



BUFFALO ENGLISH

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY



Winter 2019



English Department News



- ◆ UB English is on Twitter!! Follow us: @UB_English
- ◆ Look for us on Facebook at: [University at Buffalo English Department](#)
- ◆ Flip to the back of the catalog to see sections dedicated to the Creative Writing Certificate, as well as the Journalism Certificate Program.
- ◆ We've added a new minor to our program - the [Global Film Minor](#)! For more info, flip to the back page...
- ◆ Don't forget about the annual End of the Semester/Holiday Party! This is held during the last week of classes in our main office, Clemens 306.
- ◆ For much more information, please visit our website at: English.buffalo.edu



Visit Career Services to look at potential career paths and to help plan your future!

UB Career Services is the place on campus to help you explore how your English major connects to various career paths. Meeting with a career counselor allows you to explore your interests and career options while helping you take the necessary steps to reach your goal. You can also make a same-day appointment for a resume critique, cover letter assistance, or quick question on your job or internship search.

Call 645-2231 or stop by 259 Capen Hall to make an appointment.



In all your work, strive for: Clarity, Accuracy, Generosity, Rigor

Clarity: Write lucidly, articulately, well. Your essays should have clear aims and ask substantive questions. Constantly try to improve your style and enlarge your powers of expression. Remember – you aim to communicate, so give your reader room to follow. Aspire to nuance, but avoid complexity for complexity's sake.

Accuracy: In your language, in your research, in your citational practices, in your transcriptions and note-keeping. Inaccuracy proliferates from the point of your first mistake. Constantly check and revise your work to eliminate errors.

Generosity: You participate in a community of scholars. Nurture that community by sharing your thoughts, sharing your passions, and sharing your sources. Speak to each other. Intellectual work is for the common good. We are humanists, after all.

Rigor: Learn your field, read deeply and widely, never cut corners. Aim to serve the principles that first brought you to academia, and never try to mimic somebody else.



This January, embrace winter in Buffalo and earn UB credit for it! Explore UB's new winter session opportunities, talk with your advisor about how winter session can help you improve your skills, stay on track to graduate and pursue special educational enrichment opportunities.

Winter Session offers courses that connect students and faculty in an intimate, intensive, creative atmosphere. The three week period, beginning in January, will be highly flexible, allowing course formats which support traditional courses as well as immersion-style courses and study abroad opportunities. Students are encouraged to use these study opportunities to improve skills, take courses to stay on track to graduate and to pursue special enrichment opportunities.

The English Department is offering the following courses this Winter:

ENG 202 Technical Communication	ONLINE	Alex Reid	3 Credit Hours
ENG 210 Professional Writing	ONLINE	Hannah Fogarty	3 Credit Hours
ENG 221 World Literature: <i>The World of Franz Kafka</i>	ONLINE	Steven Miller	3 Credit Hours
ENG 254 Science Fiction	ONLINE	Steven Miller	3 Credit Hours
ENG 337 20th C Lit in the U.S.	ONLINE	William Solomon	3 Credit Hours
ENG 357 Contemporary Literature: <i>Cyberpunk Literature and Film</i>	ONLINE	Joseph Conte	3 Credit Hours

Registration for winter session campus-based and on-line courses begins on **October 1, 2018.**

For information on enrolling in classes, Study Abroad info, tuition/fees/financial aid, drop/add/resign dates etc... please go to: **ubthiswinter.buffalo.edu**





202 Technical Communication

Professor Alex Reid

ONLINE

Reg. No. 10341

The contemporary workplace increasingly relies upon the ability of people to produce, manage, and communicate information. The traditional work of technical communication would have included writing instructions for procedures, workplace policies, and safety manuals. Today technical communicators have a far more diverse role, participating in user-centered design, organizing information, conducting research, and composing across the full spectrum of media. In fact, contemporary technical communication is not restricted to workplaces. YouTube tutorials, video game wikis, and infographics produced by fan communities are all examples of technical communication happening in public spaces.

In this class, we will step outside the conventions of academic writing to examine and practice composing in these emerging genres. We will be doing multimedia composing but no prior experience is needed, and you will be able to complete the assignments with common (e.g. Microsoft Office) and/or freely available applications.

210 Professional Writing

Hannah Fogarty

ONLINE

Reg. No. 10365

An investigation of genres of professional and workplace communication that are common across the business world including memos, progress reports, and presentations. Contemporary professional communication occurs across media platforms and through a variety of devices, as such this course addresses a range of digital and visual communication strategies.

221 World Literature: *The World of Franz Kafka*

Professor Steven Miller

ONLINE

Reg. No. 10337

Franz Kafka is best known for his notorious short story, "The Metamorphosis," which recounts the travails of Gregor Samsa after, one morning, he awakens in the form of a large insect. His work is also commonly invoked, albeit indirectly, when certain experiences, usually of trying and failing miserably to negotiate bureaucratic institutions (e.g. the DMV, the IRS, City Hall), are called "Kafkaesque." But this common knowledge provides us with a mere glimpse into the utterly fascinating world of Kafka's life and fiction.

Continued...





In this course, students will have the rare opportunity to spend the Winter semester exploring the wide array of this author's works. In addition to "The Metamorphosis" (rightly famous and always a joy to reread!), we will read a few longer stories such as "In the Penal Colony," "The Judgment," "A Country Doctor," "The Great Wall of China," "Report to the Academy," "A Hunger Artist," "Investigations of a Dog," and "Josephine the Singer, or The Mouse Folk," which feature a host of unforgettable human and animal protagonists (ape, dog, mouse); the novels *The Trial* and/or *The Castle*; and, time permitting, selections from the author's diaries and letters, such as the wonderful *Letter to His Father*.

254 Science Fiction

Professor Steven Miller
ONLINE
Reg. No. 10196

This course will introduce students to the art of reading and writing on science fiction as a prose genre. We will focus on novels and stories that speculate upon scientific, artistic, and historical transformations of the human body, gender, and sexuality. Likely readings include H. G. Wells, James Tiptree, Jr. (Alice Sheldon), Octavia Butler, Kazuo Ishiguro, J.G. Ballard, Ursula K. LeGuin, Samuel Delany, and Margaret Atwood.



337 20th Century Literature in the U.S.

Professor William Solomon
ONLINE
Reg. No. 10342

The 1960s remains one of the most socially and politically volatile decades in US history. American literature changed dramatically in this era as well. For example, conventional realistic prose gave way to the controversial phenomenon known as "black humor," a provocative blend of comic exuberance and apocalyptic anxiety. At the same time, generic distinctions collapsed, "serious" writers now finding in popular or pulp materials (such as crime writing and science fiction) formal templates for their own narrative undertakings. Elsewhere the thematic boundaries of the novel were stretched to encompass previously ignored areas of everyday life, from the subterranean realm of drug addiction to the insides of mental institutions to racial tensions in the streets of urban ghettos. In this course, we will use the following works to address these issues: Kurt Vonnegut's *Mother Night*; Joan Didion's *Play it as it Lays*; Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*;





Chester Himes' *A Rage in Harlem*; and Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. We will also include in our inquiry several films. *Easy Rider*, for instance, will enable us to consider the social impact of rock music on the counterculture; and *Dr. Strangelove* will enable us to investigate the commitment during the decade to anti-war protest.

357 Contemporary Literature: **Cyberpunk Literature and Virtual Reality**

Professor Joseph Conte
ONLINE
Reg. No. 10104



During the 1980s and into the 1990s an almost imperceptible and underground transformation in our cultural imagination took place, as our dependence on the analogue media of print, broadcast television and celluloid film slowly gave way to a digital information culture that William Gibson termed “cyberspace” in his novel, *Neuromancer* (1984). While the public waited for Tim Berners-Lee to fashion a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) and Marc Andreessen to code the first widely used Web browser, enabling a boringly commercial hypermedia known as the World Wide Web, the legacy media of the science fiction novel and cinema took it upon themselves to imagine a dynamic, immersive, resistant, and culturally diverse virtual reality. It's not exactly what we got by the millennium, but that is the world of Cyberpunk, populated by techno-adept hackers and socially marginalized types, combining the grunge aesthetic of Punk music, the gritty realism of Film Noir, and the postmodern theory of a Simulacral society. In this condensed, three-week Winter session, we will read three classics of the cyberpunk genre: the aforementioned *Neuromancer*, whose antihero Case “jacks into” the Matrix of cybernetic war and trolls the dystopian Sprawl; Pat Cadigan's *Synners* (1991), in which the map of the mind becomes the territory of real space; and Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash* (1993), featuring Hiro Protagonist, whose digital avatar pursues a virus capable of infecting the cerebral cortex. We will complement these three works of fiction with three popular films in which virtual space overwhelms our Euclidean world: the millennial apocalypse of Kathryn Bigelow's *Strange Days* (1995); an alternate world in which reality is a deceptive digital representation in the Wachowskis's *The Matrix* (1999); and David Cronenberg's *eXistenZ* (1999), in which computer gaming becomes all too real. This course will be conducted online through UB Learns, with digital streaming of the films. Students will be required to participate in weekly graded discussion boards and writing assignments on both novels and films.





The Creative Writing Certificate

Creative Writing Certificate Program for undergraduates.

Creative Writing students have a wealth of writing related opportunities to draw on in the English Department: *NAME*, the recently revived student-run poetry and fiction magazine, as well as the vibrant Poetics Plus reading series and the Exhibit X Fiction Series, which bring nationally regarded poets and fiction writers to Buffalo to meet with students.

For more information about the new Creative Writing Certificate Program, please contact Dimitri Anastasopoulos, at danastas@buffalo.edu or join the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/UBCWF

Journalism Certificate Program

Today's media recruiters want candidates with more than solid reporting and story-writing skills. They want applicants with specialized knowledge in complicated subject areas – plus the ability to delve into those areas and provide meaningful contexts for news events, for readers and viewers.

The journalism certificate program at UB provides students with an educational foundation in writing and reporting for publication, emphasizing hands-on workshops and internships designed to transition students into the professional world. Classes concentrate on journalistic skills including feature writing, news reporting, and opinion writing.

In addition, the program fosters an understanding of U.S. and global media, journalism ethics and integrity standards associated with the journalism profession. It's an interdisciplinary course of study comprised of coursework offered by the Departments of English, Communication, and Media Study.

The certificate should be viewed as an accompaniment to a student's major course of studies. Concentrating on subjects such as business, law, history or political science for the core of undergraduate studies will give students a foundation to draw on in pursuing a journalism career.

The journalism certificate is not a baccalaureate degree program. It is designed to help students master the tools of journalism while offering the freedom to concentrate on core knowledge areas – putting students on the right track to succeed in the professional media world and must be earned concurrently with their undergraduate degree.

The Journalism Certificate provides students with a formal educational foundation in writing and reporting for publication as well as an understanding of the U.S. and global media. In addition, the program fosters an understanding of journalism ethics and integrity standards associated with the journalism profession. The courses are taught by UB faculty and professional reporters and editors working for local media. Having professional reporters and editors in the classroom provides students with practical educational experiences including writing, editing, research, interviewing skills development, and understanding the expectations of editors.

For more information, please contact Jody Kleinberg-Biehl at jkbiehl@buffalo.edu, or visit online at journalism.buffalo.edu.



What Does an English Major Do?

Students choose from a variety of courses within every area of the English major and may develop concentrations in a number of fields, including historical periods, cultural studies, popular culture, ethnic literatures, film studies, creative writing, and critical theory. In any given semester, we offer courses like Medieval Epic, Love in the Western World, Mythology, Revenge in Renaissance Drama, 18th-Century Fiction, American Travel Writing, The Bible as Literature, Crime Fiction, Comedy, The Modern American Novel, and National Cinemas. The department offers both a concentration in Creative Writing, staffed by five published poets and fiction writers, and an interdisciplinary Journalism Certificate, staffed largely by working journalists and offering multiple internship possibilities.

Students enjoy a rich array of extracurricular offerings. There are multiple fiction and poetry readings every semester, bringing a range of emerging and established writers to Buffalo. The Buffalo Film Seminar (a course open to the public in a downtown theater) screens great films weekly in the context of discussion led by practicing film makers. Scholarly lectures abound, as do literary events in the city of Buffalo - from poetry slams to opportunities to meet world-famous writers. Students produce their own literary magazine, host their own readings, and form undergraduate clubs on the subjects that most interest them - including, recently, a Shakespeare Club and an Old and Middle English Club.

Students work with faculty on scholarly research projects - for example, on Whitman's Civil War poetry, on popular fiction in the UK, or on the nineteenth-century literature of politeness. In 2007-08, an English major won an international United Nations writing contest and was flown to Paris as part of her prize; another English major received honorable mention in a national essay contest.

The English Minor easily complements multiple areas of study and assists students wanting to hone writing and analytical skills in their major areas of study.

The English Honors program enables students who have a high GPA or who are nominated by faculty to work even more closely with faculty in seminar-style courses and on senior thesis projects. Honors students are especially likely to participate with faculty on research projects or as research assistants. In the last few semesters, for example, students have worked with faculty members on projects about Irish literature, Italian horror movies, American short stories, and American film.

For more information about our courses, check out The Whole English Catalog online at:
<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/undergraduate-programs/courses.html>.





Global Film Minor

The Global Film Minor in the Department of English offers UB undergraduates the opportunity to discover vibrant cinematic traditions and innovations from around the globe. There is no requirement that Global Film minors be English majors.



Courses in this minor will introduce students to audiovisual analysis, artistic forms, and cultural practices in a range of countries, and novel forms of cinematic storytelling. Students will gauge the impact of new and emerging technologies on contemporary cinema and explore developments in international film production, reception, exhibition, and distribution. It also provides students with a unique perspective on contemporary social and political issues, such as immigration, gender and sexuality, disability, human rights, and climate change. An understanding of global issues and exposure to different cultures through the medium of film will strengthen students' intercultural communication competence and enhance their ability to participate in our increasingly networked world, thus facilitating the development of their careers in the international marketplace.

Our Courses:

ENGLISH (ENG): 256 Film; 379 Film Genres; 381 Film Directors (Buffalo Film Seminar); 382 & 384 Shakespeare in Film 1 and 2; 440 Film Theory; 441 Contemporary Cinema; 442 Modernism and Film

MEDIA STUDY (DMS): 213 Immigration and Film; 305/306 Film Analysis; 333 World Cinema; 341 Intermediate Video; 388 Screenwriting; 403/404 Advanced Documentary Production; 405/406 Ethnographic Film and Media; 409 & 410 Non Fiction Film; 441/442 Advanced Video Production

ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES (RLL): FR 341 Topics in French Film; ITA 429 Italian Cinema; SPA 408 History of Spanish Cinema; SPA 435 Mexican Cinema; ITA 430 Italian Directors; SPA 221 Spanish Conversation through Film

TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES (TNS): AAS 253 Blacks in Film 1; AAS 254 Blacks in Film 2; AAS 417 Black Aesthetics

Minor requirements:

Two courses at the 200 level (6 credits) and four courses (12 credits) at the 300-400 level. (Students may also take one course in film production to fulfill the upper division credits.)

How Do I apply?

To apply, contact the Coordinator, Tanya Shilina-Conte at tshilina@buffalo.edu or the English Undergraduate Secretary, Nicole Lazaro at nmlazaro@buffalo.edu



