English 1230W – Literature and Analytical Thinking

[Close reading and writing in a variety of genres drawn from several periods. Productive dialogue, persuasive argument, and effective prose style. Offered on a graded basis only [3] (HCA)]

Engl. 1230W.01 – Literature and Analytical Thinking

“Myths and Anti-Myths: (Re)Visions of the Frontier”

Thea Autry
MWF – 9:10-10:00

What can we learn from Captain Kirk? The answers may be plentiful, but we will start by situating Star Trek alongside other revisions of the frontier idea, like Blood Meridian, Django Unchained, and Jonathan Hickman’s East of West, in order to address questions of colonialism, expansion, race, power, sex, and violence. Grading will be based on four formal papers, paper revisions, a presentation, and regular informal writing, all designed to prepare students for conversing a broad range of ideas and disciplines.

Engl. 1230W.02 – Literature and Analytical Thinking

“Reimagining Sex and Gender”

Kira Braham
MWF – 10:10-11:00

What can we learn from the exploration of imaginary worlds? We will examine speculative fiction by authors such as Aldous Huxley, Ursula K. Le Guin, and Octavia Butler to consider the way in which their radical reimaginings of sexuality and gender can generate pressing questions that concern you in your own lives. You will have the opportunity to express your thoughts in a variety of writing genres, and we will focus on writing as a process, working together to develop thoughtful writing practices that will be of use to you throughout your academic career and beyond.

Engl. 1230W.03 – Literature and Analytical Thinking

“Forbidden Love”

Joanna Huh
MWF – 10:10-11:00

Love is never what we expect it to be—it is more pain than pleasure, more torment than happiness, more dissatisfaction than comfort. And the ambivalence and complications of love are greater heightened when that love is forbidden. We will examine how taboo love is treated and depicted in literature and film, focusing on the representation of the paradoxical nature of love that emerges when societal constraints and conventions forbid specific relationships. Texts will include Shakespeare’s Othello, Nabokov’s Lolita, and Baldwin’s Giovanni’s Room, supplemented by short stories and films like Memoirs of a Geisha and Moulin Rouge. Three formal essays and in-class participation will comprise the majority of your grade. You will end the semester a more critical thinker, reader, and writer and more adept in communicating your ideas through academic writing conventions.

Engl. 1230W.04 – Literature and Analytical Thinking

“Striving Towards Freedom: Black Youth and the Problem of the Color Line”

Magana Kabugi
MWF – 11:10-12:00

How can we define literature for African American youth? This is the main critical question that will frame our exploration of how black youth have grappled with issues of race and racism in American literature and popular culture. Through essay writing and engagement with books, film and social media, we will trace a lineage of narratives for and about Black youth starting with slave narratives through the Obama era.
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Engl. 1230W.05 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Seeing Things: Phantoms and False Impressions in Literature and Film”
Katie Mullins
MWF – 9:10-10:00
Why and how do we “see” things that might not be real, and how can these visions shape our thoughts and actions? Develop your analytical thinking and critical writing skills by examining texts that take hallucination or delusion as a primary concern or mode of representation. These may include Shakespearean drama, Romantic prose and poetry, Gothic short stories, and selected films. At the end of the course, you’ll be more confident in your writing and revision skills and well versed in critical reading.

Engl. 1230W.06 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Reading Women as Writers and Texts”
Sari Carter
TR – 9:35-10:50
Does your gender influence how you write? What about how you read? Why does it matter? Sharpen your critical thinking and writing skills by engaging the crafted arguments of a variety of essays and novels about women, including Wollstonecraft’s A Vindication of the Rights of Women, Eliot’s Adam Bede, Hall’s The Well of Loneliness, and Woolf’s A Room of One’s Own. Assessment will primarily depend on three argumentative essays and two required revisions, with additional daily reading responses and a final presentation, aiming to develop your ability to effectively use academic writing conventions.

Engl. 1230W.07 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Spaces of Welcome”
Rachel Gould
TR – 9:35-10:50
Accommodation. Sanctuary. Cordiality. We use these terms to discuss hospitality, but what does it mean to welcome someone? What is the relationship between the resident and guest? Where can we welcome people? Studying novels and short stories, we will consider such questions and examine the political, religious and economic aspects of hospitality. We will discuss the form of academic writing and develop analytical skills. This course requires three essays and a final project with readings from Jane Austen, Immanuel Kant, Daniel Defoe, and others.

Engl. 1230W.08 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“I Just Work Here: Jobs in Literature”
Jesse Montgomery
TR – 11:00-12:15
Good jobs, bad jobs, dream jobs, dead-end jobs. Part time, student, and full employment. Job creators. Day laborers. Interns. Slackers. When we talk about jobs we talk about values. What is a good job? What does it mean to do a good job? Develop your critical reading and writing skills by exploring the ways in which literature and film both examine and shape our attitudes about jobs, work, and slacking off. Write and revise three essays over the course of the semester to sharpen your essay writing skills. Texts may include: Storming Heaven, Denise Giardina; Under the Feet of Jesus, Helena Maria Viramontes; Gilead, Marilynne Robinson; “Bartleby the Scrivener,” Herman Melville; Pastoralia, George Saunders; Harlan County USA, dir. Barbara Kopple; and The Parking Lot Movie, Meghan Eckman; and Office Space, Mike Judge.
English 1230W – Literature and Analytical Thinking

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Engl. 1230W.09 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Supernatural Fiction and Critical Writing”
Alex Oxner
TR – 1:10-2:25
What makes a good ghost story, and what is a ghost’s story? The space of the “unreal” or supernatural offers readers new ways to understand ourselves and gives writers tools for imagining new stories and histories. We will develop our critical and creative writing skills by examining ghosts, poltergeists, zombies, and other supernatural figures through the lenses of race, class, and gender. Students will write two “mini” essays and two formal essays that incorporate creative writing, close-reading, scholarly research, and other techniques that can be adapted to multiple college classroom environments.

Engl. 1230W.10 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Hunting Kinship”
Joey Jordan
TR – 4:00-5:15
What does ‘family’ have to do with hunting? How do ‘gender’ and ‘lineage’ play with our expectations of hunting stories? Develop further your academic writing and argumentation skills by examining the role of kinship and gender in six hunting narratives: The Diane and Actaeon myth, the Abrahamic story of Nimrod, the Grimm brothers’ “Little Red Riding Hood,” Richard Connell’s “The Most Dangerous Game,” Philip K. Dick’s Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, and Octavia Butler’s Wild Seed. Three formal essays will comprise the majority of your grade. Revise each essay once to end your semester more confident in your writing skills.

Engl. 1230W.11 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Canadian Literature and Culture”
James Phelan
TR – 4:00-5:15
A survey of Canadian fiction, poetry, film, visual art, and music, with an emphasis on the first three. As it brings the Canadianness of Canada into focus, the class should help us see America and the South afresh. Our exploration of Canadian culture and the questions that shape it will be the basis for an intensive group effort to become more effective critical writers.

Engl. 1230W.12 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Serialization and the Short Story”
Kylie Korsnack
TR – 8:10-9:25
What counts as serialization and how does this form of repetition influence the ways we read and interpret texts? In this course, we will explore these questions be analyzing the manifestation of serialization within a variety of audio-visual, digital, and print forms: short story collections, postmodern novels, podcasts, blogs, and television series. By critically engaging with all these primary texts, we will work to develop our ability to construct effective academic arguments that can contribute to current scholarly conversations within the field of literary studies and beyond. Along the way, we might even experiment with serialized writing of our own.
English 1230W – Literature and Analytical Thinking

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Engl. 1230W.13 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Killing Danny Tanner: The Death of Adulthood in American Literature”
Terrell Taylor
MWF – 10:10-11:00
Do the old, white, heterosexual, able-bodied, male patriarch protagonists of traditional literature and culture have to die in order for young, female, non-straight, differently abled and/or non-white protagonists to exist? This course will explore American literature and media from a variety of traditions and backgrounds to explore the evolving and complex image of “the adult” as it changes throughout various moments in the twentieth century. Specific texts will include F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*, Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*, Gary Shteyngart’s *Super Sad True Love Story*, and Junot Diaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* among others. Students will learn to analyze the rhetoric and language for the various assumptions that underpin any act of expression, and to defend and adopt critical positions in contemporary social and political debates surrounding culture and media.

Engl. 1230W.14 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Souls, Demons, and Humans: The Making of the Un-human”
Nadejda Webb
MWF – 11:10-12:00
Who is considered “human”? We will use the popular television series Buffy the Vampire Slayer to begin an exploration of the binary relationship between good and evil, paying particular attention to which arguments about the soul have been used as instruments of dehumanization. Three formal essays and a final presentation will comprise the majority of your grade. After writing three engaging papers and participating in thoughtful class discussions, you will leave with developed writing and communication skills.

Engl. 1230W.15 – Literature and Analytical Thinking
“Stories of Childhood”
Robbie Spivey
MWF – 12:10-1:00
In Letters to a Young Poet, Rainer Maria Rilke writes: “Even if you found yourself in some prison, whose walls let in none of the world’s sounds—wouldn’t you still have your childhood, that jewel beyond all price, that treasure house of memories? Turn your attention to it.” In this class we turn our attention to stories of childhood, to the invention of childhood over time, and to the many ways children function in literature – including symbol, audience, and muse.