

Sophomore Literature
Summer and Fall 2025

Summer 2025

In Summer I, we are offering online asynchronous sections of

- 2309: World Literature
- 2329: American Literature

In Summer II, we are offering online asynchronous sections of

- 2319: British Literature
- 2329: American Literature

Fall 2025

“What Are My Words Worth?”: Women in Literature and Art (Taylor’s Version)

ENGL 2303-003: Topics in Literature

TR 11-12:20

Rachael Mariboho

This course explores the cultural impact of Taylor Swift by using her song catalogue to shape our study of women’s literature and art. Her lyrics provide “visible” strings to connect works by writers from a range of time periods, geographic locations, and literary traditions who, like Swift, recount personal history, reinvent identity, and recall experiences writing in a male dominated world in service of their storytelling.

Fairy Tales to Fantasy

ENGL 2303-010

MWF 10-10:50

Coady Spaeth

There would be no Legend of Zelda or Game of Thrones if there was no J.R.R. Tolkien, and there would be no Lord of the Rings if there was no George MacDonald or Saga of the Volsungs. The purpose of this class, Fairy Tales to Fantasy, is to learn about the fantasy genre and its development from oratory to fairy tales to fantasy by exploring the evocation of immersive fantasy, linking the influence of culture and mythologies, and articulate the distinct elements of the genre that shapes films, games, music, and play. This course will read and discuss some of the most prominent literature that made this genre distinct – in addition to articles, critiques, films, physical and video games, and selected readings – to formulate how fantasy develops, navigate the cultural shifts and structures within the genre, and consider how fantasy goes

beyond just books. Aside from reading and discussing literature and other mediums, this course will review fantasy and culture, forms and motifs, media and game studies, mythologies, and immersive world building methodologies. Students can expect an average day in this course to have some portion be lecture – talking about concepts of fantasy, topics from the book/readings – but also active elements like engaging in discussions as a class or in groups, workshopping assignments, participating in activities to develop close reading, sampling games; and even relaxing with films and documentaries that adapt fantasy concepts in games and other mediums.

Python for Linguistic Analysis of Literature

ENGL 2303-011: Topics in Literature

TR 9:30-10:50

Bethany Shaffer

This course, offered collaboratively by the Department of English and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, aims to equip students with the fundamental skills of Python coding while introducing them to the literary interpretation technique known as "linguistic analysis of literature." By merging the realms of coding and literary analysis, students will gain a unique perspective on how technology can be harnessed to better understand social realities and pertinent social issues within texts.

Children's Literature

ENGL 2303-014: Topics in Literature

Joanna Johnson

***Online asynchronous**

Children's literature holds an important place culturally because of the ways it reflects and shapes ideas relating to both "the child" and society in general. What better way to approach historical ideas of childhood than to focus on works from what is considered to be the "traditional" children's literature canon? This course will draw largely from the "Golden Age" of children's literature, 1865-1911, and includes texts that have crossed over into the mainstream canon. These works for children often addressed multiple audiences, offering political and social commentary targeted at adults. Additionally, most of these readings have been popularized by other genres such as plays, films, and picture books. The course will examine this success and its relation to the original work. We will take a scholarly and critical approach to the texts, viewing and discussing them through multiple lenses.

World Literature

ENGL 2309-010

MW 2:30-3:50

Joul Smith

This course channels the deeply numinous (or spiritual) journey that complex and diverse literary expressions have always provided for humanity since the dawn of written poetry, prose fiction, drama, and philosophy. We will use our class-time as a devotional engagement with literary texts from each continent (even Antarctica!). I will serve as a moderator, teacher, and aid

as we move through these texts, and you will be asked to draw from your common and epiphanic experiences as we develop an understanding of the texts' influences upon our reality, our world.

British Literature and the Sciences

ENGL 2319-005: Honors British Literature

TR 5:30-6:50pm

Daniel Kasper

Since the Enlightenment, literary figures like Jonathan Swift, Mary Shelley, Charles Dickens, HG Wells, George Orwell, Alan Moore, and Tom Stoppard have engaged with and made use of natural scientific principles and discoveries—from astronomy, biology, geology, physics—as fuel for their creations, often popularizing these ideas with their readers. This survey of British Literature from the Enlightenment to the 21st Century will explore the connection between popular science and popular fiction, demonstrating for students how our ideas about the natural world are created and sustained by literary work. ***This course is restricted to Honors students.***

Badass Women

ENGL 2329-001: American Literature

TR 8-9:20

Bethany Shaffer

This course will explore how female characters in American Literature across the 19th and 20th centuries have shattered traditional expectations placed on women. Students will study short stories, poems, novels, and film to better understand how diverse the word "badass" is in regard to women. For some, it is simply being willing to live without a husband, for others, it is fighting for a child, and others to save her species from extermination. Students will take an exam, create a presentation and write an essay making connections across the badass theme of the course.

American Literature

ENGL 2329-002

MW 1-2:20

Matt Tettleton

This class will explore a selection of texts from important literary and historical movements in the United States. This section of American Literature focuses on key movements that illuminate the connections between the construction of American cultural and political identity and the creative expressions that arise from it. In our learning community, we will practice modern methods of literary analysis that emphasize the interplay between authors, cultures, texts, and readers. Specific movements studied may include Transcendentalism, the Abolition movement, the Harlem Renaissance, modernism, postmodernism, and the Native American Renaissance.

In addition, we are offering two online sections each of World Literature (2309), British Literature (2319), and American Literature (2329).