

Elective Course Descriptions

Spring Semester 2025

ENG 506

Death in Literature and Philosophy

Tziovanis Georgakis

This course investigates the concept of death as challenged and developed by influential thinkers from Plato to Maurice Blanchot, exploring its relationship to significant works of world literature. The course is divided into the following four parts: Part One grounds our exploration by examining Plato's classical views on death and how the practice of preparing for death relates to the search for truth and the attainment of knowledge. Part Two considers the Christian perspective on death as preached by St. Paul, focusing on the mystery of the Second Coming—an apocalyptic moment when death is the last enemy to be defeated and the dead are raised to inherit the Kingdom of God. We will juxtapose this with Friedrich Nietzsche's critique of Christian doctrine, which claims that death is misrepresented by priests as the ultimate criterion of life, becoming a tool for tyranny, irrationality, and immorality. These contrasting views will be further explored through close readings of Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* and José Saramago's *Death at Intervals*, examining how these works envision human freedom, rationality, and morality. Part Three adopts an existential standpoint on death and its relation to metaphysical rebellion. We will delve into Martin Heidegger's notion of death as Dasein's possibility for Being-a-Whole—and thus absolutely and unconditionally free—and associate it with Albert Camus' figure of the rebel, who is willing to die to assert the conditions of his existence and practice what he preaches: 'All or Nothing.' The figure of the metaphysical rebel will also be studied in relation to Julia Kristeva's idea of beheading and Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*, which portrays a murderous act as a case of metaphysical rebellion. Part Four examines Maurice Blanchot's *The Writing of the Disaster*, where major catastrophes like the Holocaust raise profound questions related to death and termination. Topics include the process of writing and its liquidation, the production of knowledge and the flight of thought, the infinite and its interruption, and the death of the Self in terms of the death of the Other. Blanchot's text will be studied in relation to Tadeusz Borowski's Holocaust literature, specifically *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*.

ENG 510

Metamorphoses: Narratives and Theories of Becoming in Contemporary Feminism

Maria Margaroni

The source of inspiration for this course needs to be traced back to Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, a seminal text that has invited us to shift the emphasis in our understanding of (female) subjectivity from biology to history and culture. In arguing that "one is not born, one *becomes* a woman," Beauvoir does not simply draw attention to the social discourses/practices through which what is normally taken as an "essence" (i.e. "Woman") is constructed. She also throws light on the multiple *possibilities* of women (rather than "Woman"), their potential for what she calls "transcendence:" in other words, their ability to move beyond the limits imposed on them and imagine/re-create themselves *otherwise*. The aim of this course is to trace the legacy of Beauvoir's shift of focus from being to becoming in the work of contemporary women theorists, writers and artists. Effort will be made to examine how this legacy is revised and re-invested in the fast-changing scenery of our global, post-industrial society where the traditional boundaries between man/woman, animal/human, human/machine, mind/body, natural/artificial are increasingly being transgressed.

ENG 512

Seminar in American Studies II: Visions of Empire in American Literature and Culture

Antonis Balasopoulos

This course will discuss the historical and cultural trajectories of American expansionism from the middle of the 19th century to 1914. It will focus on the main constituents of this vision, from the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the discourses of Social Darwinism and imperial masculinity, from the language of “manifest destiny” to techno-war fantasy, from imperial dreams and utopias to imperial anxieties and nightmares. We will acquaint ourselves with some of the main historical events and currents of the period, but will also seek to comprehend the main cultural and political strands of America’s imperial prehistory. The course is interdisciplinary and comparative in method and focus: material will include prose fiction and poetry, painting, short stories and essays, cultural and literary theory. Students are expected to have developed a concrete grasp of major political, historical and aesthetic developments in the period in question, to have become familiar with some of the key debates and theoretical propositions that relate to the topic of the seminar, and to be able to analyze a variety of forms and genres of primary texts in a critically aware, theoretically informed and historically situated manner.

ENG 529

Black Feminism

Evi Haggipavlu

This course focuses on Black Feminist thought and examines the meaning(s) of Black Feminism, its main tenets, as well as its history. Our objective will be to thoughtfully engage with the works of scholars, writers, activists and artists whose collective wisdom, passion, insightful analyses, sheer talent and committed work gave rise to a movement with a global reach that has radically changed the ways in which we understand Feminist History, Ethics, Politics, Theory, Criticism and Activism. Our ultimate aim will be to hear the many voices of Black Feminism in the 20th century, and allow their transformative energy to change us.

ENG 553

Issues in First Language Acquisition

Kleanthes Grohmann

This course introduces current developments in the linguistic study of language acquisition. It offers a general overview of Universal Grammar and the biolinguistic principles of language, and then proceeds to specific interests in the morphosyntax of first language acquisition, but also introduce bi- and multilingualism, issues in second language acquisition and learning, heritage language use, and language attrition. Students will be able to assess language variation from the vantage point of the Principles & Parameters framework and its contemporary version with special reference to language development. They will also become familiar with basic notions of first language acquisition and advanced topics on language interfaces and processing along the way. The theoretical framework will help students appreciate the linguistic basis for much of the research over the past three decades.

ENG 559

Experimental Phonetics

Spyros Armostis

This course introduces students to the theoretical foundations and practical methodologies of experimental phonetics. Covering core areas such as articulatory, acoustic, and perceptual phonetics, the course equips students to design, conduct, and analyse phonetic experiments to test and refine theoretical hypotheses. Through hands-on activities and discussions, students will gain expertise in experiment design, speech recording and analysis, and the creation of test materials for perceptual testing. Emphasis is placed on developing key skills such as formulating research questions, applying modern

signal analysis techniques, and using basic statistical analysis to evaluate experimental data. The course begins with an overview of current phonetic theories related to speech production and perception, progressing to practical applications in designing and analysing phonetic experiments. Students will also explore contemporary issues in phonetic science and develop the ability to present scientific findings effectively. ENG559 provides a comprehensive foundation in experimental phonetics, bridging theoretical understanding with practical skills to address complex questions in speech science. No prior knowledge of phonetics, phonology, statistics, or programming is required for this course.

ENG 562

What Are Adjectives?

Phoevos Panagiotidis

This course examines the adjective category from primarily three viewpoints: typological, semantic, and morphosyntactic. Drawing from a wealth cross-linguistic data it surveys a number of little-addressed questions: what adjectives are, what they do, and how they are interpreted — as well as whether they are universal and to what extent they can vary.

ENG 571

Comics in Translation

Vasso Giannakopoulou

This course aims at familiarizing students with the particularities of translating sequential art in its various genres (educational, historical, journalistic, children's, graphic novel, manga, adaptation of classical literature) as opposed to other types of translation, as well as raise their ability to deal with translation difficulties that are related with this text type.

ENG 576

Transcreation

George Floros

Transcreation is a fairly recent neologism, a compound fusing the terms translation and creation, in order to refer to the translation of advertising material (among others). This course will explore this neologism, which is now being used among other terms to describe the translation of advertisements as a separate subfield within translation studies, both from a theoretical and an applied perspective. More specifically, the term transcreation will be discussed within the general framework of intercultural communication and within the specific framework of international marketing, as well as against competing terms within translation studies, such as localization and (tr)adaptation. Furthermore, concrete examples will be analyzed in order to highlight the specificities, fascinating challenges and multimodality of this particular type of translation. The course heavily depends on students' own presentations and discussions of the translation of advertisements.

ENG 597

Hybrid Texts and Translation

Konstantinos Kritsis

Within Translation Studies, the notion of hybridity has been discussed in terms of three main contexts: a) linguistic phenomena (e.g. code-switching, creolization, heteroglossia), b) the "in-between" or "Third" space where source and target culture(s) meet, and, finally, c) the dynamic mixing of discourse types. Building on its perception as more than a conglomerate of differences within a single semiotic space, the course will accordingly use hybridity as a unique conceptual framework for revisiting the communicative intentions of different text types as well as exploring the way(s) in which authorial and/or translatorial decisions (may) affect the rhetorical purpose(s) served by them.

ENG 598

Legal and Economic Translation

Olga Kanelli

This course aims to acquaint students with issues involved in translating legal and economic texts. We will examine basic legal and economics texts (SL & TL) and focus on integrating textual, thematic, strategic, sociolinguistic and technological skills with strategies which can be applied to legal and economic translation areas. Emphasis is placed on the development of the translation techniques required to resolve translation difficulties, including terminology research, quality assessment and the selection and management of reliable information resources. Excellent knowledge of both Greek and English is indispensable.