

# Spring 2011: English 1202 Course Descriptions



## ENGL 1202 L10

**“Friendship and Identity” - Newly Added**

**Instructor: Brian Swail**

“Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies.” With these words, is Gore Vidal simply revealing his own bitter spirit, or something about the complex nature of friendship? What does it mean to be a friend, and how do our friendships influence who we are? In this course we will examine a number of novels and plays in which friendship is important and consider what it means to have and to be a friend.

## ENGL 1202 L11

**“Madness and Literature” - Newly Added**

**Instructor: Paul Tyndall**

Students will examine representations of madness/mental illness in fiction, film and drama drawn from the late 19th century to the present day. Specifically, they will analyze the metaphorical uses and abuses of the concept of madness in this literature.

## ENGL 1202 R14

**“Literary Pandemics: Disease and Global Health in Fiction and Culture” - Newly Added**

**Instructor: Ryan Stephenson**

Recent developments in global health, such as the spread of the H1N1 strain of influenza (the so-called “swine flu”) and the emergence of SARS, have renewed fears for some about the possibility of a worldwide pandemic. The collective response to new diseases by government and by the media reminds us that our definitions of health and disease are culturally mediated, and that our responses to potential epidemics are influenced by their representation in novels, films, and other forms of material culture. This course will explore fictional representations of disease and epidemics in order to study the themes and literary techniques that characterize such works. We will examine the gendered definitions of health and disease, the politics behind epidemics, the role of modern corporations in defining health and disease, and the problems inherent in scientific and technological progress.

# Spring 2011: English 1202 Course Descriptions



## **ENGL 1202 A76 (online)**

### **“Desire, or ‘I Can’t Get No Satisfaction’”**

**Instructor: James Panabaker**

Desires take many forms (the desire for love, sex, money, power, and so on), and the pursuit of these desires can lead to tragic outcomes, or to ecstatic happiness, or, for most of us, to some livable compromise. Section A76 of English 1202 is an on-line course in which we will explore the complexity of human desire as it is depicted in selected poetry, prose, and drama.

## **ENGL 1202 R11 & R12**

### **“From Social Engineering to Bioengineering: Utopia and its Discontents”**

**Instructor: Gillian Dearle**

Is a better world possible? Can we build it? What will happen if we try? These are but a few of the questions that attend upon the idea of utopia. Meaning both “good place” and “no place,” utopia has been used by writers to reflect on the present and to explore the possibilities and perils of the future. As our fears regarding the future mount, however, utopia is overshadowed by its nemesis, the dystopia. Join us as we trace the evolution of utopia from dream to nightmare.

## **ENGL 1202 S10 & S45**

### **“Gothic Literature in Transition, 19th Century – Present”**

**Instructor: Suzanne Rintoul**

This course explores transitions in gothicism from the early nineteenth century to the present, and accounts for the ways in which shifts in gothic fiction, poetry, and film influence and reflect ever-changing ideological concerns. Topics include the following: gothic encoding of political, social, and cultural problems; the historical and contemporary commercialization of the gothic; the difficulty of defining “gothic” as authors and filmmakers persist in re-inventing the genre; and the ongoing development of the genre’s capacity to re-imagine categories of identity.



# Spring 2011: English 1202 Course Descriptions

## **ENGL 1202 S12 & S50**

### **“Love Stories, Love Songs”**

**Instructor: Andrew Bartlett**

Young love, real love, weird love. The madness and tyranny of passion, the warmth and delight of togetherness. Wooing, seduction, courtship, heartbreak, betrayal, reunion, regret, revenge. With or without you... crazy for feeling so blue. In this course, we explore modern short stories about love from all over the world (England, the U.S.A., Canada, India, China, Peru); love poetry from different centuries; and the lyrics of love songs -- from madrigals of Shakespeare's era to pop songs (rock, country, hip-hop) of our time.

## **ENGL 1202 S13 & S16**

### **“In a Dark Time, the Eye Begins to See (Roethke)”**

**Instructor: Karen Inglis**

Journey up the Congo, spend some time in a mental institution, roam a blasted world. Get stuck in the heat of the noonday sun with a mariner, and come to know how we can learn to see in and through the darkness.

## **ENGL 1202 S15**

### **“Nightmares, Hauntings, and Resurrections”**

**Instructor: John Rupert**

In this section of English 1202, we will focus on how masters of horror and the macabre use the generic conventions of poetry, fiction, and film to represent the cosmic conflict between rational mind and the supernatural. Ghosts and malevolent entities will be our familiars, prophesying the fates of children and adults alike, of the educated, the pious, and the occultist. Warning: this course not for the weak of heart.

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# **Spring 2011: English 1204 Course Descriptions**

## **ENGL 1204 L10 & L11**

### **“Different Worlds”**

**Instructor: Betty Anne Buirs**

It sometimes seems like children and adults, men and women, and people from different social classes live in different worlds. Add to the mix variations in race, religion, physical appearance and sexual orientation, and the differences multiply. But what happens when these worlds intersect? In this course, we'll discuss a novel, two short plays, some short stories and several poems that examine the nature of the different worlds we inhabit and the challenges of building bridges between them.

## **ENGL 1204 S13 & S50**

### **“Art and Social Commentary”**

**Instructor: Al Valteau**

What do a tiger and a lamb, a sapper and a burnt patient, a “five foot by four” white painting and three friends, and a war photographer and a fresco have in common? Find out as we study the works of William Blake, Michael Ondaatje, Yasmina Reza and Arturo Pérez-Reverte, and move around the world from London, to Paris, to central Italy and on to Spain.

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