



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

Fall 2026 Graduate Course Descriptions

Experimental Syntax, English 418

Cho, Jacee

TR 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM, INGRAHAM 222

[English Language and Linguistics] (Mixed Grad/Undergrad) An introduction to conducting linguistic experiments to address theoretical questions in the study of syntax. Covers the fundamentals of research design and quantitative data analysis methods to explore theoretical issues in syntax that can carry over to research in other areas of language study such as semantics, pragmatics, or language acquisition.

All reading materials will be available on Canvas

Really Old English, English 520

Foys, Martin

TR 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM, VAN VLECK B115

[Literary Studies] Old English is the earliest form of English - over 1,000 years old, it is the language of Beowulf and Grendel, of saints and sinners, of farmers, seafarers, and a surprising number of animals and objects that can talk. It is a language that is uncannily strange, alien, yet at the same time the backbone, the muscle, of modern English. This course will teach you an awful lot about the language we use every day: in the first half of the semester, we will study basic pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary, with short translation exercises due in most class meetings; in the second half, we will put the skills you've learned to work, reading Old English texts and poems in the original — a rare opportunity. Because this is a principally a language class, no research papers will be required. Instead, there will be translation exercises, quizzes, a midterm exam, and final translation projects. No previous experience required, though some familiarity with studying another language at any level can be helpful.



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Special Topics-Composition Theory, English 700

Bernard-Donals, Michael

W 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, WHITE 7105

[Composition and Rhetoric] In this seminar we will explore the development of the field, “Rhetoric and Composition” or “Writing Studies,” alongside the development of public higher education in the United States. Its goal is to trace the transformation of both the field and the institution to help seminar participants to understand their own location within both in the context of the institutional and cultural history of public higher education.

Rsch Meths-Applied Linguistics, English 711

Cho, Jacee

TR 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM, WHITE 7115

[English Language & Linguistics] An introduction to quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods in applied linguistics. The main goals of the course are (1) to develop knowledge about fundamentals of research design and quantitative & qualitative research methods and (2) to design your own research study.

All reading materials will be available on Canvas.

Topics in Contemporary English Linguistics, English 713

Raimy, Eric

MWF 1:20 PM - 2:10 PM, WHITE 7111

[English Language & Linguistics] Continuation of "Quantitative Methods for Linguists 1" which explores regression methods as a statistical tool for linguistic data. Starting with simple linear regression, multiple and mixed effects models are discussed and developed. Logistic and ordinal logistic models to analyze categorical and Likert type survey data are explored.



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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.

Proseminar-Teaching of Writing, English 790

Kelm, Sara

Sem 001: R, 9:30 AM- 10:45 AM, WHITE 7109

Sem 002: R, 1:00 PM- 2:15 PM, WHITE 6110

[Composition & Rhetoric] This one-credit course introduces graduate student instructors to the fundamentals of teaching writing. We will discuss the goals of the introductory composition course and best practices in teaching (including syllabus construction, assignment design, class discussion and group work, peer review, the revision process, and evaluation and grading). This is a required course for and limited to instructors teaching English 100 for the first time at UW-Madison.

Critical Methods in Lit, English 800

Vareschi, Mark

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

[Literary Studies] In this course, we will have two aims: 1) to tease out what exactly it means to engage in literary criticism as a professional scholar and 2) to survey the terrain of contemporary literary criticism and to become familiar with the questions and methods that shape our scholarship today. Our inquiry will be guided, in part, by faculty from the English Department who will be visiting throughout the semester.



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Medieval Worldmaking: Race/Wonder/Body/Monster/Element, English 803

Foys, Martin

T 09:30 AM - 12:00 PM, WHITE 7105

[Literary Studies] Designed for specialists and non-specialists alike, this seminar will explore concepts of medieval worldmaking through early and late medieval English literature (all in modern translation, with access to original language for medieval studies graduate students) and theories of race formation, wonder, embodiment, monstrosity and elemental/environmental media. The first half of the course will explore a general survey of early medieval literature (including Beowulf), with an especial focus on representations of various intersections of race, wonder, body, monstrosity, elements, and a parallel strand tracking the early evolution of Western constructions of “the East”. The second half of the term will build upon such groundwork, focusing on works of later medieval / early Modern period (including Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and the odd Canterbury Tale), with the continuing strand of Western constructions of the East in relation to the geo-theo-political processes of the Crusades, English formulations of Islamic and Judaic subjectivity, and the genre of medieval romance.

Theory as Experience, English 822 LEC 001

Neyrat, Frédéric

W 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, WHITE 7105

[Literary Studies] This seminar explores “theory-fiction” (a theoretical production that requires fiction to formulate itself, like R. Negarestani’s *Cyclonopedia*), meta-fictional texts (A. Carson’s *Glass, Irony and God*, A. P. Gumbs’ *M Archive*, etc.), and theoretical poetry (P. Celan, G. Oppen, G. Stein, etc.). We’ll read Hegel, M. Fisher, Kathy Acker, J. Baudrillard, J.F. Lyotard, etc.



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Popular Culture, English 822 LEC 002

Fawaz, Ramzi

M 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, WHITE 7105

[Literary Studies] This advanced research seminar will offer a kaleidoscopic view of methods for studying popular culture—mass produced entertainment tailored to large-scale audiences in various media forms—in its historical and social contexts. In the first half of the term, we will conduct a sweeping overview of various branches of cultural analysis that have emerged from popular culture studies in the twentieth century, among them: ideology critique, genre formation, aesthetic formalism, affect and sensation, audience reception and fandom, media industries, consumer society, and cultural politics. In the second half of the term, students will develop a sustained research paper focusing on a single cultural object or popular phenomenon, drawing on various methods we have studied. The purpose of this work will be to refine practical skills in writing cultural history, conducting archival research, performing precise close readings and formal analysis, and forging coherent arguments about the social, political, and historical import of various popular culture forms based in solid material evidence.

Resisting Realism, English 822 LEC 003

Ortiz Robles, Mario

R 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM, WHITE 7105

[Literary Studies] This course focuses on the politics and aesthetics of realism. In moments of crisis, we tend to rely on realism as both mode and principle of representation to help us navigate circumstances that seem beyond our grasp and to deliver us from disinformation, political inaction, and personal despair. Yet the obstinate persistence of the Real (ecocide, exploitation, disenfranchisement, racial and sexual erasure, etc.) beyond, or in spite of, figuration suggests that realism also plays a role in ideological obfuscation and social codification. Our goals in this course will thus be twofold: first, to engage long-standing debates about the efficacy and parameters of mimetic representation, and, through attentive readings of a set of realist novels, to examine the aesthetic conditions of political possibility in literature. Theoretical works by Marx, Nietzsche, Benjamin, Lukács, Adorno, Auerbach, Lacan, Althusser, Foucault, Barthes, Williams, Jameson, Žižek, Rancière, and Meillassoux, among others, will help contextualize and complicate the topics to be covered, which will include: How does fiction



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recreate reality? What is the relation between the referential function of literary discourse and its aesthetic qualities? What devices does the novel employ to create realism's "effects"? To what extent do realist genres, from the Bildungsroman to Autofiction, determine our understanding of reality? How has technology (cheap paper, typesetting, the fountain pen, computers, AI, etc.) affected realism's representation of reality? What alternatives to realism, or alternative realisms, if any, exist to resist or overcome the persistence of the Real? Novels from among the works of Dickens, Eliot, Zola, James, Gissing, Woolf, Sinclair, Dos Passos, Robbe-Grillet, Barnes, and Cusk.

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.



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LACIS (Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies) 982: *Brazil, in Theory*

Professor Sarah Ann Wells

Tuesday 4-6:00 PM

Brazil has long inspired curiosity in intellectual and artistic outsiders: from Michel de Montaigne's inauguration of the modern essay ("Of Cannibals," 1580) to Claude Levi-Strauss' notorious "writing lessons" in *Tristes Tropiques* (1955) to Michel Foucault's emergent theories of power in the 1970s and into Global Black studies of the 21st century. This interdisciplinary graduate seminar analyzes how Brazil — the place as well as the idea; the former colony and nation-state, as well as its representations — generates theory. Encounters and clashes among strikingly different peoples and worldviews shape how intellectuals and artists, both foreign and national, understand Brazil. Its staggering heterogeneity — from pre-conquest cosmologies and especially beginning with the profoundly unequal European-Indigenous-African contact zones in the 15th and 16th centuries — makes it a singular incubator to understand theory as an inquiry into how knowledge grapples with what is new, unfamiliar, or unthinkable to it, as a perpetual search in worlds of mixture, conflict, and difference. The frequent motif of Brazil as a puzzle to both foreigners and Brazilians alike is perhaps best captured in political theorist Francisco de Oliveira's (2003) memorable metaphor of the duckbilled platypus, a walking paradox: at once reptile, bird, mammal — all three or none of these.

In this course, we will trace how a Brazil imagined — "in theory," in our everyday language, means an untested hypothesis — is also a story about what theory is and does. We will read theoretical essays by Brazilian and international thinkers and analyze works of visual and literary arts from Brazil as aesthetic theory. The course will be of special interest to students of postcolonial or decolonial thought and Latin American/Caribbean studies. No knowledge of Brazil or Latin America is required. Students with reading knowledge of Portuguese will be encouraged to read in the original language.