

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET

Fall 2025

REVISED **08.20.25**

Graduate Level Courses

Available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.english.unl.edu/courses/index.html>

Because of the long lead time, the descriptions should be considered to be rather tentative. Although it is assumed that most instructors will be offering the courses as described here, students should be aware that some changes are possible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page #
How to Use This Booklet	3
800-900 Level of Courses	3
Independent Study	3
English Minors & Unclassified Students	3
Student Appeals Committee	4
Curriculum Committee	4
Thesis & Dissertation Hours	4
Course Descriptions	5

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet should be used with the Schedule of Classes issued by the Office of Registration and Records. The English Department Course Description Booklet contains as many descriptions of courses as were available as of August 20, 2025. The Booklet may include descriptions of some courses not found in the official Schedule of Classes. If the course is described in this booklet, but not in the *printed* Schedule of Classes, it should be assumed that the course will be offered as described in this booklet. In every case the student should remember that in the interval between now and the start of the next semester, changes are inevitable, even though every effort is made to describe accurately in this booklet what the Department intends to offer.

800 – 900 LEVEL OF COURSES

Advanced undergraduates may register in 800 and 900-level courses with the permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies, provided that these hours do not count towards their baccalaureate requirements. Registration at the 900-level for undergraduates requires also the permission of the instructor. These 800 and 900-level hours may then count in a graduate program in English.

900-level courses are offered for variable credit, either three or four hours. Ordinarily students sign up for four hours credit. The three-hour option is for students whose workloads make it administratively impossible for them to sign up for four hours. Usually, the four-hour option does not require more work, but this is at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult their instructors about their policies in this matter. Masters students should note that their program must contain a number of hours in courses open only to graduate students (i.e., 900-level, or special 800-level courses which are preceded by an asterisk [*] in the Graduate Catalogue or in this booklet.) Option I students (thesis) must have 8 such hours; Option II (with minor[s]), 12; and Option III students, 18. Masters students must also register for English 990 as part of their program.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent Study is intended for students who want to undertake readings or similar projects not available through regular course offerings. It is possible to arrange Independent Study at the graduate level. The reading list, written work, times of meeting, and basis of the grade must be worked out between the student and supervising instructor, in the form of a written contract, which you can obtain from the graduate secretary. When you have the signature of the supervising instructor on the contract, you may obtain the call number for English 897 or 997 from the English Graduate Office, where a record of your project, supervisor, and course number will be kept.

ENGLISH MINORS & UNCLASSIFIED STUDENTS

Graduate students with majors in departments other than English are welcome to enroll in any graduate course in English. It would be wise to check with the instructor about prerequisites and special requirements. A graduate minor in English must meet the requirements of the Graduate College and be approved by the student's major department and by the Graduate Committee of the Department of English. Before enrolling, a graduate student wishing to minor in English should consult the Chair of the Graduate Committee, 201C Andrews Hall.

NOTE: Non-degree graduate students are welcome in our classes, but should note the following information concerning registration:

The Graduate Studies Bulletin states: "**Non-degree students must obtain the permission of the instructor** of the class and may not enroll in master's thesis credits, doctoral dissertation credits, or doctoral seminars without permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies." Also, non-degree students can be "bumped" from a full course if other students need it to make timely progress in their programs.

STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

Graduate students should consult the Bulletin of Graduate Studies for appeal procedures in academic matters.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The Graduate Committee solicits suggestions for the following year's course offerings during the fall of each year. In addition, any student may suggest a possible course at any time to the Chair of the Graduate Committee of the Department of English, 201C Andrews.

THESIS AND DISSERTATION HOURS

MA students pursuing their degree under Option I may sign up for 1-6 hours of thesis, English 899. PhD students may register for 1-15 hours of dissertation, English 999, within the limitations contained in the Graduate Bulletin. PhD students who have achieved candidacy must register for at least one hour of dissertation each semester until they receive the degree.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is a public university committed to providing a quality education to a diverse student body. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment policies, financial aid, or other school administered programs. Complaints, comments, or suggestions about these policies should be addressed to the Chair of the Department.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Engl 810 – Studies In Literary Movements – “Imagined Pasts”	4	Engl 871 - Lit Criticism&Theory	5
Engl 814 - Womens Literature.....	4	Engl 478- Digital Archives and Editions	6
Engl 845K - Topics in African Lit- “From Cobalt to DH: Kongo at The "Heart of" IoT	4	Engl 880 - Writing Thry & Pract	7
Engl 852 - Fiction Writing	5	Engl 890 – Adv. Research Skills in English	7
Engl 857A - Comp&rhetic Thry -- Engaging Diverse Writers	6	Engl 892 - Special Topics.....	7
		Engl 946 - Interdisc Rdngs Digital Humanities	8
		Engl 957 - Comp Theory&Practice	8

ENGL 810 – STUDIES IN LITERARY MOVEMENTS – “IMAGINED PASTS”

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
1230-0145p	TR	001	Reynolds, G	4646

What does it mean to ‘imagine’ a past in fiction? How does a novelist create a storyworld that represents a world that might now exist in the lost or deep past? Where does history end and fable or myth begin? Is historical accuracy integral to such writing – or is it ultimately just entertaining conjecture? How do stories of the past connect to our own sense of national identity? What do such stories say to us at the start of the twenty-first century?

In this course we will examine a number of British and Irish stories that do just this – narratives that take us back to a medieval or a prehistoric or even a ‘primitive’ world. Texts will include William Golding’s Stone Age novel, *The Inheritors*, and *The Lord of the Flies*; Paul Kingsnorth’s *The Wake* and Kazuo Ishiguro’s *The Buried Giant* (two Arthurian novels); and Jim Crace’s *Quarantine* (a re-imagining of Christ’s sojourn in the desert). We will also look at extracts/selections from authors including Bernardine Evaristo, PJ Harvey, Emma Donoghue, and George Mackay Brown.

Teaching will focus on close discussions of these texts in class, coupled with intermittent short lectures. Film adaptations will also be on the syllabus.

Assignments will include several short reflective and analytical essays, culminating with a longer-research based essay. Those interested in their own Creative Writing based on this theme will be able to use that final project as a space to explore their own ideas.

ENGL 814 - WOMENS LITERATURE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
1100-1215p	TR	001	Wabuke, H	16716

Aim:

Teaching Method:

Requirements:

Tentative Reading List:

ENGL 845K - TOPICS IN AFRICAN LIT- “FROM COBALT TO DH: KONGO AT THE "HEART OF" IOT

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
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0600-0850p W 101 Muchiri, N 16719
Note: Class taught via Canvas. Online course, Not Self-Paced. Computer, E-mail, Internet, required.

Description: Topics in African poetry, fiction, and/or non-fiction prose.

The 2 Congos, especially Congo-Kinshasa, are central to any contemporary discussions of digital humanities, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. These spaces provide the essential minerals that power our technological future. Everything from the "internet of things" to electric vehicles such as the F-150 Lighting or the Rivian 1T is inevitably linked to the socio-economic conditions of the 2 Congos. UNL, as an institution that prides itself of its DH expertise, must model honest conversations about the invisible labor that supports our DH hardware, AI experiments, and chatbots. This course engages with the artistic variety with which communities of the 2 Congos have reflected upon, and imagined beyond, their lived realities. Our course will transcend the "twin colonization of time and space" by engaging the Congo region in 3 key aspects: the geological time line of the Congo River; the lives of the indigenous Congo forest inhabitants; and the migration of Bantu communities over the last two millennia. Alternative forms of marking time deliberately counterbalance the digital economy to which the region has been unwillingly, and irrevocably, yoked.

ENGL 852 - FICTION WRITING

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
0200-0450p	W	001	Schaffert, T	16783

Aim:

Teaching Method:

Requirements:

Tentative Reading List:

ENGL 871 - LIT CRITICISM&THEORY

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
0200-0450p	R	001	Gannon, T	4504

Aim:

This is a survey course that introduces students to the various philosophical and theoretical foundations necessary for the study of contemporary literary and cultural criticism. The course will be divided roughly in half, with the first part dedicated to the foundational figures of continental philosophy and critical theory (e.g., Nietzsche, Marx, Freud, Derrida, and Foucault) and the second part devoted to more contemporary interventions in critical theory in this complicated age of ours, including philosophies (and philosophical critiques) of "race," class, gender, and species.

A final emphasis issues from the 2025-2026 theme of UNL's Humanities on the Edge speaker series—"Trans Ecologies." To foster the intersection of the lecture series and our readings, our final text deals with this very topic, and students will be asked to attend a number of Humanities on the Edge events this semester.

Teaching Method: Discussion, with some lecture.

Requirements: Attendance & oral participation; approximately bi-weekly written responses to course readings; one formal research paper; attendance at two Humanities on the Edge lectures and two special sessions with these speakers.

Tentative Reading List: Authors will likely include such luminaries as G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Jacques Derrida, and Michel Foucault, and more contemporary provocateurs such as Terry Eagleton, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Stacy Alaimo, and Chela Sandoval. (A detailed list of readings will be provided this summer to students registered for the course.)

- Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Birth of Tragedy & The Genealogy of Morality*. 1872, 1887. Translated by Francis Golffing, Doubleday, 1956.
- Freud, Sigmund. *The Future of an Illusion*. 1927. Edited by Todd Dufresne, translated by Gregory C. Richter, Broadside Press, 2012.
- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. 1975. Translated by Alan Sheridan, 2nd ed., Vintage Books, 1995.
- Sandoval, Chela. *Methodology of the Oppressed*. U Of Minnesota P, 2000.
- Mortimer-Sandilands, Catriona, and Bruce Erickson, editors. *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire*. Indian UP, 2010.

ENGL 875A - RHETORICAL THEORY: RHETORIC OF WOMEN WRITERS – “RHETORIC OF GLOBAL BLACK FEMINISMS”

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
ARR-ARR	ARR	700	Beckson, M	00000

In their most basic forms, rhetorical theories offer multiple modalities and a myriad of ways to investigate and/or apply disciplinary information. A course in the Rhetoric of Global Black Feminisms, then, invites us to both explain feminisms and gendered discourses through an intersectional and anti-racist rhetorical lens and then apply that lens to the world around us. Readings will be selected from and outside the rhetoric discipline across the United States, Africa, and the Caribbeans to offer historical, current, and theoretical conversations and critical applications that have shaped Global/Black feminist spaces and ways of knowing in the last few decades.

ENGL 878- DIGITAL ARCHIVES AND EDITIONS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
1230-0145p	TR	001	Ramsay, S	17503

Description: The shift from printed to digital texts and its implications for the humanities. Practice in digitally representing texts, archival design, and analysis of representative electronic projects dedicated to a variety of authors and genres.

Aim:

Teaching Method:

Requirements:

Tentative Reading List:

ENGL 880 - WRITING THRY & PRACT

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
1230-0145p	TR	001	Azima, R	4912

Introduction to writing center theory and consulting practice. Students engage in research that contributes to scholarly conversations in writing center studies. Successful completion of [ENGL 380](#) is strongly recommended for students seeking to work in the UNL Writing Center.

This course explores theoretical and practical questions around teaching and learning in the writing center, primarily within a one-to-one context. We will investigate the growing field of Writing Center Studies and examine theories and pedagogical commitments that inform and shape the practice of writing center consulting. This course also involves a substantial research component, inviting you to explore some aspect of writing culture within or beyond UNL and produce original scholarship. You will have the opportunity to observe consultations in the Writing Center, reflect on your own and others' writing processes and experiences, explore the theoretical foundations of writing center work, and consider how this work relates to social justice. Completing this course makes you eligible for (but does not guarantee) a position as a consultant in the Writing Center.

ENGL 890 – ADV. RESEARCH SKILLS IN ENGLISH

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
0500-0620p	T	591	Simons, J	3973

NOTE: Class meets August 26nd-October 28th

While focusing on their own research (typically a specific research project they have to complete for another course, or for their thesis or dissertation), students develop knowledge, skills, and proficiencies in many aspects of advanced research. The course emphasizes practical application of foundational theories and concepts to position students for success in high-level research in English and the humanities. We also investigate and critique assumptions of authority, knowledge systems, information ownership, and scholarly inquiry, as well as consider legal and ethical issues with bearing on research. Students cultivate and practice transferable problem-solving strategies for research in and beyond specific moments in time, environments, and infrastructures.

ENGL 892 - SPECIAL TOPICS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>	
0200-0450p	T	001	Capuano, P	4647	“ Body Studies Seminar”
0200-0450p	R	001	Ramsay, S	17105	“Theory of New Media”

Aim:

Teaching Method:
Requirements:
Tentative Reading List:

ENGL 946 - INTERDISC RDNGS DIGITAL HUMANITIES

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
0230-0510p	M	001	Heitman, C	4663

Description: Methods, theories, and practices of digital humanities scholarship.

ENGL 957 - COMP THEORY&PRACTICE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Class#</u>
0600-0850p	T	101	Waite, S	3216

PREQ: Permission. Contact the department Office.