Literature (LITR)

LITR201 World Literature through the Renaissance (3 semester hours)
Readings in translation from a variety of cultures and authors from the Ancient World through the European Renaissance will be the focus of this class. Representative selections will be drawn from Classical Greece and Rome, China, India, and Western Europe. Readings include the major genres of epic poetry, drama, lyric verse, and prose fiction. Major themes include the warrior ideal, the relationship between the state and the citizen, and the pleasures of private life. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR202 World Literature since the Renaissance (3 semester hours)
This course presents readings and film selected from a variety of cultures and authors from the 17th century through the 20th century. Representative selections will be drawn from Western Europe, Russia, India, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Major themes include the individual’s struggle to adapt to a changing, increasingly globalized modern world which threatens, objectifies, and often misinterprets other cultures. Emphasis is placed on a cross-cultural and cross-temporal understanding of gender roles, family obligations, and the many relationships that shape our lives. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR204 Contemporary World Culture Through Literature (3 semester hours)
This course examines aspects of contemporary world culture through literature. The course will take a dual thematic approach and geographic approach to issues that are particular to third-world/developing countries, indigenous peoples, and authors in exile. Students will explore the impact of cultural concerns for an increasingly multi-cultural world. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR205 Cultural Diversity in Contemporary American Literature (3 semester hours)
This course examines the United States’ cultural diversity through American literature of the late 20th and early 21st century. Students will attempt to construct a more full understanding of American identity through the voices of Americans of widely varying backgrounds. Assigned works and authors range the spectrum of diversity, and include works that are written from different perspectives of gender, ethnicity, and culture. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR210 English Literature: Beowulf to 18th Century (3 semester hours)
In this course, students will study selected texts in English literature from Beowulf through the 18th century, including prose, fiction and nonfiction, drama, and poetry, with a focus on the historical and cultural contexts and issues relevant to the time. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR211 English Literature: 18th Century to Present (3 semester hours)
In this course, students will examine selected texts in English literature from the 18th century to the present, including prose, fiction, drama, and poetry, with a focus on the historical and cultural contexts and issues relevant to the time. Core authors include: Emily Brontë, Josef Conrad, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR220 American Literature before The Civil War (3 semester hours)
This course examines the rapid social and technological changes that have taken place in American culture during the mid-to-late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and how these upheavals have been expressed in our nation’s literature. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR221 American Literature from The Civil War to Present (3 semester hours)
This course examines the rapid social and technological changes that have taken place in American culture during the mid-to-late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and how these upheavals have been expressed in our nation’s literature. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR310 British Fiction (3 semester hours)
In this course, students will study selected texts in British literature from the start of written literature in the Anglo-Saxon period through the present. Specifically, the course will focus on fiction within the historical and cultural contexts, and issues relevant to the time. Analysis of the changing characteristics of literary movements through the centuries will be included in general discussion. Prerequisite: COLL300.

LITR316 British Poetry (3 semester hours)
This course offers a chronological survey of British poetry from the Anglo-Saxon era through the twentieth century. The poetry will be examined within the social and cultural contexts in which it was produced. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR320 American Fiction (3 semester hours)
This course provides an examination of American society and culture through literature, using fiction that covers different eras, personalities, and issues. Stress is placed on characterization and other literary techniques, as well as on the nature of American society itself and fiction’s place in that society. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR322 American Poetry I (3 semester hours)
This course provides a survey of the major American poets, poetic style, and poetry from colonial to contemporary times, examining in the process what a poem is and how meaning is created through the use of literary devices. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)
LITR324 African-American Literature (3 semester hours)
This course will cover African-American literature from the earliest times to the present; development of prose and poetry, the novel; and the evolution of African-American political and social discourse through literature. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR325 Gothic Literature (3 semester hours)
Gothic Literature is designed to give students an overview of the genre of Gothic fiction, starting with its roots in 17th Century England and ending with 20th Century American fiction. The course will analyze how the tradition began, evolved, and was influenced by important cultural traditions including romanticism, enlightenment, and women’s rights. Readings in the course include novels, plays, poetry, and short stories, as all have been used in the Gothic tradition. Authors studied in the course include John Milton, Lord Byron, Ann Radcliffe, Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Edgar Allen Poe, H.P. Lovecraft, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, and Joyce Carol Oates. Prereq: ENGL102 or ENGL200.

LITR330 Literary Theory (3 semester hours)
This course is designed to expose students to literary theory. Students will read essays that cover key components of literary analysis such as Marxism, feminist theory, structuralism, and post-modernism, among others. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR337 Women Writers (3 semester hours)
Women writers have influenced thinking around the world, but this was not always recognized until recently. This course is an inclusive survey of women writers from around the globe, in both the Eastern and Western tradition, in all literary genres, through specific literary contributions from historical and modern times. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR341 Folklore (3 semester hours)
This course provides a survey of folk literature. Special emphasis is placed on identifying archetypes, themes, and motifs, which are the common threads of orally transmitted literature across place and time, which also carry over into other forms of literature and popular culture. Assigned readings represent a sampling of folklore from around the world from ancient to modern eras. Some subjects include: magic, tricksters, heroism, taboo, and shapeshifters. Students will participate in a research project throughout the course. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR355 Latin American Literature (3 semester hours)
This course offers a study of major Latin-American writers and literary movements from the Nineteenth-Century to the present. It challenges students to think critically about issues of race, class, gender, culture and identity in order to understand the evolving character of Latin America through representative literary texts. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR365 Middle Eastern Literature (3 semester hours)
This course will focus on Middle Eastern culture through an analysis of major Middle Eastern literary works including literature from ancient through modern times. The works studied represent a broad survey of the literature available from the Middle East, including works from ancient Mesopotamia, works available from classical Arabic, and works that span the ages passed down by oral tradition and only recently recorded. The novel as interpreted by eastern rather than western sensibilities is also examined. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR370 African Literature (3 semester hours)
This course presents African literature from various countries across the continent with a close examination of the ways in which prose, poetry, and drama reveal the depths and beauty of the African culture and its people. (Prerequisite: ENGL101 or ENGL110)

LITR402 Shakespeare: An Author for the Ages (3 semester hours)
This course will cover the major elements of Shakespeare’s writings, including his histories, comedies, tragedies, and sonnets. The course will focus on the plays both as literature to be read and discussed as well as theatrical scripts for realization in a performance setting. Additional readings of recent criticism will be assigned to help students develop their analysis and understanding of the texts read. Prerequisite: COLL300.

LITR403 The Work and Life of Ernest Hemingway (3 semester hours)
This course examines the genius and influence of Ernest Hemingway and his works on world literature. Students will study works selected for the sort of quality and precision that would define Hemingway’s art of writing and earn the respect and recognition of the Nobel Committee for his “powerful, style-making mastery of the art of modern narration.” Prerequisite: COLL300.

LITR404 Mark Twain (3 semester hours)
Mark Twain’s life and literature marks an important milestone in American history. Author, traveler, and riverboat pilot, Mark Twain is most commonly known as a humorist, but modern scholars interpret his life as tragic. This course explores historic and modern criticism of Twain’s career and literature. Prerequisite: COLL300.