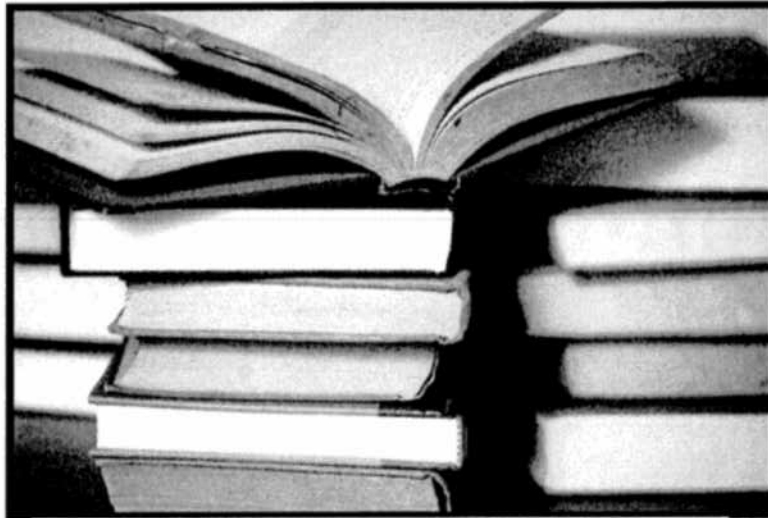


English Department

Course Descriptions



My library was dukedom large enough.
~William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

The proper study of mankind is books. ~Aldous Huxley

FALL 2011

March 24, 2011

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FALL 2011 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE TO MAJORS AND NON MAJORS

We have put together this up-to-date listing of all courses that will be taught by members of the English Department in the **Fall 2011** semester, and informal course descriptions for each one, written by the faculty member who plans to teach the course in the fall. English courses on all levels are open to both majors and non-majors alike. We do ask that you complete the freshman writing requirement before you enroll in 200-level English courses, and that you complete one of the pre-requisite courses (either 200, 201, 202) before enrolling in an upper level (300 or 400 level) course. Please note that there is no distinction in level of difficulty between 300 level and 400 level courses. For more information on any of the courses being offered, and for last minute information on additions or changes to the schedule, please drop by the English Department, Wheatley Hall, 6th floor, Room 052.

UNDECLARED MAJORS

If you would like to talk over the possibility of majoring in English, please make an appointment to see a member of our Advising Committee (Wheatley Hall, 6th Floor, Rm 52). Don't put off declaring a major, whether or not it is English. Declaring a major enables you to get some personal attention from an advisor on the faculty, and to ask some useful questions about organizing your studies. It does not limit your options

integrated with aesthetic and evaluative responses to the literary works. This course requires intensive writing.

200-3 UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE #10679
MWF 1:00-1:50pm STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

What is literature, and how can we make sense of it? This course introduces students to the practice and pleasure of literary analysis with an intensive focus on close reading. Through the study of a diverse range of texts, including fiction, drama, film, and poetry, we will develop the vocabulary to consider the aesthetic components of a work, such as genre, narration, and point of view. We will ask: Why and how do writers utilize various techniques, such as satire or stream-of-consciousness? What are literary conventions, and what happens when authors break them? In conjunction with questions of form and style, students will become acquainted with basic critical methods, which invite us to consider the politics of representation. Ultimately, this course will prepare students to consider how the *telling* of a story coincides with its content. This course requires intensive writing.

200-4 UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE #10680
TT 11:00-12:15pm MEDOFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

This course offers guided practice in the close reading of three major literary genres - fiction, drama and poetry. The course explores the distinctive features of each genre and the concepts and terminology necessary to understand and communicate effectively about literature, both orally and in writing. Close reading is emphasized, along with developing aesthetic and evaluative responses to the literary works we will read. Class discussion will be based on the historical, social, and cultural circumstances in which specific texts were produced and what effect those elements have on both the creation of those texts and our response(s) to them. We will read closely and carefully in order to interpret a wide range of challenging texts. The underlying goal is to increase your appreciation for a well-crafted work of art and to develop the means to express that appreciation, emphasizing critical thinking, critical reading and critical writing. Particular attention will be paid to improving writing skills. Possible texts: *Othello*, *Death of a Salesman*, short stories by O'Connor, Baldwin, Welty, Updike, Diaz and others, poems by Petrarch, Keats, Collins, and more.

200-5 UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE #10681
TT 12:30-1:45pm STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

This course offers guided practice in the close reading of three major literary genres—poetry, fiction, and drama—with works to be drawn from various historical periods. (A fourth genre may be added at the instructor's discretion.) The course explores the distinctive features of each genre, along with the concepts and terminology necessary to understand it accurately and communicate about it effectively. Close reading is integrated with aesthetic and evaluative responses to the literary works. This course requires intensive writing.

200-6 UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE #10682
TT 9:30-10:45am GOLEMAN
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

This course offers guided practice in the close reading of three major literary genres—poetry, fiction, and drama—with works to be drawn from various historical periods. (A fourth genre may be added at the instructor’s discretion.) The course explores the distinctive features of each genre, along with the concepts and terminology necessary to understand it accurately and communicate about it effectively. Close reading is integrated with aesthetic and evaluative responses to the literary works. This course requires intensive writing.

201-1 FIVE BRITISH AUTHORS #10683
MWF 10:00-10:50am KAMATH
DISTRIBUTION I: P
DISTRIBUTION II: HU

This course examines significant literary works by five of the most important writers from the fourteenth to the twentieth century, writers studied as an introduction to philosophical and humanistic studies, writers who contributed to and critiqued the leading ideas, assumptions and values of their ages, writers who helped redefine the idea of England in their works

201-2 FIVE BRITISH AUTHORS #10684
MWF 12:00-12:50pm O’CONNELL
DISTRIBUTION I: P
DISTRIBUTION II: HU

This course examines significant literary works by five of the most important writers from the fourteenth to the twentieth century, writers studied as an introduction to philosophical and humanistic studies, writers who contributed to and critiqued the leading ideas, assumptions and values of their ages, writers who helped redefine the idea of England in their works

201-3 FIVE BRITISH AUTHORS #10685
MWF 9:00-9:50am STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: P
DISTRIBUTION II: HU

This course examines significant literary works by five of the most important writers from the fourteenth to the twentieth century, writers studied as an introduction to philosophical and humanistic studies, writers who contributed to and critiqued the leading ideas, assumptions and values of their ages, writers who helped redefine the idea of England in their works

This course takes an author-centered introduction to American literature, offering an opportunity to test the strengths and weaknesses of that approach. Emphasis will be placed on the presence of generic experimentation and development within each author's oeuvre. The authors are Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Toni Morrison, and Thomas Pynchon, with another to be named later. Requirements include three papers and some in-class writing. Some class time will be spent on refining skills in writing about writing. This course calls for a sensitivity to difficulty and a skeptical eye.

210-1 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING #10694
MWF 10:00-10:50am STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

An introduction to the process of thinking, reading and expressing oneself as a poet and fiction writer for students with or without prior experience. Students will read and discuss a variety of poems and short stories, including their own, from a writer's point of view. We'll consider each author's use of language and form, and the role of conflict, narrative, setting, and dialogue in both poetry and prose. Weekly reading and writing assignments.

210-2 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING #10695
MWF 1:00-1:50pm STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

An introduction to the process of thinking, reading and expressing oneself as a poet and fiction writer for students with or without prior experience. Students will read and discuss a variety of poems and short stories, including their own, from a writer's point of view. We'll consider each author's use of language and form, and the role of conflict, narrative, setting, and dialogue in both poetry and prose. Weekly reading and writing assignments.

210-3 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING #10696
MWF 9:00-9:50am STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

An introduction to the process of thinking, reading and expressing oneself as a poet and fiction writer for students with or without prior experience. Students will read and discuss a variety of poems and short stories, including their own, from a writer's point of view. We'll consider each author's use of language and form, and the role of conflict, narrative, setting, and dialogue in both poetry and prose. Weekly reading and writing assignments.

210-4 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING #10697
MW 5:30-6:45pm STAFF
DISTRIBUTION I: A
DISTRIBUTION II: AR

music (e.g., prose rhythm, duration, thematic repetition, and variation). Attention to developing a sense of milieu in which an artist works.

**G273-3 ART OF FICTION
TT 11:00-12:15pm**

**#10711
STAFF**

An introduction to various critical approaches to the understanding and appreciation of fiction. Close reading of short stories and novels with special attention to the language and forms of fiction, as well as the writing of critical and interpretive papers. Comparison of fiction both to the visual arts (e.g., point of view, setting, imagery) and to music (e.g., prose rhythm, duration, thematic repetition, and variation). Attention to developing a sense of milieu in which an artist works.

**G273-4 ART OF FICTION
TT 2:00-3:15pm**

**#10712
STAFF**

An introduction to various critical approaches to the understanding and appreciation of fiction. Close reading of short stories and novels with special attention to the language and forms of fiction, as well as the writing of critical and interpretive papers. Comparison of fiction both to the visual arts (e.g., point of view, setting, imagery) and to music (e.g., prose rhythm, duration, thematic repetition, and variation). Attention to developing a sense of milieu in which an artist works.

**G273-5 ART OF FICTION
TT 5:30-6:45pm**

**#10713
STAFF**

An introduction to various critical approaches to the understanding and appreciation of fiction. Close reading of short stories and novels with special attention to the language and forms of fiction, as well as the writing of critical and interpretive papers. Comparison of fiction both to the visual arts (e.g., point of view, setting, imagery) and to music (e.g., prose rhythm, duration, thematic repetition, and variation). Attention to developing a sense of milieu in which an artist works.

**G274-1 ART OF DRAMA
MWF 10:00-10:50am**

**#10715
STAFF**

An introduction to drama and to the general area of the arts. Plays are selected for study which exhibit the variety of ways in which dramatic actions explore aspects of common human experience and in which dramatic form shapes meaning. Attention is given to the manner in which performance combines literary form with elements of spectacle shared by other arts.

punishment.” These assertions of the rights inhering to individuals as a result of their *being human* are Articles 3, 4, and 5, respectively, of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Some activists and scholars would argue, however, that human rights are not just a matter of civil and political liberties but also include, or should include, social and economic rights, where one’s culture is protected, and an individual is guaranteed education, health care, and economic sustenance. Thus, while it may seem incontestable that each of us has the inalienable right to a life of dignity, the understanding of what this life of dignity should comprise is a matter of active dispute among nations. For instance, some human rights activists advocate for open borders, so that people can travel freely to find the work they need for economic survival. But sovereign states resist such an interpretation, insisting on the integrity of national borders and the right of nations to guard their own resources. The legal framework of international human rights takes as a starting point the sovereignty, or independence, of nations; what this means is that human rights violations that take place within the borders of a nation are typically considered the internal affairs of that state and not subject to interference by external powers. There are, therefore, limitations on the effective implementation of the lofty aspirations of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

This course focuses on literary expressions and representations of the desire for and the crises of human rights. The various literary genres (poetry, fiction, drama, memoir, and essay) evoke the yearning of peoples to be awarded the right to live in safety and with dignity so that they pursue meaningful lives, and these literary genres record the abuses of the basic rights of people as they seek to lead lives of purpose. This course will examine the ways in which the techniques of literature (e.g., narrative, description, point of view, voice, image) compel readers’ attention and bring us nearer to human rights abuses and peoples’ capacities to survive and surmount these conditions. We will also examine the opposite effect of literature—how it can “create distance” between readers and the urgent situations at hand.

The course explores the Kantian perspective of the “human” in human rights, as conceived and articulated in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The many articles comprised in the declaration are not universally accepted without question; the notion of “human” upon which the declaration rests, a notion that envisions an independent self, is contested in various regions of the globe where the self is more intimately embedded in collective social structures than in the West. Within these complex and multiple contexts of the “human” across the globe, the course studies the human as it emerges in poetry, fiction, drama, memoir, and oral testimony in the English speaking world and elsewhere. Finally, it examines the impact of globalization--in the economic and cultural dimensions--on human rights.

The locations we will cover include the United States, the Middle East, Mexico, South Africa, Rwanda, and Ghana. Though the majority of the literary texts we will study were published after 1948, when the United Nations Declaration for Human Rights was first articulated, we will also examine assertions of human dignity and inviolable humanity by those who lived in earlier times—specifically the Indian populations and African slaves of North America.

300-400 LEVEL COURSES

(PRE-REQUISITE: 200, 201, OR 202 IS REQUIRED
FOR ALL 300/400 COURSES)

301 ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP #10982
W 7:00-9:30pm KIM

UMass Boston has a history of outstanding student poets who have gone on to distinguished careers: winning prizes, publishing, and teaching. This is an advanced workshop for students who have had experience writing poetry. The main objects are (1) to get your poems into the best possible shape; (2) to develop your critical (and self-critical) abilities through revision, class discussion, and continuing reading—and listening—on your own; and (3) to share your work with your peers and get expert, sympathetic feedback. **PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR IS REQUIRED.**

PLEASE LEAVE SAMPLES OF YOUR POETRY IN PROFESSOR KIM'S MAILBOX (W-6-052). PLEASE LEAVE EITHER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH YOUR WRITING SAMPLE.

302 ADVANCED FICTION WORKSHOP #10985
TH 7:00-9:30pm MELNYCZUK

So *how does* fiction work? A writer is a craftsman, a carpenter of language, a bricklayer of syllables, an architect of meaning (or a draughtsman of the absurd). “A poem,” said William Carlos Williams, “is a machine made of words.” It’s also true for fiction, though the metaphor is overly neat—too mechanistic, too limiting. I’d say the work we’re doing is a hybrid of auto and quantum mechanics. Something very ordinary plus an x factor nobody’s yet reduced to a formula. That’s why every good story is, like Tolstoy’s famously unhappy family, good in its own way. Your good stories are what we’ll be reading and discussing in class, with hopes of making them even better. **PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR IS REQUIRED.** **PLEASE LEAVE SAMPLES OF YOUR WRITING IN PROFESSOR MELNYCZUK'S MAILBOX (W-6-052). PLEASE LEAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH YOUR WRITING SAMPLE.**

307 WRITING FOR THE PRINT MEDIA #10718
TT 2:00-3:15pm STAFF

An advanced course where strong writers can gain proficiency in major types of writing for the public, including journalism, promotional writing, and business and informational

prose. Assignments connect to read campus, job, and community events and situations, with the expectation that some writing will be publishable. In conjunction with English 308, this course provides a strong preparation for editors and writers in all settings.

308 PROFESSIONAL EDITING #10719
MWF 9:00-9:50am STAFF

An intensive workshop in developing the skills necessary to edit various kinds of writing, including books, reports, essays, theses, and articles. Instruction covers topics such as mechanical editing; correlating the parts of a manuscript; advanced grammar, usage, and diction; and content editing. In conjunction with ENGL 307, this course provides a strong preparation for editors and writers in all settings.

319 ENGLISH EPIC POETRY #10720
TT 12:30-1:45pm FAY
DISTRIBUTION: HU
CATEGORY: *

The history and theory of English epic and mock-epic poetry, with attention to the status of epic in modern times. Consideration of efforts to emulate Homer and Virgil, as well as issues of artistry and interpretation in English translations of ancient epics. Close reading of epics by three or four poets, such as the Beowulf-poet, Spenser, Milton, Pope, and Wordsworth.

320 MEMOIR AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY #10721
MWF 12:00-12:50pm HASRATIAN
CATEGORY: ** TN

In this course we will study autobiographies and memoirs from the North American and European continents. From Rousseau's foundational autobiography, "Confessions," read in comparison with selections of the Marquis de Sade's obscene (and arguably autobiographical) writings (such as "120 Days of Sodom" and/or "Justine"); to Hector St. John de Cevecoeur's "Letters From an American Farmer" and Benjamin Franklin's autobiography; to notions of how both memoir and autobiography intersect with and complicate the experience of selfhood, slavery and freedom in "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African," Frederick Douglass's "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself," and Harriet Jacobs's "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl"; to Henry Adams's oddly narrated "The Education of Henry Adams," we will interrogate the deep meaning of autobiography as auto-bio-graphesis, or "self" "life" "inscription." How does one account for one's self, much less one's whole life as and in inscription--or the technology of writing? How does memoir, which is related to but different than biography, complicate our understanding of a writing-self by adding the dimension of a

1950s and 1960s. The point, however, will not simply be to compare and contrast each of these literatures in order to mark the similarities between them, but rather to determine why these literary traditions should be examined together in the first place; and in fact, given that literary history itself tends to treat the development of U.S. and Latin American literature as discrete objects of study, it is worth asking whether it even makes sense to talk about a "literature of the Americas." Nevertheless, the wager of this course is that neither U.S. modernism nor the Latin American "boom" novel can be understood on its own, and that the full significance of each emerges only in relation to the other.

That a number of Latin American writers like Gabriel García Márquez have long claimed a kind of debt to U.S. modernism, and in particular to the work of William Faulkner, certainly offers a means of understanding the relationship between these literatures, although we will be less interested here in questions of influence, and instead work toward the construction of a conceptual framework that allows us to produce a more meaningful set of connections. And indeed, the fact that both of these literatures are equally implicated in the processes of the global economic order already points to a baseline of comparison that, at the same time, requires us to consider how the different position each occupies within that order is brought to bear on the meaning of individual texts. The literary texts considered in the course, then, will be read alongside works of criticism dealing not only with critical approaches to twentieth-century U.S. and Latin American literature, but also with broader concepts like literature, interpretation, literary history, and translation.

Authors considered in this course (tentatively) include William Faulkner, William Carlos Williams, John Dos Passos, Wallace Stevens, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Gabriel García Márquez, Mario Vargas Llosa, Roberto Bolaño, and/or Benjamin Kunkel. All of the texts read in this course will be in English, though students who are fluent in Spanish are encouraged to read translated works in the original language. (This, however, is *not* a requirement.)

380 **SPECIAL TOPICS:**
TRANSCENDENTALISM IN AMERICAN LIT **#10730**
TT 12:30-1:45pm **NAVARRÉ**
CATEGORY: **

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer."

Yes, Thoreau is the guy who went off to the woods, and Emerson is the guy who wrote about being a "seeing eyeball." And isn't Walden Pond around here somewhere? *Were they freaks and failures, or free-spirits and revolutionaries?*

Transcendentalism was American's first home-grown philosophical movement. Far from airy-fairy mysticism, it was a dynamic two-generation movement of educators, radical ministers, journalists, activists, poets, and nurses. This course examines Emerson, Thoreau, Parker, the Alcotts, Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Peabody and Walt Whitman (among others) not as iconic reclusive idealists, but as writers in conversation with utopian communities, education, social reform, abolitionism, and women's rights.

conceptions of gender and sexuality, self and community, the secular and the sacred, the nature of memory, and the relationship between the present and the past.

We will also explore the role 'medieval' culture plays in our own time, through critical examination of selections from modern translations, novels, and films which respond to the literature of this unique period.

402

RENAISSANCE IN ENGLAND
TT 11:00-12:15pm
CATEGORY: *

#10733

MAISANO

The Renaissance in England (for our purposes, 1567-1667) was a period in which, as The Notorious B.I.G. averred, "things done changed." And, indeed, change—metamorphoses and mutability—will be the only constant throughout the semester.

This course focuses primarily on a couple of sexy, subversive, and anti-authoritarian epic poems: Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. Violent, erotic, sublime, and bewildering, these texts—the latter emulating and attempting to outdo the former—promise to astonish readers each and every week of the semester. And yet there's more...

For anyone who enjoys a good mystery, this class has two of them: one literary and historical in nature; the other philosophical and timeless. Mystery #1: When Edmund Spenser died in 1599 he had published 6 books of *The Faerie Queene*, an epic romance designed to explore 12 moral virtues in 12 books, with each book comprising 12 cantos; ten years after his death, however, a fragment of the seventh book—cantos 6, 7, and part of 8—appeared in print for the first time. In them, Mutabilitie, a descendent of the Titans who had long ago been overthrown by Jove and his Olympian cohort, ventures up to heaven to dethrone the gods and reclaim her rightful place as the universal sovereign. Her seemingly indisputable argument: "everything, including the gods and the heavens, is subject to change; I am change; ergo, I am the boss of all existence." (That's a paraphrase.) The "Mutabilitie Cantos," as they have come to be known, raise a host of questions: Why did Spenser not publish these cantos while he was alive? Where are the other cantos of the seventh book? How are we supposed to make sense of these central cantos without knowing what preceded them or followed from them? Given that Spenser had emulated Ovid's *Metamorphoses* throughout the first six books of *The Faerie Queene*, what is the relation between his allegory of "Mutabilitie" and Ovid's "Metamorphoses"? Mystery #2: If Spenser's Mutabilitie is right and everything is ceaselessly changing, or *becoming*, then what happens to "Being"? Are you the same being now that you were 10 years ago? If so, what entity has persisted and endured beneath or beyond all the change? If not, who was that being?

In addition to Ovid and Spenser, the class will read about identity & change—being & becoming—in works by Shakespeare, John Donne, Ben Jonson, and Margaret "Mad Madge" Cavendish.

408

AMERICAN ROMANTICISM
MWF 11:00-11:50am
CATEGORY: **

#10735
EDELSTEIN

Students in this course will encounter the major writers of the "American Renaissance," (roughly 1830-1865) a period in which a national literary tradition flowered in the context of sociopolitical turmoil that remains unmatched in our history. We will begin with an intensive focus on the aesthetic and philosophical questions that unite writers including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville. Credited with establishing the first "high art" tradition in the United States, these writers imbue their work with inscrutable symbols, meditations on nature, and celebrations of individualism.

In addition to our focus on romanticism, we will expand our view of the antebellum (pre-Civil War) literary landscape to include popular genres, such as the sentimental novel and the slave narrative. We will position this range of texts in relation to the rapid social changes of this tumultuous period, exploring their relationship to the slavery crisis, sectionalism, domesticity, market capitalism, technological innovation, and westward expansion. Finally, what might the sheer volume of printed material during this period suggest about the relation between literary publication and the emergence of national identity? Students will become familiar with major critical studies of antebellum literature and take an active role in leading and shaping class discussions.

457

UNDERGRADUATE COLLOQUIUM (one-credit)
TBA

#10738
PENNER

This course invites students to experience aspects of literature and literary culture not always included in regular English courses. Students will attend at least five extra-curricular events (some on-campus, some off-campus) during the semester—including film screenings, poetry readings, theater performances, lectures, workshops—and will write a short paper (a "micro-review") about each event. This course may be taken twice for credit. Students who register for this course must meet with Professor Penner during the first week of the semester.

459

SEMINAR FOR TUTORS
TT 2:00-3:15pm

#10739
AUERBACH

This course will explore approaches and strategies for tutoring students in Freshman English courses; it is required for English Department tutors who have been accepted into the Tutoring Program through an interview process. The course focuses on helping students to generate and develop ideas, engage with academic texts, revise papers, and address organizational and linguistic challenges. In addition, the course will introduce students to various issues and debates in composition theory. Students who wish to become tutors and enroll in this course must first be recommended by a faculty member and then be interviewed by the coordinator of the English Department Tutoring Program.

496

**CREATIVE WRITING HONORS I
TBA
SATISFIES CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT**

**#11971
O'GRADY**

The Creative Writing Honors Seminar is a two-semester program for a small number of seniors with strong academic records and whose work in Creative Writing has been outstanding. Students selected for the program will take a one-semester Creative Writing Honors Workshop in the fall with the CW Program Director. In the spring they work with a faculty advisor and complete an honors thesis that may be a collection of poems, short stories, short plays, a full-length play, or a novel excerpt.

Requirements for admission are a 3.0 overall GPA; a 3.75 in Creative Writing and Literature classes; the completion of at least two courses in creative writing; recommendation by a Creative Writing instructor; and approval by the Program Director in consultation with the Creative Writing Faculty.

A formal application should be submitted to the Director of Creative Writing by Wednesday, May 11th.

498

**ENGLISH HONORS I
TBA
SATISFIES CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT**

**#11972
PENNER**

For students accepted into Departmental Honors Program only. Please contact English Undergraduate Director, Louise Penner, for more information: louise.penner@umb.edu