

ENGL 199-003 21st Century Identities: Voices and Images in the Arts

MWF 9:05-9:55 Prof. T. Rooney

In this course we will examine contemporary poetry, short fiction and non-fiction as well as other art mediums:(painting, sculpture, photography, and music) to understand the ways that today's writers and artists envision human identity. Students will write critical analyses and additional papers in genres of their choice (15-20 pages). Each student will also teach classmates about a chosen work of art. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199- 004 Lives in Two Languages

TR 2:00-3:15 Dr. J. Stakhnevich

This course explores linguistic, social, and cultural aspects of bilingualism in individuals and societies. Students will learn about different approaches to the study of bilingualism and second language acquisition, explore language policies and practices in countries with high rates of bilingualism, read autobiographic essays written by bilingual authors, and examine how bilingualism is portrayed in mass media and contemporary film. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-005 Romantic Comedy in Drama, Fiction and Film

MWF 11:15-12:05 Dr. M. Boyd

We will explore the nature of romantic comedy and investigate its defining qualities as they appear in individual works in three genres. As in so many instances, Shakespeare provides us with models that have influenced most practitioners of the form. We will begin by looking at some of the conventions of romantic comedy in Much Ado about Nothing and Twelfth Night. In lieu of any local performances of the plays, we will screen films of the dramas, always noting the differences between stage and screen productions. Next, we watch how Jane Austen plays with the form in her novel Sense and Sensibility and then note how the film adaptation by Ang Lee deals cinematically with Austen's work. Finally, we will screen some Hollywood screwball romantic comedies of the 1930s and 1940s and then close with Woody Allen's Annie Hall. The emphasis throughout the course will be on discovering different ways of talking and writing about the connections we find between form and content, between love and laughter. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-006 or 007 Gangsters, Meltdowns and Greed: Social Deviance in American Society

MWF 12:20-1:10 or 1:50-2:40 Prof. D. Copeland

Why can some people so easily break the law while most of us choose to obey it? The goal of this writing-intensive course is to understand behavior that goes against accepted social norms. We'll look at career criminals, kidnapers and scam artists and show what social situations prompted them to make life choices most of us would never consider. A key focus of the class will be the current economic recession and the greed-fueled decisions that partially caused it. The instructor will draw on his work as a journalist who has covered financial wrongdoing, corruption and organized crime and will include some unlikely guest speakers. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-008 or 009 Redrawing Heroism: Superheroes and the Graphic Novel

MWF 12:20-1:10 or 1:50-2:40 Prof. S. Janson

This course will examine the changing archetype of the superhero in graphic novels ranging from the early 1980's to the present – the so-called "Third Age" of superhero comic books. Through works like Frank Miller's "The Dark Knight Returns" and Alan Moore's "Watchmen," among others, we will consider how contemporary artists and authors have reimagined "classic" super-heroism, its place in the modern world, and its intersection with issues like vigilantism, morality, and power. Examination of these texts will serve as an introduction to literary analysis in general, though we will also look at some specific theoretical modes that seem particularly applicable. In addition, we will consider how these works operate in terms of their genre by examining the graphic novel as an aesthetic whole, identifying key elements in its composition, and learning how to tailor our reading to what is still a relatively peculiar fusion of art and literature. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-010 or 011 The American Family

TR 8:00-9:15 or 9:30-10:45 Prof. R. Daus-Haberle

This seminar examines images of the family as represented in American literature from the mid- to late-twentieth century. Using the literature as a beginning point of analysis, we will probe the intricate social construct of family, questioning and examining our expectations of the parent-child relationship. What are our preconceived ideals of a successful family? How have American authors attempted to make sense of the concept of family and how can we use their texts to better understand the families we inhabit? We will challenge our assumptions of the narrative

published personal/social narratives, and read and critique each other's work in a supportive way. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

SOCI 199-008

Outbreak!: Epidemics and Society

MWF 9:05-9:55

Dr. P. Fanning

Nothing has had a greater impact on human history than epidemic disease. For centuries people have documented the ravages of Cholera, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, Tuberculosis, Polio, AIDS, and Influenza, to name just a few. But an epidemic is not merely a medical occurrence; it has political, psychological, and sociological considerations as well. Using literature and film to complement sociological theory, we will take a close look at the social construction of these deadly episodes and the effects of class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender on our perceptions of them. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

SOCI 199-H01

Constructing Women and Men Through Hollywood Film

TR 12:30-1:45

Dr. M. Wakin

This course will explore the evolution of gender in Hollywood film, from the 1930s to the present. We will examine Hollywood's global reach and its influence in promoting ideal types of women and men. We will also explore the political and economic conditions of each decade to help us understand the cultural context in which these ideal types emerged. One of the most important things we will do this semester is learn to question the things we take for granted, like entertainment. The seamless editing style and familiar narrative structure of Hollywood films make them easy to accept as pure relaxation and enjoyment. This is part of their power and influence - we accept them without thinking. We will become articulate and critical observers of the images we view and examine how film influences our ideas about gender and gender stereotypes. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

**For more information on the Core Curriculum see
www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum**