heritage Language/Bilingualism, English 420 - LEC 002**

**Hyunh, Juliet**

**MW 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM, VAN VLECK B231**

[English Language and Linguistics] This course introduces students to topics related to bilingual language users and bilingualism. The areas that will be covered include different types of bilinguals/bilingualism, heritage language speakers, bilingual education, heritage language education, cognitive benefits (or disadvantages) of being a bilingual, and language processing in various bilingual language users.



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

### **Special Topics-Composition Theory: “Reimagining Commonplaces: Invention, Argument, Action”, English 706**

**Young, Morris**

**W 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, WHITE 7109**

[Composition and Rhetoric] While commonplaces in western classical rhetoric have been understood to offer starting places for argument, this presumed a common body of knowledge, experiences, and beliefs that would provide a level field for deliberation. More recently Sharon Crowley has described commonplaces as “discursive sites from which to launch arguments that are not so likely to be met with general approval,” while Ralph Cintron conceptualizes topoi or commonplaces as “storehouses of social energy.” A growing diversity in rhetorical studies in methods, theories, and materials requires a reimagining of rhetorical concepts central to the study of rhetoric. In this seminar, we’ll consider how the rhetorical commonplace continues to function as a site of invention but also as a site of contestation for those who have often been placed on the margins of rhetorical history, theory, and activity. In particular, we will consider how commonplaces often used to construct marginalized subjects—for example, ideas about bodies, belonging, and identity-- may instead be transformed by marginalized subjects to make claims and arguments on their own terms.

Readings may include work by Jonathan Alexander, Michael Bernard-Donals, Brenda Brueggeman, Ralph Cintron, Sharon Crowley, Jay Dolmage, Annika Konrad, Janice Lauer, Jennifer Lin LeMesurier, Cruz Medina and Octavio Pimental, Christa Olson, Bradford Vivian, Shui-yin Sharon Yam, and others.

Written work may include a shorter “keyword” essay (1000 words) and a longer article-length essay (4000-5000 words).

---

### **Advanced English Phonology, English 709**

**Raimy, Eric**

**MWF 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM, EDUCATION L173**

[English Language & Linguistics] Survey of contemporary issues in theoretical phonology focusing on representational questions. Distinctive features, autosegmental representation, and prosodic structure (writ large) in English and other languages are the main topics.

*Prerequisite: Eng 315, Ling 310, or instructor's consent.*

---



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

### **Advanced Research in Theatre History 500 BCE to 1700 CE 500 BC to 1700, ENGL 731**

**Trotter, Mary**

**R 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, WHITE 7105**

[Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies] A lively romp through the dramatic, performance and staging practices of major traditions of world theatre history between 500 BCE and 1700 CE. What we will study (note that we are taking on our topics in reverse chronological order) 1.The English Restoration Playhouse; 2. Neoclassical Theatre in France; 3.Golden Age Spanish Theatre; 4.Theatre in Latin America before 1700; 5.Early Modern English Theatre; 6. Theatre and commedia of the Italian Renaissance; 7. Kabuki Theatre in Japan; 8. Yuan Drama in China; 9. Medieval European Theatre; 10. Ancient Roman Theatre, 11. Indian Sanskrit Theatre; 12. Japanese Noh Theatre; and 13. Classical Theatre of Greece and Egypt.

Note: This is a theatre history course, but any interested English graduate students are welcome to join the ITS crowd on our journey!

---

### **Graduate Poetry Workshop, English 782**

**Meitner, Erika**

**M, 02:00 PM- 4:55 PM, room pending**

[Creative Writing] Graduate level poetry workshop for MFA creative writing students. Open to other graduate students by submission of writing sample.

Pre-Reqs: Admission to the MFA in creative writing or permission of director of creative writing

---

### **Independent Reading, English 799**

**Faculty by Permission**

**By arrangement**

Independent study with a faculty member by permission. Requires submission of 799 approval form when course taken in lieu of required class. Contact the Graduate Division for more information.

---



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

### **Fascinating Fascisms and Performing Populisms, Art Hist 802**

**Wells, Sarah**

**R 04:00 PM - 06:30 PM, L166 Elvehjem**

[Art History] This graduate seminar will grapple with fascisms and populisms historical and contemporary through the specific concepts, methods, and affordances of visual cultures and performance. Far from conflating these two modern political phenomena, we will seek to tease out their differences through detailed analyses of spectacle, frame voice, rhythm, choreography, gesture, and more. The course is anchored by theoretical inquiries and close analyses of case studies drawn primarily from film and moving image art. Among the theorists we will engage are Antonio Gramsci, Theodor Adorno, Siegfried Kracauer, Walter Benjamin, Herbert Marcuse, Angela Davis, Stuart Hall, Rodrigo Nunes, Susan Buck-Morss, Ernesto Laclau, Bishnupriya Ghosh, Verónica Gago, and Hito Steyerl. And among the overarching questions we will consider: who speaks for the many, and how is this speech shaped by visual cultures and performance? How do changes in media ecologies alter how we understand fascisms and/or populisms? What role do analyses of affect play in grappling with these political formations? How might the current upsurge in populisms and fascisms globally testify to unmet social needs, utopian dimensions of collectivity, or promises and fantasies of the good life? Ultimately, we will seek to understand how art works and art theory help us explore and challenge attempts to capture “the people” in all their complexity.

This seminar forms part of a year-long inquiry into fascisms and populisms organized by the Center for Visual Cultures and Performance. Students from all disciplines are invited to tailor their specific lines of inquiry into this frame and will have ample opportunity to do so through course assignments and in-class discussion.

---

### **Medieval/Modern: Here/There, Now/Then, English 803**

**Cooper, Lisa**

**W 01:00 PM - 03:30 PM, WHITE 7105**

[Literary Studies] This seminar is an exploration of the continuing presence of the Middle Ages—in all its beauty and ugliness, and for better as well as for worse—in the present. Each week, we will interrogate the reflection and refraction of the medieval past in and by the present (a phenomenon generally referred to as medievalism) through a different cultural or



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

theoretical lens; our topics will include race and racism; gender and sexuality; nationalism, the colonial, and the post-colonial; canon formation and literary theory; periodization; environmentalism and ecocriticism; and the digital humanities, along with other forms of cultural and artistic production. Our readings and discussion will concentrate on recent secondary work focused on these pressing themes; short presentations will ask seminar participants to engage with medieval primary texts (in translation as needed), while final projects can be keyed to participants' own research areas. This course requires no previous familiarity with the medieval period and is intended to introduce that period and its significance for scholarship in other areas; at the same time, it should also be of great value to premodernists looking to deepen their engagement with current issues in the field.

Note: We will read one scholarly monograph or edited collection per week; most of the books will be accessed as a digital loan from the UW-Madison library, but at least 2 will need to be purchased as used copies.

---

### **Movements and Moments in Contemporary American Literature, English 814**

**Yu, Timothy**

**T 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, WHITE 7105**

[Literary Studies] The long arc of the “contemporary” in American literature now spans more than 75 years, from 1945 to the present. Rather than seeking to create a single narrative of the contemporary, this class approaches the contemporary by highlighting some of the key historical moments and literary movements that have defined the literary era through which we are still living. Readings will include both poetry and prose and may cover such topics as the Beats and the New York School, the Black Arts and Asian American literary movements, New Wave science fiction, language writing, the postmodern novel, environmentalism and climate change, and poetry in the era of Black Lives Matter.

---



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

### **American Literature: Asian Futures, English 817 SEM 001**

**Bow, Leslie**

**M 09:00 AM - 11:30 PM, WHITE 7105**

[Literary Studies] Into the 21st-century, “China Threat,” like Japan Panic and the Yellow Peril before it, projects a future that spells, in Arif Dirlik’s words, “the end of the world as we know it.” Speculative fiction and media have likewise imagined a vaguely Asianized future through the lens of “techno-Orientalism.” How do speculative literatures by Asian Americans respond to this projection? We will look at texts that depict Asianized dystopias or surreal landscapes that critique existing social formations and create alternatives. Drawing on Fredric Jameson’s assertion of the “wish-fulfillment” underlying dystopia, we will explore the multiple resonances underlying “speculation” and their global implications. In addition to the primary texts below, secondary reading will include work by Bruno Bettelheim, Immanuel Wallerstein, Morley and Robins, Karl Marx, Donna Haraway, bell hooks, Edward Said, Koichi Iwabuchi, David Harvey, and Sunaina Maira, among others.

#### **Booklist:**

*Shaun Tan, The Arrival*

*Kip Fulbeck, Part Asian/ 100% Hapa*

*Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior*

*Ted Chiang, “The Story of Your Life”*

*Chang-Rae Lee, On Such a Full Sea*

*Franny Choi, Soft Science*

*Ling Ma, Severance*

*Charles Yu, Third Class Super Hero*

---

### **Complicity & American Literature, English 817 SEM 002**

**Zimmerman, David**

**R 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, WHITE 7105**

[Literary Studies] By what routes and on what grounds do moral guilt, shame, and taint for social wrongs fall on individuals, groups, and institutions? To answer this question is necessarily to excite the moral imagination, to envision the reach of our moral connection to social, political, and economic harms that may appear remote or opaque. This course focuses on American writers and reformers' efforts to understand and represent what it means to be



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

morally complicit, or party to a crime, wrong, or injustice. We will investigate how American imaginative literature and reform writing from 1800 to the present have shaped and been shaped by complicity concerns. We will read novels, reform essays, and experimental prose along with essays in moral, social, and political theory. Possible key texts include Charles Brockden Brown, *\*Wieland\** (1798); Harriet Beecher Stowe, *\*Uncle Tom's Cabin\**, Herman Melville, *\*Billy Budd\**; Jack London, *\*The Iron Heel\**; Juliana Spahr, *\*The Transformation\**; Thomas Pynchon, *\*The Crying of Lot 49\**; Julie Iromuanya, *\*A Season of Light\**; and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, *\*Chain-Gang All-Stars\**.

---

### **Modernism, Postcolonialism, Multilingualism:**

#### **India and the Urban Theatre as Global South Paradigms, English 859**

**Dharwadker, Aparna**

**T 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM, WHITE 7105**

[Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies] As robust fields of contemporary scholarship, modernist studies and postcolonial studies have struggled in similar ways with the problems of Anglocentrism and Eurocentrism because of the intellectual, cultural, and political contexts of their development since the mid-20th century. EuroAmerican “high” modernist works, many of them created originally in English, dominated our understanding of modernist theory and practice until the 1990s, while postcolonial theory and literature have been produced mainly in languages such as English, French, and Spanish, which are in fact the premier languages of former European colonies in Africa and the Caribbean. Forms of modernism as well as postcolonialism that exist outside the circuits of Europhone textuality and performance appear either on the margins of global overviews or are entirely invisible.

This course proposes modern and contemporary urban literature and theatre in India as cultural forms that present perhaps the most sustained challenge to existing methods in modernist studies and postcolonial studies. India’s historic tradition of multilingual literacy made more than sixteen fully developed non-Europhone languages available to authors from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, initiating forms of modernity that have evolved continuously for almost two centuries. Modernist studies and postcolonial studies are not equipped to deal with multilingualism on this scale, and the lacunae in these fields prompt us to approach India as a Global South paradigm that poses a series of questions scholars have largely failed to address so far. What



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 [english@wisc.edu](mailto:english@wisc.edu) [www.english.wisc.edu](http://www.english.wisc.edu)  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

happens when we move away from Anglophone fiction-centered models of postcolonial cultural production and tackle the post/colonial thematics of multilingual modern Indian writing, with the textual/performative field of urban theatre as our primary case study? How can we identify and understand forms of modernism that combine a thoroughly cosmopolitan engagement with contemporaneous movements around the world with a deep commitment to the historically continuous literary cultures of Indian languages? What does “postcolonial modernism” look like under these conditions, especially in drama and theatre that deal with the topoi of myth, history, the urban present, and the powerful legacies of “tradition”? How does multilingualism function at the levels of writing, print, and performance in a polyglot national space? What “theories of theatre” do these complex conditions generate, and how are the theories embodied in practice?

The objective of the course, therefore, is to develop complex models of modernism and post/colonialism that can enable us to actually understand and interpret less familiar but no less vital cultural forms in the postcolony. The primary materials are drawn from the richly diverse field of modern Indian drama that is widely recognized now as a major component of contemporary world theatre; created originally in six different languages, including English, these materials are available for study in the uniform target language of English because of the continuous activity of translation. However, the specific plays and performance histories also serve as “case studies” for theoretical approaches/analyses that draw broadly on postcolonial studies, modernist studies, theatre and performance studies, theories of translation and transculturation, media studies, subaltern studies, gender studies, and the critique of ideology. In this respect, the course is relevant to graduate students working in a range of disciplines and pursuing one or more among these diverse methodologies. For students focusing specifically on drama, theatre, and performance, the course provides an intensive introduction to all aspects of a singular but neglected non-Western tradition. For students specializing in India/South Asia, it covers a prominent modern subcontinental form, fully contextualized in relation to literary, cultural, and political history since the mid-19th century. Both the primary and secondary materials for the course will be in English.

---



## Department of English – Graduate Division

Telephone: (608) 263-3751 Fax: (608) 263-3709 english@wisc.edu www.english.wisc.edu  
7195 H Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706

### **Reading for Prelims, English 890**

**Graduate Faculty in English** by Permission

**Meeting by Arrangement**

Variable credit course. Utilized when major course work has been completed and students are preparing for prelims.

Note: This course replaces English 999--for Reading for Prelims.

---

### **Dissertation Research, English 990**

**Dissertation Chair by Permission**

**Meeting by Arrangement**

Available to post-prelim examination PhD students by permission. Students who have reached dissertator status should enroll in three credits. This is a variable credit course, however, and may be used in combination with other enrollment credits to satisfy minimum enrollment requirements prior to reaching official dissertator status.