

May 2021

ENG 301-101/ CRN/ Special Topics in Language and Literature / Online; asynchronous /Johnson V

The Arthurian Tradition

This course will highlight key moments in the development of the trans-national and trans-temporal Arthurian tradition and legend, with a particular focus upon the responsibilities of kingship and the impact of masculine friendships. Texts will include poetry, television, film, medieval romances, and more from periods ranging from the Middle Ages to the modern twenty-first century. All readings will be in modernized English translations.

The course is open to all students across the University who have completed ENG 102, 104, or equivalent with a grade of C or higher.

English Major Distribution: Literature Before 1800; ENG 300 / 400 Elective

Summer I 2021

ENG 231-201/ CRN/ Global Literature Survey/ Online; asynchronous /Murphy J

MODERN CROSSROADS

This course will explore the work of poets and prose writers from the United States and Britain active since the Romantic Era. Though from vastly different cultural backgrounds, these writers share a conception of bringing “modernity” into their works, as each one sought to update, dust off, and revolutionize the genre(s) of writing she or he practiced. Often met with resistance in their own times, these writers have achieved iconic, even heroic status in subsequent years, as they re-examined and re-framed discussions of gender, sexuality, race, and basic human identity that are still relevant and essential to our development today. Authors include Walt Whitman, T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Zora Neale Hurston, Robert Hayden and Elizabeth Bishop.

ENG 413/513: Studies in the Novel / The Contemporary African American Novel / MTWTR – 10:20-12:20 / Humanities Hall /Mahaffey / 3 credit hours

How does contemporary African American fiction represent the changing times in America and the world? How are these changes reflected in narrative strategies or in narrative content? How do contemporary African American novelists renegotiate Americanism? What is the impact of cultural production, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity on this fiction? These are a few of the questions this class will explore through the novels of Colson Whitehead, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Jesmyn Ward, and Maurice Carlos Ruffin. They are African American novelists that remind us that the African American literary tradition is about survival and liberation, even in 2020 America. The tradition is similarly about probing, challenging, changing, and redirecting accepted ways of thinking to ensure the wellness and the freedom of those who wish to, but are denied, full access to all the advantages American society has to offer.

Texts:

The Nickel Boys (Whitehead), *We Cast a Shadow* (Ruffin), *The Water Dancer* (Coates), *Salvage the Bones* (Ward)

Summer II 2021

ENG 232 / Global Literature: Perspectives Within a Period or Location / Some Literary Works in Search of a Common Theme / MTWRF – 10:20-12:20 / Humanities Hall / Mahaffey

We begin with an intense family drama set in ancient Greece and end with a story about a Pontiac dealer who believes he is the only one on Earth with free will. In between, we will encounter a pair of interracial lovers surrounded by war and harassed by an individual who needs therapy, a happy little girl who plays with dead people, America's first hippie, and other notable personalities who are both entertaining and provocative as they navigate the human condition. The authors come from a diverse background of literary and narrative strategies, and from play to poem to novel, the commonality of the chosen works is that they reflect the politics of the society in which they were created. What they do not have in common is an idea that unifies them into a cohesive group of readings. This is where the class comes into play. We will examine the works as both stand-alone readings and as readings that comment upon each other in some yet to be discovered way. The works will be read in chronological order, but the ultimate goal is to identify a common theme (or themes) that is applicable across time.

Texts:

Three Theban Plays (Sophocles), *Othello* (Shakespeare), *The Lyrical Ballads* (Wordsworth and Coleridge), *Leaves of Grass* (Whitman), *Breakfast of Champions* (Kurt Vonnegut)