

BGSU Department of English Online Graduate Courses, Spring 2014

ENG 5160 Sec. 501W 3 cr. (16859) Sociolinguistics

Prof. Kimberly Spallinger

This course provides a basic introduction to the field of sociolinguistics, the study of language and society. Students will explore how various social factors such as education, race, socio-economic status, ethnicity, and gender affect language usage. Other topics will include the history of English, World Englishes, and dialect studies. Students will be encouraged to explore their own assumptions about different varieties of English and will choose a topic of interest to explore independently.

Textbooks:

Adger, T.A. Wolfram, W. Christian, D. (2007). *Dialects in schools and communities* (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 9780805843167)

Coulmas, F. (2013.) *Sociolinguistics: The Study of speaker's choices* (2nd ed). New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 9781107675568)

Lerer, S. (2007). *Inventing English: A Portable history of the language*. New York: Columbia University Press. (ISBN: 9780231137942)

ENG 6320F Sec. 501W 3 cr. (10848) Graduate Writer's Workshop – Fiction

Prof. Lawrence Coates

In the writer's workshop, your own creative work is at the center. While I will require three books for the class, the focus of is discussing the fiction you are currently writing. All students are expected to present three original works during the semester, either short stories or novel chapters, totaling about fifty pages. During finals week, you will be required to turn in one rewrite of something workshoped during the semester.

Because this workshop will take place over a full sixteen week semester rather than the more accelerated summer semester, we will take some time at the beginning to work on techniques, which will help in the pedagogy of Creative Writing as well as your own creative work. I will also offer an optional series of exercises that lead to generating and refining an idea for a novel.

ENG 6800 Sec. 501W 3 cr. (16328) Visual Rhetoric & Practices of Writing

Prof. Gary Heba

This course is designed to offer a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives on visual discourse and the rhetorical use of images in a variety of contemporary media and visual environments. Although the term, "visual rhetoric," is widely used, definitions of the term are varied, and little has been written about the system of visual rhetoric and methodologies for visual rhetorical analysis and critique. Thus, a large portion of the class will be devoted to:

- defining visual rhetorics
- developing a vocabulary for discussing the visual and the rhetorical
- using methodological frameworks for analyzing visual rhetoric
- understanding the larger semiotic matrix in which visual rhetorics operate
- developing connections between visual rhetoric and multimodal composition

In order to understand the concept and applications of visual rhetorics, you will learn about definitions of visual rhetoric; social semiotics and visual literacy; one-, two-, and three-dimensional visual rhetorics; the interplay of text, typography and visuals; the rhetorical use of images in print media, television, film, and the world wide web; and the politics of visual rhetoric.

**ENG 6800 Sec. 502W 3 cr. (16998) The Body and Disability in Literature
Prof. Bill Albertini**

We live in a culture that often expects us to live in a narrowly defined body, a body that functions, moves, and experiences the world in specific ways defined as normal, able-bodied, and/or healthy. Narratives focused on bodies that are different from the supposed norm, either because such bodies have been deemed disabled or are diagnosed as ill, can challenge such common modes of thought.

In this course we'll study literature and film that explores experiences of the body that differ from the presumed norm. We'll examine works that take on such issues directly as well as those that explore bodily difference through metaphor (e.g., some monster narratives such as vampire or zombie stories, etc.). Readings might include classic works such as Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilych*, Mark Haddon's contemporary novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, John Green's YA novel *The Fault In Our Stars*, Katherine Dunn's controversial *Geek Love*, among others, as well as films and other media. We will examine instances of physical disability, physical illness, cognitive difference, and mental health issues.

Any student with an interest in disability, the body, illness narratives, etc. might find this course useful, as well as students not already interested in these topics but who will encounter or already encounter disability and illness (in students, family members, loved ones, themselves).