

## Fall 2025 Special Topics and Themed Courses

Course descriptions for all other courses can be found at the [NCSU Course Catalog](#)

### **WL/ENG 392: Major World Author - Hector Jaimes**

This course is an intensive reading survey of Gabriel García Márquez's works, which are leading examples of magical realism. The primary goal of the course is to introduce students to this author's contributions to world literature in the context of Latin American literature and history. Throughout the course, we will read one novella, *Leaf Storm*, and one novel, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Class discussions include lectures, in-class assignments, small-group debates, and close readings.

**All: Core - World Literature**

**All: Literature Elective or English Elective**

**TED and LIT: Author/Genre**

### **WL/ENG 394: Studies in World Literature - Samuel Sotillo**

This online asynchronous course explores 'The Song of the Cid' ('El Cantar de Mio Cid') in English translation, a cornerstone of medieval Spanish literature, set against the dynamic and often tumultuous backdrop of 11th-century Spain. The course not only delves into the poem's themes of honor, loyalty, and power but also examines the daily life of the people who lived during this era—merchants, soldiers, farmers, and clergy—bringing the world of 'The Song of the Cid' vividly to life.

**All: Core - World Literature**

**All: Literature Elective or English Elective**

**LIT: Globalization**

### **ENG/COM 395: Studies in Rhetoric and Digital Media - Wil Carr**

This course explores how the media shape environmental perceptions. Drawing from rhetoric, media studies, and environmental humanities, it examines key concepts in these fields, approaches like elemental media and discard studies, and issues such as the effects of climate fiction and AI's environmental impact. Students develop skills to analyze and create environmental media.

**All: Core - Rhetoric**

**All: English Elective**

**RPW: Methods, Strategies, and Context**

### **ENG 455: Literacy in the U.S. - Chris Anson**

At this moment, highly complex processes are at work as you read, interpret, and reflect on these words. On a basic level, you're making use of abilities that you have been practicing most of your life, through formal schooling, through family educational practices, through work-related experiences, through your own self-sponsored activities (including online interaction), and through daily routines. More broadly, you bring to your reading and writing

tacit assumptions about the role of literacy in your development and in a society that demands higher literacy and uses it to establish criteria for your success. In a course that focuses on literacy, reading the very word literacy calls into play many beliefs about our class system, economic and political structures, educational institutions, cultures, and media.

In this course, we'll explore the personal functions of literacy but soon extend them to wider dimensions of literacy in our society and in our educational institutions, including questions such as these: What are the competing theories about how literacy is acquired? What actually happens when we read? How is technology affecting literacy? What's the relationship between reading and writing? Why are one in five adult Americans illiterate and why do 54% read below a 6th-grade level? Has the pandemic affected child literacy? How can we use literacy in the service of social justice? Projects include a "tiny literacy narrative," interactive reading in small groups through a social annotation tool, informal reflections on ten literacy scenarios, and a unique "discovery thread" inquiry project based on a literacy-related topic of your choice.

(Required for English majors with a concentration in teacher education. Contact Chris Anson at [canson@ncsu.edu](mailto:canson@ncsu.edu) for further information. Professor Anson's c.v. is at [www.ansonica.net](http://www.ansonica.net))

**All: Core - Rhetoric**

**All: English elective**

**RPW: Methods, Strategies, and Context**

#### **ENG 491: Honors in English - Melanated Futurisms - LaTanya McQueen**

Encompassing music, literature, and art that contains elements of science fiction, fantasy, magical realism, historical fiction, and non-Western cosmologies, this genre of writing primarily critiques past and present dilemmas while also imagining possible futures. This course will study the ways in which writers used this genre to center their experiences, background, and culture along with their feelings of difference in predominantly white societies. Throughout this course, students will examine contemporary works in literature, film, and music and, along with daily discussion and writing assignments, students will complete a group presentation, construct an annotated bibliography, and write a formal essay.

**All: Core - American Literature**

**All: Literature Elective or English Elective**

**LIT and TED: Author/Genre**

**LIT: Interdisciplinary Approaches or Capstone**

**CRW: Creative Writing Elective**

**ENG 491: Honors in English - The 21st Century in Literature of the World - Barb Bennett** With the 21st century almost one quarter over, it's time to consider the ways that books, authors, ideas have evolved. We are no longer in a postmodern world, say the experts, but rather in what is being called Metamodernism. What does this mean? How is this different from the literature of the 20th century? This course attempts to answer some of those questions, while probably creating many more. This century has already seen huge events around the world: the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, the invention of the smartphone in 2007, the War on Terror, climate disruptions all over the world and wars that are causing great migrations of refugees. And this is just the beginning. Though it is impossible to address all the

issues of the 21st century through literature, I imagine our discussions in class will be provocative and enriching.

**All: Core - World Literature**

**All: Literature Elective or English Elective**

**LIT: Globalization or Capstone**

**ENG 492/592: Critical Video Game Studies - Yasheng She**

This

course delves into games as a significant form of visual culture, examining their cultural significance, theoretical foundations, and social contexts. Adopting a critical game studies perspective, we will trace the evolution of video games from the 1950s to the present day while addressing key issues such as representation, politics, and the interplay between games and cinema. The course aims to foster a critical distance between audiences and media objects, thereby enhancing media literacy. Through engaging with works by theorists, designers, and cultural critics, students will analyze representations in games and explore themes of identity—including race, gender, and queerness—within the gaming world. Assignments will include close play exercises, open-book quizzes, a series of writing assignments, and optional class presentations, allowing students to apply theoretical concepts to their analyses of games. By the conclusion of the course, students will have developed a solid grounding in the analytical and theoretical frameworks essential to game studies. This course is particularly valuable for aspiring game designers, media scholars, and anyone intrigued by the dynamic and evolving role of games in visual culture and society.

**All: Core - Film**

**All: English Elective**

**Film: Film Elective**

**ENG 498: Special Topics in English Justice-Centered Data Design - Chris Lindgren**

Why

can't data describe reality perfectly? What are the consequences of assuming that data do? ENG 498 Justice-Centered Data Design interrogates these questions by examining how technical and professional communications (TPC) influence, and are influenced by, the design of data, through a focus on theories of intersectionality and data as communication design. Data design overlaps with TPC because it is highly concerned with users (audience), usability, and goals (purpose). Those of us who work in the humanities can contribute to data design through our training in rhetorical critique and cultural analysis, which can bolster advocacy work by those who are not represented or misrepresented in and through the design of data. Accordingly, we will ask ourselves: What is the relationship between intersectionality and the design of just data? And, how can understanding data from a TPC perspective help create just data? We will explore these questions through intensive engagement with theories about data at the intersections of feminisms, queer studies, and critical race. Specifically, students will read, discuss, and learn-by-doing by gaining skills in data processing, analysis, and visualization with the Observable Framework in the JavaScript programming language. No prior coding experience is required.

**All: Core - Rhetoric**

**All: English Elective**

**RPW: Methods, Strategies, and Context**

**ENG 493: Special topics in Rhetoric and Professional Writing, Personal Analytics:**

**Understanding the Digital You - Huiling Ding**

This course explores how personal data is generated, collected, analyzed, and utilized in the digital age. Students will learn to self-track, collect, analyze, and interpret their own digital footprints while considering privacy implications, ethical considerations, and practical applications of personal analytics. The course emphasizes conceptual understanding, basic understanding of descriptive statistics, and practical applications related to small data analytics, spreadsheets, and data visualization. Through hands-on projects and critical discussion, students will develop both basic technical skills and theoretical understanding of personal data analytics. No prior statistical or data science knowledge is required.

**All: Core - Rhetoric**

**All: English Elective**

**RPW: Methods, Strategies, and Context**

**ENG 582: Studies in Literature The Nineteenth-Century British Novel - Paul Fyfe**

The novel is among the most important, capacious, and dynamic forms of writing in nineteenth-century Britain. This course surveys its major developments and representative

sub-genres, including historical, gothic, industrial, realist, sensational, and imperial novels, thinking hard about how they illuminate the prevailing ambitions and anxieties of writers in Britain's most transitional era. Students should be committed to substantial and sustained reading. Authors include Scott, Austen, Dickens, Gaskell, Braddon, Trollope, and Marsh.

**All: Core - British Literature**

**All: Literature Elective or English Elective**

**ENG 582: AI and Literature - Justin Tackett**

From self-driving cars to bots that alter democratic elections, artificial intelligence is growing increasingly powerful and prevalent in our everyday lives. Literature has long been speculating about the techno-utopia—and catastrophe—that A.I. could usher in. Indeed, literature itself presents us with a kind of A.I. in the many characters that speak and think in its pages. But how do we classify an intelligence as “artificial” or not? Is there a clear boundary that demarcates bodies from machines? What, if anything, separates the “genre” of technology from that of literature? What classifies literature as “science fiction,” “scientific,” “futuristic,” “psychological,” or “dystopian”? And can technology or literature ever overcome the ultimate division between all intelligences—the problem of other minds? This course consists in curated multi-genre combinations of literature, philosophy, film, and television that explore what makes someone—or something—a person in our world today.

**All: Core - American literature**

**All: Literature Elective or English Elective**

**LIT: interdisciplinary or capstone**

**ENG 590: Studies in Creative Writing The Craft & Theory of Poetics - Meg Day** This graduate course serves as the companion to ENG590: The Practice of Poetics. In this craft class, we will lean into the how of poems: how they are made, how they affect, & how to replicate their effects. We'll engage in rigorous study of meter, syntax, metaphor, temporality, tone, lineation, & rhetorical schemes & tropes. Graduate students only.

**CRW: Creative Writing Elective**

**All: English Elective**