

FALL 2008 GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GSC 60501

Proust

W 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

Maud Ellman/ENG

Department Approval Required

This course provides an opportunity to engage with one of the most captivating novels in world literature, Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, which has exercised a profound influence on modern writing and thought. We will explore Proust's reinvention of the novel in relation to a number of Proustian problems and themes: his analyses of desire, perversion and sexuality; his reflections on the nature of time and memory; and his exploration of the relationship of art to life. We will also consider Proust's powers as a satirist and critic of ideology, who mercilessly dismantled the individual and collective illusions of his contemporaries. Despite its acerbity, the *Search* is one of the funniest, most charming novels ever written; it is also one of the most unbearably beautiful. We will be reading the novel in Scott Moncrieff's revised English translation, using the 2003 Modern Library Edition. Some knowledge of French is desirable but not required. We will start at the beginning of the novel and try to reach the conclusion by the end of the semester. There will also be an opportunity to read some of the remarkable criticism inspired by Proust's novel. Written requirements: weekly 1-2-page response papers and a final 20-page paper.

GSC 60553

Idea of the Local in the 19th Century

MW 1:30 – 2:45 pm

Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

Sara Maurer/ENGL

Department Approval Required

In Great Britain, the rise of modern abstractions, uniform measurements of time and space, standardized print culture, and the universal equivalent of money, brought with it the corollary idea of the local - that space whose intimacy and particularity transcends easy translation. In the nineteenth-century this notion of the local was by turns romanticized as transcendent, vilified as backwards, cultivated as a space safe from rapid change, gendered as female, and used by minority cultures as a site of resistance. Paying particular attention to the anomalous relationship of England to the Celtic regions of Wales, Scotland and Ireland, this course will explore the uses and literary forms of the local, with an eye toward understanding Great Britain's imagination of itself in a global context. In addition to exploring cultural formations of the local, the Ordnance Surveys of Great Britain and Ireland, the Welsh Blue Book Controversy of 1847, we will read texts by William Wordsworth, Robert Burns, William Cobbett, Walter Scott, Maria Edgeworth, Mary Russell Mitford, Emily Bronte, Charles Dickens, William Carleton, and Margaret Oliphant. Readings will also include current scholarship on place and identity.

GSC 60554

Poetics of the Lyric

MW 3:00 – 4:15 pm

Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

John Wilkinson/ENGL

Department Approval Required

This seminar reads lyric poetry through influential readings of poems by scholars and poets from the beginnings of modern 'close reading' in the 1920s to the present, discussing ideological and poetic challenges to close reading practice. While most readings are drawn from English language poetry and Anglo-American criticism, theories of lyric developed by Adorno and Heidegger will also receive attention. Close reading was institutionalized in the academy as the supposedly ideologically neutral 'practical criticism' (UK) and New Criticism (US), and subsequently has been challenged, ironically enough, for its blindness to history, to class struggle, to gender, to race, and to precisely what is not present in the scrutinized text. But these challenges remain dependent on close reading to provide a misreading they can arraign, and to give edge to their revised readings. This seminar will look at developments in close reading, and will test close reading in engagement with the poetic repertoire on which it was developed, and with more recent lyric performances which seem to frustrate its ambitions. This seminar will exercise students in researching and presenting influential poetics of reading from Oscar Wilde to Mutlu Konuk Blasing, and in intense reading of poetic texts from Shakespeare to J.H. Prynne. As a graduate seminar, this will be a collective enterprise at heart, even if instruction cannot be wholly resisted. By the end participants should find themselves more confident and less anxious to dominate in their relationships with lyric poems. Course requirements are weekly brief response papers; one substantial presentation; a final paper based on research and close reading; and regular participation.

GSC 63500

Thinking about Gender/Gendered Thinking

M 3:00 – 5:30 pm

Core Graduate Seminar

Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

Fulfills Core Course Requirement for Gender Studies Graduate Minor

Cristina L.H. Traina/GSC

Department Approval Required

This course explores the intersection between theology and anthropology in three stages. In the first, we will read pivotal earlier theoretical work on gender and theory in anthropology, and then contemporary ethnographic work that problematizes sex and gender and illustrates contemporary methodological approaches. In the second, we'll explore similar questions in western feminist theology, beginning with important early work and moving to recent work in theological ethics. In the third segment of the course, we'll put the two disciplines together, reading works that creatively combine ethnographic research with theological reflection. Assignments will include seminar discussion papers and a final project/paper.

GSC 63501 **Philosophy of Science**

TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

Don Howard/HPS

Department Approval Required

A survey of major problems, movements, and thinkers in twentieth-century philosophy of science. The course begins with a look at the historical background to logical empiricism, its rise to prominence, and its early critics, such as Popper. After a study of major problems in the neo-positivist tradition, such as confirmation, explanation, and the nature of scientific laws, historicist critiques of neo-positivism, chiefly Kuhn's will be studied next, followed by a consideration of the realism-instrumentalism debate. The course concludes with a brief look at new perspectives, such as social constructivism and feminist philosophy of science. (Satisfies core philosophy of science requirement.) (Every Fall.)

GSC 63502 **Colloquium in 20th Century U.S.**

F 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

John McGreevy/HIST

Department Approval Required

The colloquium is an intensive survey of recent historical writing on the United States from the late nineteenth century forward. Topics will include Progressive reform, gender and the early 20th century State, the culture of consumption, the new environmental history, the meaning of bohemia, the character of New Deal liberalism, the origins of the cold war and the shifting nature of American race relations.

GSC 63503 **Hagiography**

F 9:35-12:35 pm

Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

Ann Astell/Theology

Department Approval Required

In recent years, a burgeoning scholarship on medieval and early modern hagiography has explored its literary conventions; its expression in a variety of forms: chronicles, romances, sermons, legenda, sequences, hymns, drama, (auto)biography, visual art, and parody; its social, cultural, and political uses; its relationship to historical and biblical writing; its complex authorship; and its depiction of gender. Less frequently has hagiography been studied in relation to specifically theological questions (biblical, moral, liturgical, and dogmatic). Drawing upon the theoretical resources of narrative theology, dialogical hermeneutics, and theo-aesthetics (in combination with the resources of other disciplines) participants in the seminar will seek answers from various perspectives to the question: "What is the theological significance of the saint's Life?"

GSC 63551

British and American Intellectual History

R 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Undergraduate Majors

James Turner/HIST

Department Approval Required

Readings in selected topics in British-American intellectual history from the later seventeenth century to the early twentieth. 'British-American intellectual history,' as used here, comprises discourses common to Britain and anglophone North America. This concentration does not preclude occasional French or German voices. Subjects might include sensationalist psychology, Newtonian physics, republicanism, Scottish common-sense philosophy, evangelical reform movements, political economy, Romantic metaphysics, feminism, Darwinian biology, religious unbelief, quantum mechanics, and 'mass culture.' But 'British-American intellectual history' excludes topics widely discussed only on one side of the Atlantic; a policy that eliminates important regional cultures (notably the American South, Ireland, and Scotland except as participants in larger discourses) and major topics (such as African-American nationalism, Benthamite utilitarianism except as refracted through J.S. Mill, and philosophic pragmatism). We will focus on problems that were nodes of change rather than attempt an even-handed survey, impossible anyway in one semester. Besides discussion of common assigned readings, the work of the course will include papers, the character of which can vary with student needs, including the possibility of writing a seminar paper in either British or American intellectual history or both.

Graduate Minor in Gender Studies

Terminal Master's Student Track:

- 9 credit hours of Gender Studies graduate courses, including the interdisciplinary core graduate seminar, and
- 2 semesters of participation in the Gender Studies Research Workshop, including a presentation of a research paper in this forum.

Doctoral Student Track:

- 9 credit hours of Gender Studies graduate courses, including the interdisciplinary core graduate seminar,
- 3 semesters of participation in the Gender Studies Research Workshop, including a presentation of a research paper in this forum, and
- Evidence of substantial research in a gender-related area (such as a published article, a conference paper, a master's qualifying paper, or a dissertation chapter).