

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**  
**Graduate Course Descriptions**  
**Spring 2025**

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**MASTER'S LEVEL (500)**

**EGL 585.01**

**Topics in Cultural Studies**

***Literature and Popular Culture***

A course in which we will explore the variety of ways in which post-1945 literature depicts popular culture, with particular emphasis on replacing a hierarchical view of culture (high-, low-, and middlebrow) with a view of culture as constantly evolving and popular texts as lending themselves to polysemic interpretation. This examination will proceed by looking at a variety of popular artifacts (e.g., film, television, music, photography, comic books) and the ways in which they are portrayed by writers from a variety of backgrounds. Among the subjects to be addressed are the origins and permutations of highbrow/lowbrow cultural distinctions, the impact of mechanical reproduction, exported American popular culture and cultural imperialism, and popular culture as a tool for nation building. The writers to be discussed will be selected from the following list: Donald Barthelme, Don DeLillo, Ann Beattie, Joan Didion, Jessica Hagedorn, Junot Díaz, E. L. Doctorow, Larry Beinhart, Jess Walter, Dennis Potter, Manuel Puig, and Haruki Murakami.

**3 credits, graded A-F**

**LEC 01**

**TH 5:00-7:50 PM**

**S. OLSTER**

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**EGL 585.02**

**Topics in Cultural Studies**

***Dystopian Film and Literature***

This course will explore contemporary dystopian and post-apocalyptic literature, film, and culture in light of American anxieties regarding the individual agency, science and technology, capitalism, the environment, (post)humanity, and freedom.

3 credits, graded A-F

**LEC 02**

**ONLINE ASYNCH**

**R. CLARE**

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**EGL 586.01**

**Topics in Gender Studies**

***Queer Ecologies: Race, Gender, Sexuality and the Environment in Literature and Culture***

This graduate seminar uses ecocriticism and queer theory as its critical lens to explore the concept of queer ecologies in relation to race, gender, sexuality, and the environment in recent literature and culture. As understood and defined in ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, the term queer ecology refers to interdisciplinary scholarly practices that reimagine nature, biology, and sexuality in light of queer theory. As Catriona Sandilands explains, “queer ecology currently highlights the complexity of contemporary biopolitics [as conceptualized by Michel Foucault], draws important connections between the material and cultural dimensions of environmental

issues, and insists on an articulatory practice in which sex and nature are understood in light of multiple trajectories of power and matter” (“Queer Ecology” in *Keywords for Environmental Studies*). Queer ecology upends and resists patriarchal and heterosexist concepts of nature and the natural, drawing from a diverse array of disciplines, including the natural and biological sciences, environmental justice, ecofeminism, and queer studies. At its heart, queer ecology deconstructs various hierarchical binaries and dichotomies that exist particularly within Western human notions of nature and culture. This seminar examines literature and prose (fiction and nonfiction) and films that feature a variety of modern and contemporary representations of human and nonhuman or more-than-human relations in the context of race, gender, sexuality, and the environment. We will examine and explore cultural works (our course’s textual and visual materials) through a queer ecologies critical lens to reimagine nature, biology, and sexuality in light of queer theory. Our goal will be to produce new critical understandings through the lenses of ecocriticism and queer theory as we read and discuss the cultural works for our class.

**3 credits, graded A-F**

**LEC 01**

**M 5:00-7:50 pm**

**J SANTA ANA**

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**EGL 587.30**                      **Topics in Race, Ethnic Studies**

**Home Away from Home—Narrating Diaspora**

This course provides a historical and critical overview of diaspora studies from the past three decades. By engaging with theoretical texts that address issues of ethnic, racial, gender, cultural, and national identities complicated by (post)coloniality and global migration, we will explore interdisciplinary and multi-sited approaches to rethinking diasporic experiences and identities in the age of globalization and transnationalism. We will reflect on various forms of voluntary and forced migration as represented in literary and cultural texts, continuing to reconsider the diaspora and its implications for global societies. By mapping diaspora narratives onto physical and intellectual sites of contact zones and transcolonial borderzones, we will uncover the contested power relations embedded in exchanges and collaborations between diasporic communities and their host societies.

**3 credits, graded A-F**

**LEC 30**

**ONLINE ASYNCH**

**E.K. TAN**

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**EGL 588.01**                      **Writing Workshop**

**Creative Nonfiction**

This course examines the structures and techniques used in creative nonfiction, focusing on the subgenres of literary journalism, cultural criticism, personal essay, lyric essay, social commentary, and memoir. Students will analyze texts from a critical perspective, focusing on both content and form, and will learn the methods and techniques of creative nonfiction, including dialogue, scenes, setting, prose, narrative distance, and revision. Discussions, writing activities, and peer critiques will be utilized, and students will write and revise an essay in the subgenre of their choice. No previous experience in creative writing or creative nonfiction is necessary for this course.

**EGL/WRT 592.01**    **Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition: Mentoring Writers**

This course positions writing and the writing process as collaborative, student-centered processes. Together, we will examine approaches to engaging with writing as a journey of discovery and explore how to employ culturally responsive and sustaining approaches in our multicultural classrooms to support students as they find, hone, and amplify their unique voices.

This course emphasizes writing with both traditional and new literacies. You will engage critically with the questions of how to craft and convey meaning effectively and authentically via digital literacy platforms. Additionally, we will develop an appreciation for writing as a purposeful tool that empowers students to engage meaningfully with their world beyond the classroom walls. Finally, we will situate writing instruction within the current conversations in the field, engaging critically with debates surrounding generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and other forms of technology-mediated crafting.

3 credits, graded A-F

LEC 01

W 5:30-8:20 PM

N TERRY YOUNG

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**EGL 598: Thesis Research**

Writing a master's thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. **Students who plan to take EGL 598 must download the appropriate [form](#) from the English department website.** Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

3 credits, graded A-F (1 credit on retake only)

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**DOCTORAL LEVEL (600)**

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**EGL 603.01: Problems in Literary Theory and Criticism**

**Surveillance and Literature**

This course asks what literature contributes to our understanding of historical and contemporary surveillance practices and which concepts and methodologies from surveillance studies are particularly productive for the analysis of literature. Reading foundational and contemporary surveillance scholarship alongside literary fiction,

we will consider how literature functions within (or against) what Kirstie Ball describes as the confines of the “surveillance imaginary.” Together, we will analyze how literature helps us parse the social, political, and ideological contexts in which surveillance emerges and pervades; we will also examine how literature figures resistance to surveillance and/or participates in surveillance systems. We will theory by scholars such as Michel Foucault, David Lyon, Zygmunt Bauman, Simone Browne, Kirstie Ball, Tyne Sumner, David Murakami Wood, and Torin Monahan and fiction by writers such as Kafka, Orwell, Egan, Gibson, Rankine, Hamid, and Oloixarac.

**3 credits, graded A-F**

**SEM 01**

**W 2:00-4:50 PM**

**K. JOHNSTON**

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**EGL 608.01: Problems in the Relationship of Literature to Other Disciplines**

**Extraction Ecologies**

This seminar examines how the birth of industrial extraction transformed Anglophone culture, politics, and ecologies from the later eighteenth century through the modernist era. Taking our cue from Elizabeth Carolyn Miller’s point that “our critical understanding of British literature has been inadequately attentive to the epistemology of extractivism,” we will focus on British texts that mediated and made sense of a whole new kind of social order: a society rooted in limited flows of energy and minerals on a global scale. How did the shift from renewable power to non-renewable fossil fuels inflect literary form? In what ways did novelists convert the twin perils of exhaustion and ecocide into new resources for fictional character, plot, and setting? While unpacking these questions, we will take up an efflorescence of scholarship on energy and environmental history over the last decade or so. From the gothic novel’s fascination with ancient, undead powers to provincial fables of inheritance, from realist novels that look back on earlier energy transitions to utopian fantasies of repair: across the aesthetic categories and concepts of the extractive era, we will find portents of another world yet to come.

**3 credits, graded A-F**

**SEM 01**

**M 2:00-4:50 PM**

**M TONDRE**

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**EGL 615 Independent Study**

**Students who plan to take EGL 615 must download the appropriate [form](#) from the English department website.** Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**3 credits, graded A-F**

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**EGL 690**                    **Directed Readings**

For PhD students preparing for General Exams and the Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. **Students who plan to take EGL 690 (Directed Readings) must download the enrollment [form](#) from the English department website.** Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permissions to enroll.

**0-9, credits graded S/U**

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**EGL 697.01**                    **Practicum in Teaching Literature**

For teaching assistants only. Interested students should speak with their advisor prior to enrolling.

**3 credits graded S/U**

**TUT 01**

**APPT**

**SIMONE BRIONI**

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**EGL 699**                    **Dissertation Research On-Campus**

Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab. Fall, Spring, and Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 699 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate [form](#) from the English department website.** Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**0-9, credits graded S/U**

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**EGL 700**                    **Dissertation Research Off-Campus Domestic**

Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 700 (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate [form](#) from the English department website.** Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**0-9, credits graded S/U**

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Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan. International students who are in their home country are not covered by a mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed.

International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by the second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if the other plan is deemed comparable. All international students must receive clearance from an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. **Students who plan to take EGL (Dissertation Research) must first download the appropriate form from the English department website.** Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

**0-9, credits graded S/U**

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**English Students: All students should meet with an advisor before they register for any courses**

**Taking courses outside of English:** If you are interested in taking a graduate course that is not EGL or not cross-listed with EGL, you must obtain written permission from the Graduate Program Director, the semester before the course begins. Just because SOLAR allows you to register for a non-EGL course does not mean that it can count toward your degree-get permission first.

**Non-English Students:**

Graduate English courses are open to all English students. Students outside of the English department who would like to take an English course should contact the instructor of the course and the graduate program coordinator for enrollment permissions.