Courses in other departments that are eligible for English

AMER 4100.02 – Undergraduate Seminar in American Studies: “Story.alt: The Fraught Co-Existence and Conversation between Analog and Digital Modes of Storytelling”

[Advanced reading, research, and writing in a particular area of American Studies. Limited to juniors and seniors with preference given to American Studies majors. May be repeated for credit once if there is no duplication in topic. Students may enroll in more than one section of this course each semester. [3; maximum of 6 credits for all semesters of AMER 4100] (SBS)]

Tony Earley
TR – 4:00-5:15

Although the following suggestion is unquantifiable, it seems likely that more tweets have been posted on Twitter in the last ten years than poems have been written in all of history. While equating a tweet with a poem is a dubious comparison at best, I make it as a way of illustrating the degree to which social media has become, aside from the spoken word, the primary forum we use to tell stories about ourselves. This course will concern itself with the ways we portray the world in traditional art forms (novels, stories, poems) versus the ways we portray the world (and ourselves) in digital media. In what ways does a life recounted on Twitter differ from a life recounted in a traditional memoir? Do we present our “true” selves to our friends when we post on Facebook, or are we creating fictional characters who happen to share our names? How do the tweets of Kim Kardashian differ from the haiku of Basho? During the semester we will write, tweet, post, search, lurk, Tumbl and Snap. We will follow each other (and the alter egos we create) online. I will encourage you to keep your phones and computers powered up in class. Some days you will even be encouraged to check Facebook.

ASIA 2100W.01 – Fashioning the Self: “Coming of Age and Asian Modernities”

[The coming-of-age novel (Bildungsroman) as a literary form in the twentieth-century Asia. Travails of modernity and colonialism; the effects of crossing national, racial, and cultural boundaries; the experiences of traveling to urban centers, foreign countries, and ancestral lands. Texts from China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, and Vietnam. Taught in English. [3] (INT)]

Ben Tran
MW – 3:30-4:45

In the European Bildungsroman (or coming-of-age novel), young protagonists come of age, learning the ways of the world psychologically, socially, and morally. Youth in this genre represents a struggle between self-determination and the processes of socialization. It symbolizes modern society’s demands and uncertainties, as well as modernity’s potential for mobility and instability. This course will examine how the Bildungsroman takes on different meanings in Asian literatures. We will read coming-of-age works that address and represent the politics of gender, nationalism, and language within the frameworks of modernity and colonialism. The class will look at the experiences of young men and women in different socio-historical contexts that range from Indonesia to Thailand. We will also turn our attention to individuals who—traveling to urban centers, foreign countries, and ancestral lands—must grapple with geographical displacement. Our primary goals for the course are: to develop writing skills in conjunction with analytical argumentation; to consider why “youth” culture gains literary and symbolic significance in varied sociohistorical contexts across Asia that are inflected by modernization, colonialism, and global capitalism; to study the genre of the novel, taking the Bildungsroman as our focal point; and to examine the connections between historical and cultural transformations and literary form.

This course satisfies the English Diverse Perspectives requirement.
Courses in other departments that are eligible for English

**JS 2230W.01 – American Southern Jews in Life and Literature**

*From colonial times to present. Interactions between Southern Jews and other Southerners, and between Southern and Northern Jews. The Civil War, Jewish economic activities, and the civil rights movement. [3] (US)*

Adam Meyer  
MWF – 9:10-10:00

Historical accounts and analyses of Jewish life in America almost always focus on the experiences of Jews in large Northern cities, most notably New York, despite the fact that Jews have also been present in the South throughout American history. This course seeks to rectify that imbalance somewhat by examining Jewish life in the South from both a historical and a literary perspective. Looking at the ways in which Southern Jews have interacted with their non-Jewish neighbors, as well as with Jews from other parts of the country, during such important events as the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement, among many others, helps to provide a more complete view of the Jewish experience in America. Examining works of fiction about Southern Jews similarly helps to enhance our understanding of the fullness and complexity of Jewish American literature.

This course satisfies the English Diverse Perspectives requirement.

**JS 2240W.01 – Black-Jewish Relations in Post-War American Literature and Culture**

*The historical relationship between African Americans and Jewish Americans and its portrayal in novels, short stories, and films by artists from both communities. [3] (US)*

Adam Meyer  
MWF – 2:10-3:00

While discussions of the historical relationships between African Americans and Jewish Americans are not uncommon in the scholarly and popular discourse, examinations of the ways in which these relationships have been presented in American literature and culture are relatively rare. This course is an attempt to rectify such imbalance. Although we will certainly examine the historical record as a backdrop to our discussions, our focus will be on depictions of Black-Jewish relations in literature (novels and short stories) and films by African American and Jewish American artists. Such artistic productions provide a more personal view of the situation; rather than looking at large scale movements or at the interactions of national organizations, exploring such works allows us to see how the relationships actually play out—sometimes positively, sometimes negatively—in real world situations where individuals from the two backgrounds find themselves working with, or at odds with, each other. Doing so thus provides us with a different vantage point on the issue that may, in fact, affect the way that we view the historical record itself.

This course satisfies the English Diverse Perspectives requirement.

**JS 2260.01 – Coming of Age in Jewish Literature and Film**

*The transition of young Jewish protagonists into adulthood as portrayed in literary works and films from Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Repeat credit for students who have completed 2260W. [3] (INT)*

Allison Schachter  
TR – 9:35-10:50

In this course will examine coming-of-age novels, stories, memoirs, and films from multiple Jewish cultural perspectives. What does it mean to grow up in the Russian empire in the late nineteenth century? In Vilna on the eve of World War II? In French colonial Tunisia? In 1950s American suburbia? What were the different protagonists’ challenges as they embraced or rejected the Jewish lives their parents lived? What role did sexuality and gender play in Jewish coming of age narratives? We will address a range of themes in the course ranging from minority identity, the Holocaust, and Zionism to Birthright Israel tours and inter-ethnic and inter-faith relationships. We will also reflect on the practice of writing about the lives of others and recording oral histories.

This course satisfies the English Diverse Perspectives requirement.
Courses in other departments that are eligible for English

JS 2290W.01 – Imagining the Alien: Jewish Science Fiction
[Science fiction and speculative fiction by Jewish writers in cultural context. Aliens, robots, and secret selves; time travel: Utopia, political critique, and questions of Jewish identity. [3] [HCA]]
   Judy Klass
   MWF – 12:10-1:00

JS 2290W.02 – Imagining the Alien: Jewish Science Fiction
[Science fiction and speculative fiction by Jewish writers in cultural context. Aliens, robots, and secret selves; time travel: Utopia, political critique, and questions of Jewish identity. [3] [HCA]]
   Judy Klass
   MWF – 2:10-3:00