

Department of English and Literary Arts
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS—Fall 2020

**Fulfillment of DU and Departmental requirements is listed after each description. All English courses, except those used to fulfill DU Common Curriculum requirements, can also count for English Elective credit. Please note, no more than 12 credit hours of 1000-level coursework--including ENGL 1010 and any transfer credit--can count towards our major requirements.*

ENGL 4001 Section 1
CRN 1037
Sem. Creative Writing-Poetry
Graham Foust
Tuesday, Friday 10-11:50 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In addition to critiques of student work, this seminar will be devoted to the discussion of several poems and essays (including Hannah Arendt's "Imagination," George Oppen's "The Mind's Own Place," Tony Conrad's "Sacred Harp Heterophony," and Rowan Ricardo Phillips' "Phyllis Wheatley and the Epigraphic Mood"). We will also read Susan Wolf's *Meaning in Life and Why it Matters* and Rae Armantrout's new book *Conjure*. Please consult the course's Canvas site this summer for more information.

Fulfills one of three required DU English graduate workshop requirements:

ENGL 4009 Section 1
CRN 5047
Sem. Creative Writing-Prose
Patty Yumi Cottrell
Thursday 4-7:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will be conducted as a prose workshop designed around the discussion of creative work. A portion of the class will be spent discussing the assigned contemporary readings with an emphasis on examining the relationship between atmosphere and setting, form and content, voice and void, pattern and digression, language and rhythm, intuition and design, dream and logic. Participants will be asked to present prose for discussion by their peers, and to offer written responses for the writing of their peers. Participants will also generate new work through a variety of exercises inside and outside of the workshop. Together, we'll look at moments of discomfort and delight in texts as well as interrogate our own tendencies as readers and writers all with an aim to uncover new forms of practice.

Fulfills one of three DU English graduate workshop requirements: Fulfills Period Requirement: 20th-21th Centuries

ENGL 4125 Section 1
CRN 5048
Beginning Old English
Donna Beth Ellard
Monday, Wednesday 10-11:50 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Old English is the first of a two-part sequence (Fall: Beginning Old English; Winter: Beowulf in Old English).

Old English is a foreign language, so this will be a foreign language course. You'll be learning how to decline nouns, conjugate verbs, and parse OE grammar so that, in the Spring, you can read Beowulf.

As a course angled towards future horizons, Beginning Old English course will not only prepare you for reading Beowulf but also point you towards 20th- and 21st-century poetry. As we learn Old English grammar, we will translate Old English poems that have been adapted and translated by contemporary poets and discuss Old English poetics in relation to contemporary poetic craft and the practice of translation.

For Graduate Students: This course fulfills the tool requirement for the PhD program.

Fulfills DU English graduate TOOL requirement

ENGL 4424 Section 1

CRN 5227

Special Topics in Nineteenth-Century Literature: Negative Capability

Rachel Feder

Tuesday 12-3:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Romantic poet John Keats only mentions negative capability once, in a letter written to his brothers in 1817. There, he describes negative capability as the quality of being “capable of being in uncertainties, Mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact & reason.” In this seminar, we’ll take Keats’s potent concept as a starting point for considering his corpus alongside key texts in British Romanticism. We’ll also bring Keats’s abstraction with us into a sustained exploration of embodiment and the Gothic, interrogating the politics, promises, and social dynamics that come up when we think about what it means to be “capable of being in uncertainties.”

Fulfills DU English graduate requirement: Period 1700-1900

ENGL 4830 Section 1

CRN 1041

Sem. Teaching Writing and Literature

Juli Parrish

Monday 4-5:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The ongoing project of learning how to write is both the exigence and the end of this class, in which we will study the complexities of how we and others continually learn how to write and teach writing. These complexities motivate entire fields of study, from rhetoric and composition to literacy, genre, and writing center studies. In this course, we will read broadly in these fields to develop a repertoire of lenses and approaches for working with writers in diverse disciplines, for disrupting culturally specific assumptions about good writing and good writers, and for responding cogently to writers’ needs and differences. Students will engage in

regular observation and reflection and write a final consulting philosophy or conference-length paper based in part on their work as consultants in the University Writing Center.

Fulfills DU English graduate requirement: 2hr. Writing Center Class Requirement for first-year PhD students (part of foundational coursework)

ENGL 3800 Section 1

Bibliography and Research Methods

Eleanor McNees/Peggy Keeran

Monday, Wednesday 12:00-1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course focuses on researching a specific topic step by step from the thesis/dissertation proposal to the prospectus. Co-taught by library and English Department faculty, students acquire a range of research skills as they build each assignment incrementally from basic database research to experience with rhetorical skills useful to advance a persuasive argument. The class blends three separate audiences: senior English majors preparing honors theses; second-year MA students researching the MA thesis; and second or third-year PhD students working toward a dissertation prospectus (literary studies), critical preface (creative writing) or a scholarly essay to submit to a journal. While the graduate students often act as mentors to the undergraduates, all are involved in a similar writing community, and all share their work repeatedly with each other in class.

Fulfills DU English graduate TOOL requirement