

UFS QWAQWA ENGLISH HONOURS COURSES: 2017

Students are required to complete 128 credits selected from the modules below, with ENGL6808, ENGL6814 and ENGL6824 as compulsory modules.

Adding to the above, students are expected to select an additional 64 credits from the list of 16 and 32 credit modules below. The department limits the number of options for any given year. The course offerings for 2016 will be finalised in January 2016. Detailed course outlines will be provided by course lecturers.

ENGL6808 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH ESSAY

Essay to be marked by two members of staff in addition to any external assessment.

The purpose of this course, which all students in the English Honours must complete, is to introduce students to the concept of research as it functions in the field of English literary and cultural studies, as well as linguistics. The course is divided into two sections: the first addresses some of the methodological questions that inform research in a variety of areas in English studies; the second is directed towards any research involved in the writing of the long essay, which students are required to submit at the end of the year.

At the end of the first part of the course, students should be able to:

- (i) understand the basic processes of research in the field of literary and/or cultural studies and/or linguistics studies in English;
- (ii) formulate a research topic appropriate for Honours or Master's use;
- (iii) choose a methodological approach appropriate to your chosen topic of research;
- (iv) draw up a well-grounded research proposal outlining your intended research, and
- (iv) produce a convincing, well-written research document such as a long essay, mini-thesis, dissertation, or thesis based on this research proposal.

Research Essay: Various supervisors

An individually supervised essay on a topic formulated in consultation with a supervisor approved by the Head of Department. The essay will be assessed and moderated. Deadlines must be strictly adhered to; late submission will incur penalties and might result in failure to obtain the Honours degree.

Deadlines for Research Essay:

1. February 24th: student must have met with potential supervisor.
2. April 14th: proposal draft due.
3. April 21st: feedback from supervisor.

4. May 5th: final proposal due.
5. July 21st: first 20 pages due.
6. September 8th: second 20 pages due.
7. October 6th: full draft of mini-thesis due.
8. Nov 3rd: Final paper due.

Please note: Students who do not meet deadlines will not be entitled to detailed feedback from their supervisors on section drafts. **No feedback will be offered in November unless students have met all their deadlines throughout the year.**

ENGL6814 LITERARY THEORY: THE BEGINNINGS

Lecturer: Dr Oliver Nyambi (nyambio@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

ENGL6814 is an introductory course designed to expose post-graduate students to the rudiments of a key area of literary and cultural discourse. The course provides an overview of the major theoretical trends that have shaped the critical reception and production of literary texts both prior to and since the twentieth century. Theoretical frameworks considered in any given year might include Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Literary Theory; Romanticism; Formalism; Marxism; Phenomenology; as well as Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Theory. The theoretical discourses studied in this course focus on the fundamental assumptions and premises of various theoretical schools, with a view to establishing a platform for the study of later theoretical constructs.

ENGL6824 CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY

Lecturer: Mr Carlo Germeshuys (germeshuysca@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

Building on the discussion of literary theory in ENGL6814, this course considers some of the additional debates that have animated cultural and critical theory during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Specifically, the course introduces students to methods of critically analysing a wide variety of texts – including literature, films and other media – in order to facilitate a rigorous questioning of our roles as citizens of our contemporary world and as critical interpreters of past and present contexts. This part of the course reflects the shift that Departments of English around the world have made in recent years from traditional methods of literary analysis to the study of a range of cultural texts and practices through the lens of contemporary critical theory, including theories of gender and sexuality, critical race theory, psychoanalysis, affect theory and postcolonial theory. The primary objectives of this course are to equip students with the theoretical tools required to bridge the gap between the cultural texts that we read and the worlds that we inhabit; to expose the links between knowledge and power; and to draw on the lessons of history so that we might better understand the present and imagine more equitable futures. The course asks of students to cross disciplinary boundaries, to invest in a study of lived political and social contexts, and to commit to the project of social and epistemic transformation.

ENGA6834 CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Dr Kudzayi Ngara (ngarakm@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

This course presents an intensive study of major contemporary poets, with special attention to questions of influence, interrelations, and diverse poetic practices. The study of these poets also aims to provide students with a thorough knowledge of the characteristic techniques, concerns and major practitioners of contemporary poetry. Apart from an in-depth study of the theoretical consideration of modernity and modernism, diverse methods of literary criticism are employed, including historical, cultural, biographical, social, political and gender criticism.

ENGC6874 PERSPECTIVES ON MODERNISM

Lecturer: Dr Rodwell Makombe (makomber@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

The focus of this course will be on the constructions of self and meaning in early twentieth-century prose fiction, with emphasis on the shift of meaning from the objective to the subjective world, subjectivity as an often isolating phenomenon, and epistemological shifts from earlier Victorian religious and moral certainties. Theoretical frameworks on alienation and identity will be explored, and the student should become familiar with the epistemology and ideology prevailing in early to mid-twentieth century European prose narratives. The texts for study will be selected from the works of Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, D H Lawrence and other modernist writers.

ENGD6894 READING FILM: PERSPECTIVES FROM FILM THEORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Lecturer: Mr Carlo Germeshuys (germeshuysca@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

This course offers a critical introduction to the study of film using methods drawn from film theory, cultural studies and critical theory. We study the basic vocabulary for the analysis of film (including an introduction to methods of analyzing mise-en-scene, editing, cinematography, sound, film form and style) in addition to an overview of topics such as: early cinemas; film genre; documentary and experimental film; Classical Hollywood Cinema; Third and Postcolonial Cinemas; Italian Neorealism; German Expressionism; Soviet Montage; Black Independent Cinema; Globalization and the Blockbuster; Hindi Cinema; Queer Cinemas; Film Stardom; Race and the Production of Ignorance; and Gender Optics. We will balance our search for counter-hegemonic ways in which to read dominant US film culture with an analysis of politically alternative film production and aesthetic practices from around the globe. Careful consideration will be given to ways of writing about film.

ENGE6844
CONTEMPORARY LITERARY IDENTITIES: RACE, GENDER AND THE SELF

Lecturer: Dr Rodwell Makombe (makomber@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

This course comprises an extensive study of the representation of contemporary identity in modern English literature. Through the study of a selection of poems, prose essays, short stories and novels, the course explores the intersecting relationship between issues of race, gender and the self. Relevant critical readings will be set alongside fictional texts to illuminate how these texts respond to and further ideas of contemporary identity.

On successful completion of the course, students will have obtained extensive knowledge of current literary theory relating to aspects of contemporary identity; be able to study and critically analyse literature in specific historic, literary and social contexts; be able to introduce pertinent theoretical contexts and debates in their oral and written presentations; be able to demonstrate their understanding of the complex aspects of contemporary identity and how issues of sexuality and gender, race and ethnicity and concepts of the human and selfhood intersect; and demonstrate the ability to conceptualise, structure and deliver academic seminars and essays.

ENGI6844
INTRA-AFRICAN MOBILITIES: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Lecturer: Dr Kudzayi Ngara (ngarakm@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

This course examines contemporary African cultural texts that explore the intra-African circulation of ideas and people from the time of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade to the present. Africa has always been marked by mobilities and displacements, whether as a result of the slave trade, colonialism, or other intra-African wars, struggles and exchanges. The pressures brought by recent processes of globalisation, such as the implementation of structural adjustment programs and the liberalisation of economies, have in turn led to new migrations and dislocations. These movements have important cultural implications. Cultural texts, as conveyors of the interests and identities of Africa's divergent social groups, offer a unique perspective on the concerns that emerge at these intersections of power, nationality, race, gender, sexuality and ethnicity. In this course we will try to identify some of these concerns. What specific contributions do African narratives of mobility and migration make to discourses of internationalism, diaspora and globalisation?

ENGF6864
THE LITERARY AND CULTURAL POLITICS OF ABUSE

Dr Oliver Nyambi (nyambio@ufs.ac.za)

16 credits

This course is based on a reading of Ovid's archetypal rape narrative, *Metamorphoses*, and focuses on the influence of this text in terms of the introduction and presentation of women abuse and trauma in modern literary texts in English. A range of important texts from the critical perspective of trauma theory will be examined, focusing in particular on literary, historical, political, theoretical, psychoanalytic and feminist aspects. Special attention will be given to the

nature of cultural and collective memory, the relationship between violence and memory, trauma and vengeance, blood, madness, rape and corrective rape, and mourning and melancholia.