

Literature Master Syllabus

Cluster

Communication and Creative Expression

Categories in this cluster—Writing, Oral Communication, Literature, and Arts—are designed to cultivate a student’s capacity to appreciate, analyze, and engage the human experience in its diverse creative forms. In some courses, students will develop their capacities to move, educate, convince, and entertain audiences; tell their own stories; reflect on their learning; discover and reveal attitudes and feelings; defend beliefs, opinions, and interpretations; and contribute in diverse, creative, and meaningful ways to the lives of those with whom they live and work. Other classes will develop students’ abilities to identify and analyze the formal and thematic features of a variety of artistic and literary works and to explain how the creation and reception of those works was influenced by aesthetic, cultural, historical, and social factors. All of the courses in this category will develop students’ ability to use methods of human expression—to invent, design, write, speak, and perform—in creative and effective ways. In short, the courses in this cluster will help students probe for deeper understanding and meaning in the cultural works they encounter and to create meaning through their own artistic works and their written and spoken communication.

Core Goal Served in this Category

Goal 4: To cultivate students’ capacity to appreciate, analyze, and engage the human experience in its many creative forms

Core Learning Outcomes

A student successfully completing the Literature category will be able to

1. Identify and analyze the formal and thematic features of a variety of artistic and literary works (Core Goal 4.1)
2. Situate an artistic or literary work in a larger context (Core Goal 4.2)
3. Develop creative capacities through inventing, designing, writing, or performing (Core Goal 4.3)

Catalog Description / Introduction

We read literature for a variety of reasons. Literary texts provide reflections on cultural values and concerns, windows into the past, and a chance to escape or to confront the troubles of our lives. Through literature we can analyze human actions and motivations and meditate on our common humanity and the world we share. In literature we also find the epitome of artistic expression and models for our own writing. Short stories, novels, plays, poems, and essays invite us to exercise our imaginations and our capacity to feel and to empathize. By studying such texts, we deepen our ability to understand and to experience life on a range of intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic

levels. Courses in this category will introduce students to the genres of poetry, fiction, and drama with emphasis on improving students' interpretative skills and capacities for critical self-reflection.

Intangibles / Aspirations / Other Category-Level Elements

In addition to the outcomes assessed in this category, other Core outcomes might be developed and addressed by courses in Literature. Skills, competencies, and dispositions relevant to the field might also be cultivated in this category.

- Help students develop the foundational skills and competencies of written . . . communication, critical inquiry and analysis, and technological competency and information literacy (Core Goal 1)
- Probe for deeper understanding and meaning (Core Goal 7.5)

Teaching Methods and Assessment

Instructors may use any number of strategies to help students become more critical readers and interpreters of literary and cultural texts (lectures, small and plenary group activities, quizzes, tests, presentations, recitations, short papers, and so on). All instructors should include a paper or take-home exam that requires students to perform an interpretation of a literary text.

Texts

Instructors select texts for each section.

Additional Information / Resources for Instructors

Courses

ENGL 141: Introduction to Literature (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. Special attention will be given to relations between thematic content and formal properties and readings must include key works of poetry, drama, fiction, and creative nonfiction from a range of historical moments and cultural contexts.

ENGL 142: World Literatures in English (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course examines selected writers tied to a particular national or cultural tradition. All readings in this course are in English, though they will be translations from another language (French, Polish, Spanish, etc.) and should include a variety of genres.

ENGL 143: British Literature to the Enlightenment (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course is a historical survey of British literature from the medieval period until 1700 and should include a variety of genres.

ENGL 144: British Literature since the Enlightenment (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course is a historical survey of British literature from 1700 to the present and should include a variety of genres.

ENGL 145: American Literature to the Civil War (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course is a historical survey of American literature from the colonial period to the Civil War and should include a variety of genres.

ENGL 146: American Literature since the Civil War (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course is a historical survey of American literature from the Civil War to the present and should include a variety of genres.

ENGL 147: Postcolonial Literature (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course will survey literature from writers from formerly colonized regions or nations of the world (with a focus on Anglophone writers) and should include a variety of genres.

ENGL 148: Multicultural Literature (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course will offer students the opportunity to examine writers outside traditional British or American canons. Offerings in this category include African American Literature, Cultural Diversity in Literature, Jewish Literature and Native American Literature, and Women's Literature. A variety of genres should be represented.

ENGL 149: Literary Modes and Themes (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. In particular, this course is an examination of a particular literary mode (biography, comedy, epic, folklore, satire, tragedy, etc.) or theme (environmental literature, science fiction, fairy tales, literature and work, etc.) that provides a unique perspective on human experience and society.