ENGLISH (ENGL)

ENGL 1100 - How Reading Changes Your Life (3 Credits)
Reading changes your life. Sometimes it's a specific book; sometimes it's a way of reading that's new and different. This course will introduce different ways we can read and write about books and media, and their life-changing potential. Designed as an introduction to literary studies, the class hopes to find the cure for how high school and college might have beaten the love of reading out of you, and to help you find a way to love reading again in an environment that (while preparing you for upper-level English classes) stresses pleasure and joy. Emphasis will be on building skills, finding creative ways to respond to your own reading interests, and creating community. This is a course for bookworms and wannabe bookworms who want to know what to do next about how books move them. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1102 - The Great American Cornell Novel (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2060
Some of the best novels of the last 75 years were written by people who were students or professors at Cornell. Reading a selection of these great Cornell novels, we will also be tracing the history and development of post-WWII American fiction. Readings will include classic works by V. Nabokov, K. Vonnegut, J. Russ, T. Morrison, T. Pynchon, and W. Gass, as well as several more recent (some very recent) works by your fellow Cornellians. Perhaps in a few years your work will be on the list. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2018, Spring 2015, Spring 2012
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1103 - The Bondswoman's Narrative: America's First Black Woman Novelist & Her Victorian Sources (1 Credit)
In 2001, Henry Louis Gates Jr. purchased an unseen manuscript at auction and discovered what may be the first novel written by an African American woman: The Bondswoman's Narrative, dating to the 1850s. The novel—possibly written by an enslaved woman named Hannah Crafts—draws directly from canonical Victorian fiction, particularly Dickens' Bleak House and Brontë's Jane Eyre. What was a Black woman in antebellum America reading, and how did she reimagine these texts? The manuscript itself is incomplete, with gaps and unfinished sections: what can other nineteenth-century unfinished novels, like Austen's Sanditon, teach us about Crafts' fragmentary narrative? This one-credit course investigates authorship, transatlantic literary influence, textual recovery, and the aesthetics of unfinishedness.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1105 - FWS: Writing and Sexual Politics (3 Credits)
Topics and reading lists vary from section to section, but all will in some way address the subject of sexual politics. Some sections may deal with fiction, poetry, film, or drama, and many include a mix of literary genres. Students will practice close, attentive, and imaginative reading and writing. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1111 - FWS: Writing Across Cultures (3 Credits)
Topics and reading lists vary from section to section, but all will engage in some way with an aspect of culture or subculture. Some sections may deal with fiction, poetry, film, or drama, and many include a mix of literary genres. Students will practice close, attentive, and imaginative reading and writing. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1120 - FWS: Writing and Community Engagement (3 Credits)
From literature to literacy, comics to archival work, writing can build bridges between campus and communities. Sections vary in topic, and issues may include healthcare, social justice, environmental studies, and others, but all will enable students to work with community partners. Students will learn skills in critical thinking and reflection, writing for specialized and non-specialized audiences, community engagement, and cultural awareness.Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (CU-SBY)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1125 - FWS: Climate Change and Communications (3 Credits)
What stories should we tell about climate change, and how should we tell them? What forms of communication will convince a broad public to accept scientific consensus, to overcome cynicism or apathy, and to take collective action, beyond simply raising awareness or changing individual behavior? We will examine and practice with the powers (and limits) of selected media and types of data, both textual and visual, qualitative and quantitative, such as: human-interest narratives, photographs, tables and graphs, journalistic and technical writing, social-media posts, public performances. Such strategies can engage our imagination as well as our reason, provoking not only fear or despair but also optimism and hope. Assignments may include syntheses of articles and analyses of media artifacts; public-facing documents or exhibits; and research presentations.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: first-years and sophomores.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2015
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1130 - FWS: Writing the Environment (3 Credits)
Our human abilities to communicate about nature, the environment, and climate change are challenged by the scale and scope of the topics. This course enables students to read, write, and design forms of communication that engage with the environment, in order to inform, advocate, and to connect with our world. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1131 - FWS: Mastering College Reading and Writing (3 Credits)
What does it mean to be a good reader or a good writer in college? In each section of this course, students receive extensive guidance from their instructors in the discovery and practice of helpful methods for fully exploring and appreciating what they read as well as guidance in planning, drafting, and writing essays about what is read and discussed in class. Each section of the course focuses on a particular topic drawn from a range of fields (e.g., literature, history, film, music). Reading assignments are limited in order to allow ample time for discussion and for personal attention to student writing.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Summer 2026, Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Summer 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1132 - FWS:The Personal Essay (3 Credits)
In The Personal Essay, our topics are autobiographical in their origins; we write from personal experience, to think about it and to articulate it, in a style useful in all modes of college-admission and college-work. Our writing practice is both creative and analytical. We discover how writers use drafting and revision as a process of thinking, and in weekly workshops we practice the kind of revision that can make us more independent as writers and more capable of giving helpful suggestions to friends who are also writers. The most important texts for the course are the essays of students enrolled in it; but we also read and discuss personal memoirs. This seminar offers students from diverse backgrounds a forum in which to move beyond accustomed boundaries, finding agency not only through use of the first-person voice but through increased confidence in their abilities as writers.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Summer 2023, Summer 2022, Summer 2021, Summer 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1134 - FWS: True Stories (3 Credits)
How do we understand the reality of others? For that matter, how do we know and understand our own experience? One answer is writing: writing can crystalize lived experience for others. We can record our observations, our thoughts, our feelings and insights and hopes and failures, to communicate them, to understand them. In this course, we will read nonfiction narratives that explore and shape the self and reality, including the personal essay, memoir, autobiography, documentary film, and journalism. We will write essays that explore and explain these complex issues of presenting one's self and others.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1140 - FWS: Writing Medicine: Stories of Illness and Healing (3 Credits)
What does it mean to be healthy? How do we describe our pain? Who becomes a physician? The practice of medicine isn't confined to scientific knowledge: it raises difficult questions about culture, identity, and bodies, and the stories we tell about all of these. This course will focus on works of literature and media to think about how medical care changes across time and place, and to explore images and narratives that shape our expectations about illness and health. Short writing assignments and longer essays will develop your critical thinking, strengthen your writing skills, and build your awareness of the complex cultural landscape of medical care.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1147 - FWS: Mystery in the Story (3 Credits)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1158 - FWS: American Voices (3 Credits)
Topics and reading lists vary from section to section, but all will engage in some way with an aspect of American culture. Some sections may deal with fiction, poetry, film, or drama, and many include a mix of literary genres. Students will practice close, attentive, and imaginative reading and writing. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1160 - FWS: Intersections: Race, Writing, and Power (3 Credits)
How does race inform the way we understand the world around us? How do writers explore their experiences of race and colonialism to challenge conventional notions of nation, citizenship, knowledge, and self? In this class, we engage materials that complicate our ideas of race in order to imagine new forms of identity, social life, and political possibility. We engage with creators who are Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color, or from the Global South. The works we study may include podcasts, graphic novels, memoirs, poetry, plays, or films. Writing projects may be critical, creative, or research-based, as we develop our understanding of race and identity and by extension our capacities as writers.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (CU-SBY)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1167 - FWS: Reading Now (3 Credits)
Reading is experiencing a new revolution in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We still read paper books, but we also read by scrolling on screen, through search engines, and in images and memes. What kinds of texts are emerging in this new era, and how do we read them? How do writing-and our ways of reading-connect with the urgent topics before us now: technology and social control, truth and media, climate change and apocalypse, identity, equality, and human rights? This course will examine the past twenty years of writing in a variety of genres, printed and/or online, from fiction to memoir to poetry and beyond. As we read, we will explore and discover the forms that our own writing can take in response.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1168 - FWS: Cultural Studies (3 Credits)
From TV news to rock lyrics, from ads to political speeches to productions of Shakespeare, the forms of culture surround us at every moment. In addition to entertaining us or enticing us, they carry implied messages about who we are, what world we live in, and what we should value. Topics and reading lists vary from section to section, but all are built on the assumption that learning to decode these messages is a survival skill in today's media-saturated world and also excellent training for reading literature. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1170 - FWS: Short Stories (3 Credits)
What can a short story do that no other art form can do? We all consume and produce stories. To write about how narrative works, both within and against tradition, is to touch the core of identity, the quick of what makes us human. Storytelling informs all writing. Engaging diverse authors, we will practice not only reading sensitively and incisively but also making evidence-based arguments with power and grace, learning the habits of writing, revision, and documentation that allow us to join public or scholarly conversation. We will embrace shortness as a compression of meaning to unpack. Our own writing may include close analyses of texts, syntheses that place stories in critical dialogue, and both creative and research-based projects.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1183 - FWS: Word and Image (3 Credits)
What happens when we adapt books into movies, write fan-fiction about video games, or create poetry about paintings? What happens when we write about one genre as though it were another? We have been writing about images and making images about writing for a long time. In addition to conventional types of art and literature like paintings, novels, or poetry, other forms such as film, video games, exhibitions, and virtual reality offer lively areas for analysis. In this class, we will engage with widely varied cultural forms-including, perhaps, experimental poetry, medieval manuscripts, graphic novels, memoirs, plays, films, podcasts, and more-to develop multiple media literacies as we sharpen our own writing about culture, literature, and art.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1191 - FWS: British Literature (3 Credits)
Topics and reading lists vary from section to section, but all will engage in some way with the subject of British literature. Some sections may deal with fiction, poetry, or drama, and many include a mix of literary genres. Students will practice close, attentive, and imaginative reading and writing. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Distribution Requirements: (WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1270 - FWS: Writing About Literature (3 Credits)
Reading lists vary from section to section, but close, attentive, and imaginative reading and writing are central to all. Some sections may deal with fiction, poetry, or drama, or include a mix of literary kinds. By engaging in discussions and working with varied writing assignments, students will explore major modes and genres of English poetry and prose, and may learn about versification techniques, rhetorical strategies, performance as interpretation, and thematic and topical concerns. In the process students will expand the possibilities of their own writing. Sections that invite students to study and write critically about plays or films in a variety of dramatic idioms and cultural traditions may require attendance at screenings or at live productions by the theatre department. All sections are taught by Department of English faculty. Consult the John S. Knight Institute Current Courses webpage to access current year offerings, instructors and section descriptions.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 1340 - Books as Data (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with INFO 1340
A fast-paced, intro-level class on data science, text analysis, and AI in the humanities. The course examines how computational methods can help analyze millions of books; how data and machine learning have changed the questions humanists can ask (and answer); what it means to do research in literary studies, history, and related disciplines; and what challenges lie ahead. Assigned readings drawn mostly from recent research papers. Technical material introduced as needed. Suitable for students in all programs and colleges. No programming or other prerequisites.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SDS-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, OPHLS-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and describe the distinctive features of humanities research.
- Explain and evaluate datasets and computational methods suitable for the analysis of large, book-based corpora.
- Summarize, evaluate, and adapt research results in the computational humanities to new problem domains.
- Design computational humanities research protocols for future implementation.

Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2010 - Literatures in English I: From Old English to the New World (3-4 Credits)
English 2010 is an introduction to key works of English and American literature for majors and non-majors. Here's a chance to study some of the greatest hits of the literary tradition in a single semester. Beowulf; Arthurian legends; works by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Anne Bradstreet, Ben Franklin, Sageyowatha, Phillis Wheatley. Reading across history and geography allows us to ask big questions about literature and society. How did literature factor in England's transformation from a cultural backwater into a global empire? What role does literature play in disciplining, civilizing, and colonizing subjects? When and how is it used to delight, resist, and rebel? From our reading, we will create a toolkit of literary terms and techniques. And through a series of exercises, students will get hands-on experience with literary experimentation. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2020 - Literature in English II: 1750 to the Present (3-4 Credits)
Since the Industrial Revolution, new technologies have continuously — sometimes explosively — transformed our senses of selfhood and identity, privacy and community, imagination and the real. From the telephone to the LLM, these technologies have both transmuted and fed upon our speech, writing, and language. But, as this survey of modern literatures in English will explore, writing has also itself been a powerful and enduring technology — one through which we shape thought, retrieve it from the past, send it to the future, and travel in space. Surveying 250 years of writing in English, we will ask how writing both caused and responded to radical changes in the meaning of the human, and how it represented, contested, or collaborated with the long-burning explosion of new media — from the telegraph to the television, from notebooks to typewriters, radio to computers. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2035 - Science Fiction (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2035, STS 2131, BSOC 2131
Science fiction is not merely a literary genre but a whole way of being, thinking, and acting in the modern world. This course explores classic and contemporary science fiction from Frankenstein to The Hunger Games alongside a rich array of fiction and films from Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Our discussions will position these works vis-?is seminal thinkers, ranging from Plato to Descartes and Donna Haraway to Paul Crutzen, who ask the same questions as science fiction does about our selves, our world, and our future.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: undergraduates.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2080 - Shakespeare in the Twenty-First Century (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 2681, SHUM 2080
More than 400 years after his death, Shakespeare remains an inescapable part of world culture. His influence can be traced at every level, from traditional art forms like theater, poetry, and opera to popular genres like Broadway musicals, science fiction, crime thrillers, and romcoms. Contemporary adaptations and bold re-stagings of his plays abound that reflect his deep understanding of sexual and gender fluidity, racial and class antipathy, and the complex workings of political power. In this course, we'll focus on five plays that continue to generate creative responses across many media: Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado about Nothing, Julius Caesar, and Macbeth. The class counts toward the pre-1800 requirement for English majors. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2100 - Medieval Romance: Voyages to the Otherworld (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 2100
Romances were, essentially, medieval science fiction and fantasy writing. They were how authors in the Middle Ages imagined things beyond rational understanding that, at the same time, greatly extended the possibilities of the world around them. The course will survey some medieval narratives concerned with representative voyages to the otherworld or with the impinging of the otherworld upon ordinary experience. The syllabus will normally include some representative Old Irish otherworld literature: selections from The Mabinogion; selections from the Lays of Marie de France; Chretian de Troye's Erec, Yvain, and Lancelot; and the Middle English Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. We will finish by looking at a few contemporary otherworld romances, such as selections from J.R.R. Tolkein. All readings will be in modern English. This class counts toward the pre-1800 requirement for English majors. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2150 - The American Musical (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 2650, AMST 2105, MUSIC 2250
The musical is a distinct and significant form of American performance. This course will consider the origins, development, and internationalization of the American musical and will emphasize the interpenetration of the history of musical theatre with the history of the United States in the 20th century and beyond. We will investigate how political, social, and economic factors shape the production of important American musical-and how in turn musicals shape expressions of personal identity and national ideology. Key texts include Oklahoma, Guys and Dolls, West Side Story, Hair, and Rent. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST, MUSIC-HC, PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2015, Spring 2011
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2160 - Television (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 2660, AMST 2160, FGSS 2160, VISST 2160
In this introductory course, participants will study the economic and technological history of the television industry, with a particular emphasis on its manifestations in the United States and the United Kingdom; the changing shape of the medium of television over time and in ever-wider global contexts; the social meanings, political stakes, and ideological effects of the medium; and the major methodological tools and critical concepts used in the interpretation of the medium, including Marxist, feminist, queer, and postcolonial approaches. Two to three hours of television viewing per week will be accompanied by short, sometimes dense readings, as well as written exercises. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST, PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2200 - The Idea of the Pet in Literature and History (3 Credits)
Animal companions are signs of our modernity. They can confirm our humanity, or call it into question. This course studies modern pet keeping and the human relation to animals. We will begin with the eighteenth-century pet keeping fad, and turn to a focus on the literature of pets in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, moving from questions of how literature can represent animals to discussions of the social dimensions of petkeeping and the ethics of animal rights. The course will include a discussion of the modern veterinarian's relationship with the companion animal and its owner, and a class forum on the ethics of the treatment of animals. Readings will include works by William Wordsworth, Virginia Woolf, Jack London, Albert Payson Terhune, and Paul Auster. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2240 - Comedy: Renaissance and Now (3 Credits)
What makes us laugh? What made people laugh in the past, and how has it changed? This course will take a long view of comedy, juxtaposing its great popularity in early modern England with its appeal in the present day. Beginning with Shakespeare's comedies of mistaken identity, we will grapple along the way with the diverse pleasures offered by clowns, jokes, satire, the Simpsons, and television sitcoms. Readings will explore how and why humor works and consider themes such as the nature of identity, cruelty and physical comedy, the potential of humor for political critique, and what it means to take pleasure (or discomfort) from a literary or artistic object. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2270 - Shakespeare (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 2670
This course aims to give students a good historical and critical grounding in Shakespeare's drama and its central and continuing place in Renaissance culture and beyond. We will read poetry and primarily plays representing the shape of Shakespeare's career as it moves through comedies, histories, tragedies, and a romance. Specific plays include The Two Gentleman of Verona, Richard II, Henry IV (Part 1), Henry V, Hamlet, Measure for Measure, Othello, Macbeth and The Tempest. We will focus on dramatic forms (genres), Shakespeare's themes, and social and historical contexts. The course combines lectures and hands-on work in weekly discussions. While we will view some scenes from film adaptations, the main focus is on careful close interaction with the language of the plays. This class counts toward the pre-1800 requirement for English majors. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2272 - Out of Line: Introduction to Narrative and Media (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2272
Why don?t we tell it straight? Narratives and media today are ?out of line.? No longer primarily sequential or episodic, stories branch out, jump back and forth, tie themselves into loops, provide alternative versions. What was once the terrain of the experimental is now true for many popular culture texts. In this course, we will explore a range of texts, films, and TV shows that are ?out of line.? While our focus will be on popular culture?from TV shows like Westworld to films like Nolan?s Inception or Kwan and Scheinert?s Everything Everywhere All at Once?we will also build a framework of narrative theory and take our inspiration from experimental literary texts such as those by Calvino, Perec, or Borges. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2350 - Literature and Medicine (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 2350, BSOC 2350, LGBT 2350, SHUM 2350, AMST 2330
How does literary language depict the experience of physical suffering? Can a poem or a novel palliate pain, illness, even the possibility of death? From darkly comic narratives of black plague to the rise and fall of hysteria to depictions of the AIDS crisis, this course examines literature centered on medical practices from the early modern period through the twentieth century. Why have medical practices changed, and how do writers address their political, social, and ideological implications? Readings will include a broad range of genres, including poetry (Dickinson, Whitman, Keats), fiction (McEwan, Chekhov, Gilman, Kafka, Camus), theater (Kushner), nonfiction prose (Woolf, Freud), and critical theory (Foucault, Scarry, Canguilhem, Sontag). (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2360 - Reading Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice (3 Credits)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2400 - Introduction to U.S. Latinx Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with LSP 2400, AMST 2401, COML 2400
Latina/os have always been part of U.S. history, yet the media often represents Latinx as only recent immigrants or as stereotypes that reduce rich cultures into a single, unified category or group of people. This practice hides the many unique and varied voices, stories, experiences, and ideas produced by Latinx expressive practices in forms ranging from novels and poetry to podcasts, tiktoks, films, theater, comics, memoirs, visual arts, and dance. This course will sample all of these forms while considering how artists meditate on their experiences of home, friendship, languages, love, migration, education, racialization, within the contexts of histories of colonization, discrimination, war, invasion, revolution, and ongoing activist organizing for resistance, sustainability, and thriving futures. In addition to common material, students will also have the chance to explore specific expressive practices that interest them. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2435 - Science Fiction and the Victorian Novel (3 Credits)
Science fiction ?reads? like a new phenomenon: as though the spaceships and sandworms of our favorite, fantastical brand of genre fiction could only be inspired by recent technological advances. This class will explore the prehistory of science fiction: we'll examine Victorian texts and 21st-century science fiction side-by-side, tracing how contemporary speculative fiction emerges from nineteenth-century realism. We'll organize the course by theme?racism and xenophobia, the Gothic, technological revolutions, alternate history?and study one Victorian and one contemporary novel per theme. We'll also be reminded that science fiction is a nineteenth-century invention, by discussing science fiction milestones, like Frankenstein and The Time Machine, that continue to exert influence today. You'll read pairings like Bront? nd Ishiguro; Gaskell and Atwood; Sheridan Le Fanu and Octavia Butler. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2505 - Reading Harriet: An Introduction to Race, Gender, and Belonging in the Antebellum United States (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 2505, AMST 2507
While the march toward the Civil War centers race in our recollection of the nineteenth century, the question of slavery's abolition was deeply intertwined with issues of gender and citizenship. One challenge of narrating these interwoven movements is accounting for the embodied intersection of these debates: Black women. This introductory course approaches the complexities of antebellum America through 5 prominent figures of the period bearing the same first name—Harriet Robinson Scott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, Harriet Jacobs, and Harriet Wilson. Read together, these women illuminate the nuances of racialized and gendered belonging in the United States. Their literary and historical traces also invite engagements with Black feminist reading and archival praxes. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (HST-AS, SCD-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2512 - Caribbean Worlds (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 2212, LSP 2212
This introductory course to the study of the Caribbean will begin with examinations of what constitutes the Caribbean and an understanding of Caribbean space. We will then study its peoples, contact between Europeans and indigenous peoples, African enslavement and resistance, Indian indentureship and other forced migrations. By mid semester we will identify a cross-section of leading thinkers and ideas. We will also pay attention to issues of identity, migration and the creation of the Caribbean diaspora. Constructions of tourist paradise and other stereotypes and the development of critical Caribbean institutions and national development will be discussed as we read and listen to some representative oral and written literature of the Caribbean and view some relevant film on the Caribbean. This inter-disciplinary survey provides students with a foundation for more specialized coursework on the Caribbean offered in our department. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2520 - Contemporary Anglophone Literature (3 Credits)
"Anglophone" literature refers to literature written in English, usually British literature and literature by authors from or living in countries where English was originally a language of colonization. This course will focus on contemporary Anglophone prose—novels, short short stories, personal essays— from a variety of national locations. Authors will include some of the following: Chimamanda Adichie (Nigeria/United States) Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe); Anita Desai (India); Bernardine Evaristo (England); Kazuo Ishiguro (England); Eimear McBride (Ireland); Paul Murray (Ireland); Arundahti Roy (India); Zadie Smith (England/United States); Douglas Stewart (Scotland). The course will also introduce historical contexts and critical frameworks to consider how Anglophone literatures enter, alter, and create literary traditions. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2535 - Issues in Contemporary Fiction: Trans Utopias and Genderqueer Science Fiction (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 2535, LGBT 2535
Dragons? Spaceships? Bodies that change gendered characteristics at will? Vampire archivists? Speculative fiction (sci fi, fantasy) imagines the world not as it is but as it should be. It can imagine worlds where trans, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people thrive without danger or difficulty (and has done so for a long time). What do such worlds look like? How does it feel to read narratives where the gender binary does not work the way it does in our present day? This course surveys very recent trans- and non-binary-authored narratives. Readings may include (Cornell alumna) Ryka Aoki's Light from Uncommon Stars, Isaac Fellman's Dead Collections (the trans vampire archivists), and short stories by authors like Torrey Peters and Daniel Lavery. Visits from authors being planned. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2560 - Black Queer Writing and Media (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 2560, AMST 2562, FGSS 2560, LGBT 2560
This course will introduce students to Black Queer literatures and media. Since these materials decenter whiteness and patriarchal heterosexism, they often seem illegible to those approaching them from the perspective of the dominant culture. We will start with foundational texts that outline the parameters of our dominant culture. We will then discuss Black Queer contemporary novels, films, essays, and visual art in order to understand the ways that these works move past the limitations of those parameters. By engaging these literatures and media, this course investigates the exciting possibilities that emerge from understanding alternative ways of being and living in our world. This course satisfies the Literatures of the Americas requirement for English majors.
Distribution Requirements: (D-AG), (SCD-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2565 - Games Telling Stories (4 Credits)
This class will consider the relationship between literature in its emerging new media formats by looking specifically at the shared and divergent narrative strategies that old and new mediums use to construct worlds and tell stories. Over the course of the semester, we will consider the history of material formats, look at how video game play has transformed novels, and consider some of the larger questions emerging from video game studies. What are games and where do they fit within cultural, literary, racial, social, and gender studies? How do technologies and mediums affect access to and experience of story, aesthetics, and design? What are the cultural and social ideas communicated through games and how do the means of their production function within global economies?
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2580 - Imagining the Holocaust (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2580, JWST 2580
How is the memory of the Holocaust kept alive by means of the literary and visual imagination? Within the historical context of the Holocaust and how and why it occurred, we shall examine major and widely read Holocaust narratives that have shaped the way we understand and respond to the Holocaust. We also study ethical and psychological issues about how and why people behave in dire circumstances. We shall begin with first-person reminiscences-Wiesel's Night , Levi's Survival at Auschwitz, and The Diary of Anne Frank-before turning to realistic fictions such as Kineally's Schindler's List (and Spielberg's film), Kertesz's Fateless, Kosinski's The Painted Bird, and Ozick's The Shawl. We shall also read the Kafkaesque parable of Appelfeld's Badenheim 1939 and the fantastic cartoons of Spiegelman's Maus books as well as W.G, Sebald's Austerlitz. We shall conclude with several episodes of the acclaimed 2009-2017 French TV series A French Village. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2600 - Introduction to Native American Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AIIS 2600, AMST 2600
The production of North American Indigenous literatures began long before European colonization, and persists in a variety of printed, sung, carved, painted, written, spoken, and digital media. From oral traditions transmitted through memory and mnemonics to contemporary genres and media, Native North American authors offer Indigenous perspectives on social, political, and environmental experience, through deft artistry and place-specific aesthetics. Our attention will focus on the contexts from which particular Native American literatures emerge, the ethics to consider when entering Indigenous intellectual territory, and close attention to common themes and techniques that frequently appear in contemporary Native American literature. Readings will feature a range of novels, poetry, short fiction, graphic novel/comics, and film. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (CU-SBY)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2020
Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and explain core concepts in Indigenous studies, such as sovereignty and traditional ecological knowledge.
- Interpret and analyze a literary text's main ideas.
- Demonstrate a close reading of a literary text by evaluating the effect of literary devices.
- Write scholarly essays that develop and support a central argument.

Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2603 - The Novels of Toni Morrison (1 Credit)
Crosslisted with ASRC 2603
Each year this seven-week, one-credit course focuses on a different novel by Nobel Laureate and Cornell alumna Toni Morrison. We read and discuss each novel in the context of Morrison's life and career, her place in African American, US, and world literature, and her exploration of crucial questions regarding identity, race, gender, history, oppression, and autonomy. Please see the class roster for the current semester's featured novel. Students will read the novel closely, with attention to its place in Morrison's career and in literary and cultural history.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2604 - What is Decolonization? (3 Credits)
What do recent calls to decolonize the university mean? This course considers this imperative from a historical perspective by tracing the economic, psychological, and cultural significance of decolonization in twentieth and twenty-first century literature and theory. We will begin by examining resistance to colonialism and imperialism in the early twentieth century, before turning to mid-century independence movements. We will then ask how the failures of these movements precipitated what we now call postcolonial studies, the academic analysis of empires and their aftermaths, with an array of related historical topics addressing nation, class, and gender. We will follow these lines of inquiry into our so-called age of globalization to see how they have prompted a further set of questions about race, diaspora, indigeneity, and the environment. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2620 - Introduction to Asian American Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 2620, AMST 2620
This course will introduce both a variety of writings and media by Asian North American authors and some critical issues concerning the production and reception of Asian American texts. Working with a variety of genres, we will be asking questions about the relation between literary forms and the socio-historical context within which they take on their meanings, and about the historical formation of Asian American identities. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EAAREA, SAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2635 - A Haunted House Divided: The American Gothic Tradition in Nineteenth-Century Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2635
This course looks at the American Gothic tradition as showing us the fissures in early American political life specifically around the issues of slavery and Native American land rights. While Gothic literature is often relegated to the role of entertainment, it also reveals the ways in which American culture was, as Toni Morrison writes in Playing in the Dark, shaped by the presence of the racial other. The Gothic also offers a space through which to offer not just clever observations but scathing critiques by augmenting the sense of the monstrous underlying grand sentiments of American Exceptionalism. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2650 - Introduction to African American Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2650, ASRC 2680, SHUM 2650
This course will introduce students to African American literary traditions in the space that would become North America. From early freedom narratives and poetry to Hip-Hop and film, we will trace a range of artistic conventions and cultural movements while paying close attention to broader historical shifts in American life over the past three centuries. We'll read broadly: poetry, fiction, speculative fiction, newspapers, and the like. We will ask: How do authors create, define, and even exceed a tradition? What are some of the recurring themes and motifs within this tradition? Authors may include: Phillis Wheatley, David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Octavia Butler, Toni Morrison, and Eve Ewing. This course satisfies the Literatures of the Americas requirement for English majors. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (AFAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2665 - Octavia Butler (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2667, FGSS 2665, ASRC 2665
MacArthur Genius grant winner Octavia Butler is famously known as a science fiction writer, but her novels, short stories and essays both adhere to and disrupt expectations in the genre. Throughout her writing career, Butler explored themes of space travel, time travel, African indigeneity, gender, race, spirituality, and ecological degradation. This class, will introduce students to Octavia Butler's work and the creative fields she helped spawn. Additionally, we will investigate and contextualize these themes alongside the scholarly fields of Black feminist studies, the environmental humanities, Black speculation fiction, Afrofuturism, disability studies and more!
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2675 - Cultures of the Cold War (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2675, SHUM 2675
The Cold War is often framed as a historical conflict between two competing geopolitical blocs, but it impacted the lives of many people throughout the world. This class explores how literature and culture shaped and was shaped by the Cold War, in American and some non-American contexts. How did Cold War cultures interact with state funding, the development of new sciences and technologies, and weaponized ideology? How did writers, intellectuals, artists, and activists -- state-sponsored and/or dissident -- navigate Cold War pressures and divides? We will begin with Hiroshima and the several forms of American anticommunism, and proceed from containment culture to countercultures, decolonization movements, and the environmental movement. Topics of study may include intelligence (espionage), advertising (publicity), civil rights, and the public questioning of gender roles. We will also engage with films, music, and painting, and possibly more recent works and new media. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2690 - American Poetry Since 1850 (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2690
This course introduces students to major American poets from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. It is designed for anyone wanting to deepen their knowledge of and appreciation for poetry while also addressing its relationship to modern American social and cultural history. It addresses questions about what poetry is for, why it is often difficult, how it is related to language-play as a basic human drive that engages with personal anxieties, bodily rhythms, social and existential tensions, and the riddles of existence. Another through-line of this course is the relationship of poetry to democracy in the United States. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2700 - What is African Literature? (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 2701
What counts as African literature? This course examines the long and varied history of literature from the world's largest continent, including early Afro-Arab poetry, oral epics of the Malian Empire, novels and plays of twentieth-century decolonization, and contemporary Afrofuturist film and fiction. We'll also consider the place of narratives of enslavement and more recent diasporic texts. Along the way, we'll discuss some of the big debates that have divided African writers: Must one write in English? Should African literature be political? Is all African literature necessarily "postcolonial"? Students will leave the course with an understanding of how African literature speaks to both the continent and the world in ways that can help us to understand our present. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2703 - Thinking Media (3-4 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2703, PMA 2703, GERST 2703, MUSIC 2703, SHUM 2703
From hieroglyphs to HTML, ancient poetry to audiotape, and Plato's cave to virtual reality, Thinking Media offers a multidisciplinary introduction to the most influential media formats of the last three millennia. Featuring an array of guests from across Cornell, including faculty from Communication, Comparative Literature, German Studies, Information Science, Literatures in English, Music, and Performing & Media Arts, the course will present diverse perspectives on how to think with, against, and about media in relation to the public sphere and private life, archaeology and science fiction, ethics and aesthetics, identity and difference, labor and play, knowledge and power, expression and surveillance, and the generation and analysis of data. (MUSIC-HC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2705 - The Idea of Hospitality I: From Ancient Times to the Present (2 Credits)
Do we have a duty to make strangers feel at home? Should we give others welcome even when they seem alien and threatening? And how does it feel to be homeless, cast out-refused hospitality? These questions have a long history, from ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible to debates about immigration in our own time. The first half of the course, ENGL 2705, which can be taken as a separate 2-credit course, will track this idea from ancient times to the modern period, bringing together literary and religious texts and visual art; the second half, ENGL 2706, also offered as a 2-credit unit, will focus on treatments of hospitality in fiction, film, and other media in our own time, including Jamaica Kincaid's A Small Place, Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist, and Stephen Frear's film, Dirty Pretty Things.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2023, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2706 - The Idea of Hospitality II: Fiction, Film, and Media in Our Time (2 Credits)
What does it mean to welcome strangers today? How does it feel to be the outsider or the exile? How should we imagine hospitality for the refugee, the business traveler, the homeless person, the guest worker, the asylum seeker, the tourist? As border controls tighten and questions of belonging become increasingly vexed, writers and artists are exploring the hardest questions about hospitality. This half of the course, offered as a 2 credit unit, will focus on treatments of hospitality in fiction, film, and other media in our own time, including Jamaica Kincaid's A Small Place, Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist, and Stephen Frear's film, Dirty Pretty Things.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2023, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2707 - Let Me Count the Ways: Poetry and Mathematics (4 Credits)
Homer and Euclid, Stein and Einstein, manifestos and manifolds, negative capability and imaginary numbers. This seminar exists somewhere in the ampersand between Arts & Sciences and will concern the study of numbers, poetic and otherwise. We will consider poets from a range of global traditions as theorists and makers of numerical patterns, and explore mathematical texts for their ludic and literate foundations. With help from diverse ethno-mathematical traditions and contemporary literary/number theorists, we will study, for example, quirky verse constructed around the Fibonacci sequence but also, and more crucially, we will learn how to count on one another as readers. (ENGL-LOA)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2710 - Novel Technologies (3 Credits)
The history of communication technology is marked by momentous births and brutal deaths: ?Television kills telephony,? James Joyce wrote in Finnegan?s Wake, fifty years before ?Video Killed the Radio Star.? Novelists have participated in and documented this history, exploring the media of human communication and competing over the representation of reality. This course considers the novel as a new technology in the 18th and 19th-centuries and examines the techniques that 20th and 21st-century authors have adopted to represent and assimilate newer media forms, including telegraphy, cinema, the tape recorder, television, and the internet. Reading works by Adolfo Bioy Casares, DG Compton, Linda Rosenkrantz, and Patricia Lockwood, among others, we will consider how the novel retains its ?novelty? today. Does it still merit its name? (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2715 - Memoir (3 Credits)
What does it mean to put a life story on the page? How does memory shape the present, and vice versa? What stories resonate in memoir, and why is it such a popular genre? This course will address these questions through reading memoir, a genre that became widely popular in the late Twentieth Century but that has deep historical roots. We will explore the questions it raises primarily through reading contemporary memoirs by writers such as Primo Levi, Maxine Hong Kingston, Michael Ondaatje, Alison Bechdel, and others. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2725 - Philosophy and Literature (4 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2730 - Children's Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2735
An historical study of children's literature from the 17th century to the present, principally in Europe and America, which will explore changing literary forms in relation to the social history of childhood. Ranging from oral folktale to contemporary novelistic realism (with some glances at film narrative), major figures may include Perrault, Newbery, the Grimms, Andersen, Carroll, Alcott, Stevenson, Burnett, Kipling, the Disney studio, E. B. White, C. S. Lewis, Sendak, Silverstein, Mildred Taylor, and Bette Greene. We'll also encounter a variety of critical models-psychoanalytic, materialist, feminist, structuralist-that scholars have employed to explain the variety and importance of children's literature. Finally, we will consider how the idea of the child has evolved over this period. (ENGL-LOA)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Fall 2017, Fall 2015
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2735 - Movies, Stories, Ethics (4 Credits)
Stories are the most popular way we make sense of our lives and the world around us, and this introductory, discussion-based course focuses on stories told in different media - especially literary and cinematic -- to explore ethical issues. We see how, in everyday life, people have experienced moral quandaries and sought to understand and resolve them. We examine short texts and videos about our duties not only to others but also to ourselves - as well as to non-human creatures and our planet. We view films that focus on: acts of conscience and dissent (Official Secrets; Spotlight); organized political resistance (Gandhi; Amazing Grace); gendered self-deception (TV's Mad Men); and go on to compare representations of major socio-political events (Central Park Five; When They See Us).
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2754 - Wondrous Literatures of the Near East (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with NES 2754, COML 2754, JWST 2754, SHUM 2754
This course examines Near East's rich and diverse literary heritage. We will read a selection of influential and wondrous texts from ancient to modern times, spanning geographically from the Iberian peninsula to Iran. We will explore a range of ancient myths of creation and destruction. We will also trace encounters with otherness in travel narratives. Together we will read and discuss such ancient works as the The Story of Sinuhe and The Epic of Gilgamesh, as well as selections from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Qur'an. We will explore medieval works such as the Travels of Ibn Battuta, the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, and The Arabian Nights. We will also read Orhan Pamuk's My Name is Red, and Sonia Nimr's Wondrous Journeys in Strange Lands, as well as excerpts from Yochi Brandes's The Orchard. Students will also have the opportunity to research and analyze primary source materials in the collections of Cornell Rare Books and Manuscript Collection, and the Johnson Art Museum. All material is in English translation.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (CU-ITL); (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2755 - Birds, Beasts, and Bards: The Poetry of Animals (3 Credits)
If you love animals but are sad because you can't keep them in your dorm room, poems may well be the perfect substitute. Evoking the bodies and spirits of non-human creatures has always been one of the special domains of poetry. In this course, we'll consider a wide range of poems that take many different approaches to unlocking the mysterious otherness of animals, using all the tricks and techniques of this venerable art: rhythm, form, metaphor, observation and imagination. In discussions and essays we'll explore the ways in which poems about animals raise major questions of ethics and epistemology, while achieving the primal magic of translating life into language. Poets to be studied include Blake, Whitman, Dickinson, Frost, Lawrence, Moore, Bishop, Hughes, and many others.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2760 - Desire (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2760, FGSS 2760, PMA 2680, LGBT 2760
Language is a skin, the critic Roland Barthes once wrote: I rub my language against the other. It is as if I had words instead of fingers, or fingers at the tip of my words. My language trembles with desire. Sexual desire has a history, even a literary history, which we will examine through an introductory survey of European dramatic literature from the Ancient Greeks to the present, as well as classic readings in sexual theory, including Plato, Freud, Foucault, and contemporary feminist and queer theory.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2761 - American Cinema (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 2760, PMA 2560, VISST 2300
From the beginning of the twentieth century to the present moment, movies - and in particular Hollywood - have profoundly influenced the ways in which people see, think and talk about the world. Focusing mostly on Hollywood film, this course introduces the study of American cinema from multiple perspectives: as an economy and mode of production; as an art form that produces particular aesthetic styles; as a cultural institution that comments on contemporary issues and allows people to socialize. We will consider the rise of Hollywood in the age of mass production; the star system; the introduction of sound and the function of the soundtrack; Hollywood's rivalry with television; censorship; the rise of independent film, etc. Weekly screenings introduce major American genres (e.g. science fiction, film noir, the musical) and directors (e.g. Hitchcock, Kubrick, Tarantino). (ENGL-LOA, PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2020, Fall 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2765 - Watching Literature and Reading Film (3 Credits)
This course will tarry with questions of genre, representation, narrative, form, affect, adaptation, and so-called ?medium specificity? in and across poetry, fiction, drama, film, and television to explore the ways in which these forms of cultural expression trouble aesthetic, sociocultural, and historical boundaries. Our focus will be on world building within these works and how we might think with them to imagine the world anew. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2771 - Africa in Hollywood (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 2771, PMA 2403
In Eddie Murphy's Coming to America, Africa is a place of nobility, where even lions are at peace with lambs. In contrast, Leonardo DeCaprio's Blood Diamond is a violent look at the role the demand for diamonds has played in destabilizing mineral-rich African countries. But if Hollywood has long been concerned with depicting Africa in particular ways, African filmmakers are at the same time creating their own stories. Popular and scholarly film critics are also contributing to the battle over who speaks for Africa. In this course we will explore these competing images of Africa, questions of imagination versus reality, and the extent to which artists should, if at all, be responsible to the subject of their art.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2016, Fall 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2783 - Writing Bodies and Minds: Disability and Literature (3 Credits)
Nondisabled writers and filmmakers often treat disability as a symbolic characteristic?disabled characters are most often either saintly or villainous. But what is disability? How do disabled writers depict disability? In this course, we will explore representations of ability and disability through the lens of Disability Studies. Concurrently, we will focus on the history of disability as a concept and as a lived experience. We also will examine how disability intersects with race, gender, sexuality, and more. Likely readings will include older texts such as Shakespeare?s Richard III as well as contemporary fiction, poetry, and essays by disabled and nondisabled writers. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG), (D-HA)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2785 - Comic Books and Graphic Novels (3 Credits)
POW! ZAP! DOOM! This is a class about how we can draw together, studying a medium that is based in the practice, in all senses, of drawing together. We will read Pulitzer winning memoirs and NSFW gutter rubbish. We will trace the history of sequential art from about 1898 to the present, including caricature, pop art, and meme cultures, Wonder Woman and Wimmin's Comix, Archie and archives. Studying comics requires us to entangle disciplines and to make things: graphic design, marketing, media studies, law, education, and various illuminated cosmologies. What is this medium that teaches us to read the page anew, to speak in bubbles, to witness and play with apocalypse, to enjoy our suspension in the infinite, and to indulge in graphic sensations? (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2795 - Narrative and Healing (3 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Winter 2025, Winter 2024, Winter 2023, Winter 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2797 - Introduction to World Poetry (3 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Winter 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2800 - Creative Writing (3 Credits)
An introductory course in the theory, practice, and reading of fiction, poetry, and allied forms. Both narrative and verse readings are assigned. Students will learn to savor and practice the craft of poetry and narrative writing, developing techniques that inform both. Some class meetings may feature peer review of student work, and instructors may assign writing exercises or prompts.
Prerequisites: completion of a First-Year Writing Seminar (FWS) course.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Summer 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2860 - Creative, Lyric, and Expository Writing (3 Credits)
On this course, students will explore creativity within essayistic form, considering its origins with Montaigne, exploring essays with expository roots, including texts by Virginia Woolf, Henry David Thoreau and James Baldwin alongside lyric essay and poetics forms from writers such as Jorge Borges, Ishion Hutchinson and Bhanu Kapil. Student writers will produce a portfolio of essays and a brief poetics of their developing essayistic style. Taken with the instructor's permission, and with the letter grade option, this course satisfies First-Year Writing Seminar requirements for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. If counted toward the First-Year Writing Seminar requirement, the course will not count toward ALC-AS.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2880 - Expository Writing (3 Credits)
This course offers guidance and an audience for students who wish to gain skill in expository writing-a common term for critical, reflective, investigative, and creative nonfiction. Each section provides a context for writing defined by a form of exposition, a disciplinary area, a practice, or a topic intimately related to the written medium. Course members will read in relevant published material and write and revise their own work regularly, while reviewing and responding to one another's. Students and instructors will confer individually throughout the term. Topics differ for each section. Please see the Class Roster for more details. This course satisfies requirements for the English minor but not for the English major. Taken with the instructor's permission, and with the letter grade option, it satisfies First-Year Writing Seminar requirements for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. If counted toward the First-Year Writing Seminar requirement, the course will not count toward ALC-AS.
Prerequisites: completion of First-Year Writing Seminar requirement or permission of the instructor.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, WRT-AG), (SOW-IL)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Summer 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2901 - Contemporary Canadian Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with FREN 2900
This course offers an introduction to Canadian literature of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, with a special focus on the multilingual, multicultural character of Canadian cultural production. We'll take a look at texts from both French-speaking (in translation) and English-speaking Canada, including Indigenous and immigrant authors who locate themselves at once inside and outside those linguistic traditions. Special emphasis will be given to queer voices and other engagements with the representation of gender, sexuality, and desire. An additional independent study, conducted in French, may be taken by students who wish to explore Francophone material in greater depth.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2906 - Punk Culture: The Art and Politics of Refusal (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MUSIC 2006, AMST 2006, COML 2006, SHUM 2006
Punk Culture-comprised of music, fashion, literature, and visual arts-represents a complex critical stance of resistance and refusal that coalesced at a particular historical moment in the mid-1970s, and continues to be invoked, revived, and revised. In this course we will explore punk's origins in New York and London, U.S. punk's regional differences (the New York scene's connection to the art and literary worlds, Southern California's skate and surf culture, etc.), its key movements (hardcore, straight edge, riot grrrl, crust, queercore), its race, class and gender relations, and its ongoing influence on global youth culture. We will read, listen, and examine a variety of visual media to analyze how punk draws from and alters previous aesthetic and political movements. No previous experience studying music is necessary. (MUSIC-HC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2935 - New Visions in African Cinema (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2235, ASRC 2235, PMA 2435
This undergraduate course introduces the formal and topical innovations that African cinema has experienced since its inception in the 1960s. Sections will explore, among others, Nollywood, sci-fi, and ideological cinema. Films include: Abderrahmane Sissako's Bamako, Mohamed Camara's Dakan, Djibril Diop Mambety's Touki-Bouki, Cheikh Oumar Sissoko's Finzan, Anne-Laure Folly's Women with Open Eyes, Ousmane Sembene's Camp de Thiaroye, Jean-Pierre Bekolo's Quartier Mozart. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2950 - Introduction to Humanities (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 2750, HIST 2050, ARTH 2750, GOVT 2755, COML 2750, CLASS 2750, AMST 2751, ASRC 2750, ROMS 2750, VISST 2750, ARKEO 2750, FGSS 2750, BSOC 2750, MEDVL 2750, RELST 2750, NES 2750
These seminars offer an introduction to the humanities by exploring historical, cultural, social, and political themes. Students will explore themes in critical dialogue with a range of texts and media drawn from the arts, humanities, and/or humanistic social sciences. Guest speakers, including Cornell faculty and Society for the Humanities Fellows, will present from different disciplines and points of view. Students will make field trips to relevant local sites and visit Cornell special collections and archives. Students enrolled in these seminars will have the opportunity to participate in additional programming related to the annual focus theme of Cornell's Society for the Humanities and the Humanities Scholars Program for undergraduate humanities research. (ARKEO-COS)
Enrollment Information: Enrollment preference given to: students in the Humanities Scholars Program (HSP).
Exploratory Studies: (CU-SBY)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2951 - Poetry's Image (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2251
Where do we get our images of poets, and of poetry? Along with the images we find in poems themselves, how do poetry and poets figure in fiction and film, in music and popular culture? How do such figures inform both the images we find in poems and poetry's own image? What is poetry's relation to other genres and discourses, to self and language, history and politics? Exploring such issues in verse and prose, in fiction, film, and other media, including among others Blake, Wordsworth, Keats, Dickinson, Poe, Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Pound, Williams, Neruda, Parra, and Bolaño, the course will arc toward impactful recent interventions by such contemporaries as Claudia Rankine, Layli Long Soldier, Ilya Kaminsky, Jenny Xie, Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries, and A.I.-generated poetry.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2971 - Reading for the End of Time (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 2271
This course will explore how in the body of world literature, film and music humans have construed, narrated, imagined the end of time and of the world and sometimes its new beginning. Spanning from ancient epic through colonial narratives to twentieth century works and contemporary science fiction, we will inquire, through our reading: what is a world? How does the labor of the imagination construct a world or the world and deconstruct or undo worlds? Readings will range widely across time and world space and include authors such as St John of Patmos, Messiaen, Columbus, Beckett, Gibson, Marquez, Murakami, Alexievich, Liu.
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 2999 - The First American University (1 Credit)
Crosslisted with AMST 2001, HIST 2005
Educational historian Frederick Rudolph called Cornell University the first American university, referring to its unique role as a coeducational, nonsectarian, land-grant institution with a broad curriculum and diverse student body. In this course, we will explore the history of Cornell, taking as our focus the pledge of Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White to found a university where any person can find instruction in any study. The course will cover a wide range of topics and perspectives relating to the faculty, student body, evolution of campus, and important events and eras in Cornell history. Stories and vignettes will provide background on the current university and its administrative structure, campus traditions, and the names that adorn buildings and memorials throughout campus. Finally, the course will offer a forum for students to address questions on present-day aspects of the university.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3021 - Literary Theory on the Edge (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3021, PMA 3421, FREN 3921
This course examines a range of exciting and provocative 20th- and 21st-century theoretical paradigms for thinking about literature, language and culture. These approaches provide differing, though often overlapping, entryways into theoretical analysis, including structuralism and post-structuralism, translation studies, Black studies, Afro-Diasporic Studies, postcolonial and decolonial studies, performance studies, media theory and cinema/media studies, the digital humanities, psychoanalysis and trauma theory, gender studies and queer studies, studies of the Anthropocene/environmental studies, and animal studies. Occasional invited guests, lectures and class discussions will provide students with a facility for close textual analysis, a knowledge of major currents of thought in the humanities, and an appreciation for the uniqueness and complexity of language and media.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG), (D-HA)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3029 - Revolutionary John Brown: As Figured by W.E.B. Du Bois (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3029, AMST 3029, COML 3029
In his work "Black Reconstruction in America," Du Bois glosses over a key moment in American revolutionary thinking. Senator Wade of Ohio, among three Whig politicians impatient with Abraham Lincoln's acccommodationism in relation to the defeated South, proposes a certain radical policy. That is, the newly liberated slaves must be willing to act their former oppressors. Du Bois, in cursory parliamentary fashion, makes mention of Wade's radicalism but never engages it. However, in his biography of John Brown, we find Du Bois' thinking of a piece with Wade's. This course will chart the unfolding of Du Bois's critique: from his non-engagement to what we might take to be an almost full embrace of Wade's proposal through the radical actions of John Brown.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3051 - Introduction to Trauma Studies (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3050, GERST 3513
This course provides an introduction to the theory of trauma, along with literary, artistic and clinical works that engage with traumatic experience. We will explore the enigmatic notion of an experience of catastrophe that is both deferred and repeated, that escapes immediate comprehension but insists on testimonial recognition. How does trauma require us to rethink our notions of history, memory, subjectivity, and language? Who speaks from the site of trauma, and how can we learn to listen its new forms of address? We begin with Freud's foundational studies and their reception across the 20th and 21st centuries, then examine a range of global responses reformulating individual and collective trauma in its social, historical and political contexts. Materials include theoretical, artistic, testimonial expression in various media.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3075 - Epic Form and the Inhuman (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3075
What symbolic forms might be adequate to phenomena of such inhuman scale as the sixth extinction or the catastrophic climate change of the Anthropocene? Revisiting important literary theoretical discourses on the epic and the realist novel through the lens of Amitav Ghosh's argument that the realist novel actively occludes the realities of its time and that its form forecloses the non-human, this course will investigate the affordances of epic form, myth and fable for modes of apprehending and representating the inhuman. Materials will range from ancient and medieval epic to contemporary novels, films and anime with special attention to the challenging work of Guyanese writer Wilson Harris. Authors may include Homer, Dante, Han Kang, Flaubert, Miyazaki, Lukacs, Walter Benjamin, Benh Zeitlin and Wilson Harris.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3080 - Icelandic Family Sagas (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 3080, HIST 3008
An introduction to Old Norse-Icelandic mythology and the Icelandic family saga-the native heroic literary genre of Icelandic tradition. Texts will vary but will normally include the Prose Edda, the Poetic Edda, Hrafnkels Saga, Njals Saga, Laxdaela Saga, and Grettirs Saga. All readings will be in translation. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3110 - Old English (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 3110
English has a recorded history longer and more variable than any other language, including poetry and prose as skillful as writings in any period. While learning the language (especially in the first half of the course) we will investigate writings that exploit the language's powers and complexities from the earliest pieces into early Middle English, when the language and its literary traditions disintegrated and began being reinvented at the Norman Conquest. We will also sample (in translation) Latin, Old Saxon, and Old Norse materials that fed the multilingual and multicultural world in which early English developed. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3120 - Beowulf (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 3120
Beowulf has received renewed attention in popular culture, thanks to the production of recent movies and riveting new translations. The poem's popular appeal lies in its complex depictions of monsters, its accounts of heroic bravery, and its lavish portrayals of life in the Meadhall. Through close readings we will also explore the darker side of the poem: its punishing depictions of loss and exile, despairing meditations on unstable kingship and dynastic failure, and harrowing depictions of heroic defeat and the vanities of existence on the Middle-Earth. Attention will be given to the poem's cultural contexts, its literary heritage, and its layered pagan and Christian perspectives. A bilingual edition of the poem will be assigned so that students may read in Old and Modern English. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3165 - Medieval America (3-4 Credits)
Traces, fantasies, and nightmares of the Middle Ages filled 19th century American writings and persist today; this course moves between early American and actual medieval literature, seeking new perspectives on both. Southern chivalry? New England feudalism? Anglo-Saxons as models for racialized American identity-or identifications with anti-Norman Scottish warriors as models for abolition (as in the surname Douglass that Frederick Douglass chose from himself)? We'll linger over Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Stowe, Whitman, Douglass, and others while, in alternating stretches, we read some troubadours, Middle English romances, Chaucer, Malory, and actual medieval rebels. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3190 - Chaucer (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 3190
Chaucer became known as the father of English poetry before he was entirely cold in his grave. Why is what he wrote more than six hundred years ago still riveting for us today? It's not just because he is the granddaddy of this language and its literature; it's because what he wrote was funny, fierce, thoughtful, political, philosophical and, oh yes, notoriously bawdy. We'll read some of Chaucer's brilliant early work, and then dig into his two greatest achievements: the epic Troilus and Crisyede, and The Canterbury Tales, his oft-censored panorama of medieval English life. Chaucer will be read in Middle English, which will prove surprisingly easy and pleasant. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3230 - Renaissance Poetry (3-4 Credits)
Renaissance humanists thought learning should be fun and wanted to replace stodgy scholastic disputation with rhetorical playfulness. So, the poetry of this period takes pleasure very seriously. In the course, we?ll be looking at how the poets of the 16th and early 17th centuries emphasized the relationship of poetry to the senses; how poetry was a privileged medium for inspiring erotic feeling, religious devotion, and political action; and how the print revolution changed the character of verse writing, its authors, and its readers. Authors will include Wyatt, Surrey, Gascoigne, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Whitney, Lanyer, Wroth, Donne, Herbert and others. This course can be used to fulfil the pre-1800 requirement. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2018, Spring 2015, Spring 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3240 - Blood Politics: Comparative Renaissance Drama (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3240
Blood is everywhere. From vampire shows to video games, our culture seems to be obsessed with it. The course examines the power of blood in the early modern period as a figure that continues to capture our imagination, not only as a marker of racial, religious, and sexual difference and desire, but also as a dramatic player in its own right. How does a politics of blood appear on stage when populations are being expelled and colonized for reasons (mis)understood in terms of blood? In the course of trying to answer this and other questions of blood, we will read plays by Shakespeare, Webster, Kyd, Cervantes, Lope de Vega, and Calder?e la Barca. Topics include honor, revenge, purity, the body, sexuality, conversion, and death. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3245 - Evil: The Literary Question of the Human (3 Credits)
This course is designed to explore the relationship between ethics, politics, and aesthetics through careful attention to literary explorations of the complex problem of evil in a range of literary and visual texts including genres from myth through poetry and drama to painting and film. We will read and study excerpts of works from Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, through Shakespeare, Cervantes, Maria de Zayas, Leibniz, Milton, Hieronymous Bosch, and Krzysztof Kieslowski. The recurring questions for us along the way will be about the role of reading and interpretation in relation to the problem of evil and what the philosopher Paul Ricoeur calls the richness of the real. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3255 - Revolution or Reform? (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with HIST 3255, MEDVL 3245
This course explores the relation between literary and utopian Enlightenment cultures in Western history. For each moment of rapid change, from Plato to the Communist revolutions of the twentieth century and beyond, we will focus on two texts: one which promoted the enlightened and revolutionary utopian social blueprint; and one offering an alternative model of transformation or a dystopian account of the utopian model. You will come away from this course having a chronologically wide and intellectually deep immersion in 2500 years of European philosophical and literary history. Throughout, you are encouraged to think about what resources we use to imagine social transformation and to ask if revolution is in fact the best way to effect social transformation. (ENGL-PRE, HIST-HEU)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3270 - Shakespeare: The Late Plays (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 3770
The course focuses on Shakespeare's middle to late plays, from the problem comedies, through the great tragedies and romances. While we will pay particular attention to questions of dramatic form (genre) and historical context (including ways in which the plays themselves call context into question), the primary concentration will be on careful close readings of the language of the play-texts, in relation to critical questions of subjectivity, power, and art. On the way, we will encounter problems of sexuality, identity, emotion, the body, family, violence, politics, God, the nation, nature and money (not necessarily in that order). (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2019, Spring 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3280 - The Bible as Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with RELST 3281
A knowledge of the Bible's images, stories and themes is crucial to understanding not only the art and literature of many cultures, but also ancient and contemporary world politics. It is the world's most widely read book and a sacred text of three great religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. This course will offer students an introduction to the Bible's major historical, anthropological and literary contexts. Students will learn about the Bible's literary divisions and its main stories and characters as well as its ideas about faith, salvation, history and the end of time. We will use the New Oxford Annotated Bible for all course work. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Fall 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3290 - Milton: Political Revolution and Paradise Lost (4 Credits)
Was Milton a revolutionary poet? During the English civil war, he wrote radical political pamphlets defending regicide, divorce, unlicensed printing, and religious dissent. Yet he also saw himself as the epic poet of English Protestantism. Modern readers tend to separate these two aspects of his writing but, for Milton, poetry was crucial to proper governance. In this course, we'll focus on how Milton reconciled the dual imperatives to resist illegitimate rule and to obey true authority. We'll learn about the poetic and rhetorical techniques that Milton used to distinguish paradox from contradiction, action from activity, and dissent from rebellion. And we'll consider the importance of this kind of thinking to political action and public life.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3320 - The World Turned Upside Down: Literature and Revolution (4 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3335 - Sing the Rage (4 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3340 - Race, Class, Gender and Violence in the Enlightenment (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3340, COML 3342
Ideas change the world. Sometimes the same ideas can do tremendous good and also cause great suffering. In this course we will consider violence and revolutionary changes through the prism of European 17th- and 18th-century Enlightenment thought. Thinking through the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Catherine Macaulay, Rousseau and others, we will explore how African philosophers and writers such as Emmanuel Eze, Paulin Hotoundji and Chinua Achebe are in conversation with the enlightenment as well as African thought. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG, D-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3360 - American Theatre Stage and Screen I (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 3757, AMST 3360
Explores major American playwrights from 1900 to 1960, introducing students to American theatre as a significant part of modern American cultural history. We will consider the ways in which theatre has contributed to the construction and deconstruction of a national identity. Similarly, we will examine the influence of the American Theatre on and in film. We will pay special attention to the social, political, and aesthetic contexts of the time period and discuss the shifting popularity of dramatic forms, including melodrama, realism, expressionism, absurdism, and the folk play, in the American theatre canon. Authors include O'Neill, Glaspell, Odets, Rice, Hellman, Hughes, Miller, Williams, and Albee, among others. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST, PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3370 - American Theatre on Stage and Screen II (1960-Present) (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 3758, AMST 3370
How has theatre shaped our notion of America and Americans in the second half of the 20th century and beyond? What role has politics played in the theatre? How has performance been used to examine concepts of identity, community, and nationality? And how and why have certain plays in this era been translated to the screen? In this course we will examine major trends in the American theatre from 1960 to the present. We will focus on theatre that responds directly to moments of social turmoil, including: the Vietnam and Iraq Wars, the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter Movements, Women's and Gender Equality Movements, and the AIDS epidemic. We will also explore the tensions between Broadway and alternative theatre production. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST, PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3390 - Jane Austen (3 Credits)
It is a truth universally acknowledged, that students who have read Jane Austen must be in want of an opportunity to continue that delicious experience, and that those who have not read her novels should. This course explores Austen's characters, culture, and narrative art against the backdrop of films, novels, and poems which resonate with her fiction. We will investigate Austen's importance in literary history as well as her continuing attraction in the twenty-first century. By immersing ourselves in her fictional world we will enrich our experience of her novels and sharpen our awareness of the pleasures of reading. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3440 - Merchants, Whalers, Pirates, Sailors: Early American Sea-Faring Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3442, ASRC 3440
This course will look at how literature based at sea helps both shape and challenge concepts of freedom and capital. By looking at the relationship between the sea-faring economy and its relationship to American Expansion and the history of enslavement we will explore how literature based at sea provided both a reflection and an alternate reality to land-based politics. While the main focus of the course will be nineteenth-century literature, we will also be exploring maritime literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and its analogues in speculative fiction. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3452 - Trauma Across Borders (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4452
This course will begin with some of the earliest theoretical works on personal and historical trauma and pass through several traditions of interpretation (French, American, etc.). Then we will move to more recent attempts to rethink the theory of trauma as it crosses cultural and linguistic borders outside of Europe and the US. Among other questions we will consider the relations among personal, collective, and political trauma and address the imperatives and challenges of thinking trauma in a global context.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3460 - Nineteenth Century British and American Poetry: Wordsworth to Dickinson (3 Credits)
The nineteenth century witnessed an extraordinary expansion of poetry in both Great Britain and the United States. Traditional forms like the ballad, the ode, and the elegy were given fresh life, as poets increasingly turned to the natural world for inspiration. At the same time the inner realms of mind, memory, and imagination were being explored by poets with unprecedented depth and precision. Nineteenth century poets also grappled with major social and political upheavals, from revolution and war to the struggle to abolish slavery throughout the English-speaking world. We will survey this rich and diverse body of work, focusing on prominent figures like Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, the Brownings, Tennyson, Whitman, Poe, and Dickinson, along with lesser-known poets who made significant contributions to its abundance. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3470 - The Victorian Novel (3 Credits)
Jane Eyre and zombies, A Christmas Carol in 3D, PBS miniseries: why is nineteenth-century fiction so un-dead? The plot of the Victorian novel? sexual betrayal, pathological greed, the sadistic damage wrought on helpless children? reflects wrenching social, scientific, and technological transformations whose global sweep rivals that of our own era?s conflicts. Intertwining domestic and imperial spaces, realistic fiction embodied the most innovative attempt to grasp and contain such seismic shifts in an entertaining idiom for a rising mass readership. These works refract the cultural debates of the age and suggest sources of redemption. We can take pleasure in them even as we critically analyze how the Victorians live now. Likely authors include: Dickens, Bront?Eliot, Collins, Hardy, and Stoker. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Spring 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3474 - The Nobel Prize in Literature: Prestige and Politics (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3474
This course examines the Nobel Prize in Literature as one of the most influential—and contested—institutions in global culture. Moving beyond the laureates themselves, we investigate how the prize has shaped, and been shaped by, the politics of literary prestige. Through studies of prizes spanning continents, students explore the criteria behind the award, the cultural and geopolitical forces that influence selection, and the debates surrounding inclusion, exclusion, and controversy. Readings include works by selected laureates alongside critical scholarship on the prize, canon formation, and cultural diplomacy. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze the Nobel Prize as a symbolic global arbiter of literary value, critique its role in constructing an international canon, and evaluate how power, ideology, and institutional authority inform what counts as "great literature."
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3490 - Curiosity: The Literature and Science of Knowing Too Much (3 Credits)
Though it now seems a positive character trait, curiosity was long considered a dangerous vice. What happened to bring about such a dramatic change in how curiosity was valued? What might make this desire to know seem wither dangerous or promising? This class places these questions at the center of its exploration of science and literature. We will explore the lives of historical scientists alongside literature's myriad stories of men and women who knew too much, including spies, mad scientists, and nosy children, from Adam and Eve and Alice in Wonderland to Doctor Faustus and Doctor Frankenstein. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3500 - The High Modernist Tradition (3 Credits)
Critical, historical and interdisciplinary study of major works by Joyce, Woolf, Conrad, Forster, Lawrence, Eliot, Yeats, Wilde, Hardy, and Hopkins. The emphasis will be on the joy of close reading of wonderful, powerful, and innovative individual works, all of which I love to teach. We shall place the authors and works within the context of literary, political, cultural, and intellectual history. The course will seek to define the development of literary modernism (mostly but not exclusively in England), and relate literary modernism in England to that in Europe and America as well as to other intellectual developments. We shall be especially interested in the relationship between modern literature and modern painting and sculpture. Within this course, I work closely with students as they select and develop the topics on which they write essays.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3505 - Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes (3-4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3503, ASRC 3705
This course offers an opportunity to read in depth two major writers of the twentieth century, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. Friends and one-time collaborators in the New York City of the 1920s, each had important careers that extended long after the Harlem Renaissance period in which they achieved early renown. This class surveys the myriad genres in which each writer worked (short stories, poetry, novels, drama, critical essays, folklore and anthropology). And it will also consider the literary, cultural, and political contexts in which their work was first read, as well as how that work was received, forgotten, recovered, contested, and emulated. The class concludes by examining reading subsequent major authors (Toni Morrison, Harryette Mullen) who drew directly upon Hughes' and Hurston's legacies. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3507 - African American Literature Through the 1930's (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3507
One way to think of African American literature is to recognize that certain themes and motifs recur and tell a story that one can study across time from slavery to freedom. Solid literacies in this field not only provide valuable interpretive contexts for analyzing various aspects of African American and diasporan life and culture, but can reinforce work in a range of other fields, from Africana studies to American literature. Additionally, they reinforce skills in reading and analysis of literature, as well as writing, that will pay off now and as time goes on. We will examine selections from authors in African American literary history from the 18th century into the 1930s. Authors who will be examined include Phillis Wheatley, Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, David Walker, Harriet Jacobs, Harriet Wilson, Charles Chesnutt, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, Jean Toomer, Nella Larsen, and Langston Hughes. The production of early African American literature was grounded in genres such as poetry, the novel, the short story, the slave narrative, the spiritual narrative, and autobiography, all of which will be explored. It will be especially important for us to recognize the foundational contributions of African Americans to such fiction genres as the short story and the novel by the 1850s, forming a renaissance of sorts. Additionally, we will consider the impact of oral forms on African American writing such as spirituals and folk tales. We will consider the development of African American literature across a range of historical contexts, including the Revolutionary/Enlightenment period, the antebellum period, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the Harlem Renaissance/Jazz Age. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (AFAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2021, Fall 2012, Spring 2011
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3508 - African American Literature: 1930s-present (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3508, AMST 3508
In 1940, with the publication of his novel Native Son, Richard Wright helped to launch the protest era in African American literature. This course focuses on the development of key fiction and nonfiction genres that have shaped the development of African American literature from the mid-20th-century to the contemporary era. Genres that we will consider include poetry, fiction, the essay, the speech, autobiography, and the novel. We will explore the main periods in this literature's development such as the Black Arts movement of the 1960s and the black women's literary renaissance of the 1970s, and consider the rise of science fiction writing. Authors who will be considered include Richard Wright, Ann Petry, Ralph Ellison, Gwendolyn Brooks, James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, Malcolm X, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Ishmael Reed, and August Wilson. We will also incorporate discussion of works in film and art that have been the outgrowth of writing from African American authors. The course will include screenings of scenes from the class film A Raisin in the Sun, along with the films Dutchman and Beloved. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2023, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3515 - Ireland's World Stages: Drama and Mobility (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 3715
How have Irish playwrights reached out to the world, how do theatrical productions travel internationally, and how do dramatists adapt their work to local audiences in a global marketplace? We will journey with Lady Gregory onto American campuses, see Beckett staged in Sarajevo, and consider how contemporary playwrights reflect on cultural tensions within Ireland: debates about immigration and emigration, the influence of new media, and the social impact of global financial crises. What performance strategies are embedded in the mobility of exiles and emigres? What becomes of a National Theater in a transnational world? How are actors trained in Ireland today, and how does the Irish accent sound as it projects across borders? In addition to canonical and contemporary plays, we will consider dance and film performances.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3525 - Howls and Love Songs: Twentieth Century American Poetry (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3525
Our focus in this course will be on the vibrantly varied body of poetry produced in the United States during the 20th century. Encompassing strains of worldly celebration and prophetic rage, visionary ecstasy and minute attention to ordinary life, this poetry breaks new ground in every decade, mixing formal and stylistic innovation with a continuously expanding sense of the national landscape in all its demographic and cultural diversity. Poets to be studied include Robert Frost, Gertrude Stein, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, Marianne Moore, Langston Hughes, Elizabeth Bishop, Gwendolyn Brooks, Allen Ginsberg, A. R. Ammons, Sylvia Plath, Adrienne Rich, and others. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2023, Fall 2019, Spring 2015
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3550 - Decadence (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3550, FGSS 3550, LGBT 3550
?My existence is a scandal,? Oscar Wilde once wrote, summing up in an epigram his carefully cultivated style of perversity and paradox. Through their celebration of ?art for art?s sake? and all that was considered exquisite, ironic, or obscene, the Decadent aesthetes of the late-nineteenth century sought to free the pleasures of language, beauty, spirituality, and sexual desire from their more conventional moral strictures. We will focus on the literature of the period, including works by Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Baudelaire, J.-K. Huysmans, and especially Wilde, and we will also consider related developments in aesthetic philosophy, painting, music, theater, architecture, fashion, and design, including music by Richard Wagner, Claude Debussy, and Richard Strauss and artworks by James McNeill Whistler, Aubrey Beardsley, and Gustave Moreau. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3560 - Thinking from a Different Place: Indigenous Philosophies (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AIIS 3560, AMST 3562
The Western nation-state has failed to solve the two most pressing, indeed catastrophic, global problems: poverty and climate change. This failure is due to the inability of national policy to imagine a world beyond a boundary drawn by the formative capitalist ideas of property, production, and profit. The course will begin by discussing the historical origin and continuing force of these ideas while raising questions about their limits. Then it will look at a range of alternative ideas about how the world should work if we want to keep it socially, economically, and ecologically in balance. The alternatives we will query come from a range of Indigenous writers of fiction, poetry, and theory, who locate themselves in Native American (north and south), Aboriginal, and Maori communities.
Distribution Requirements: (D-AG, LA-AG), (SCD-AS)
Exploratory Studies: (CU-SBY)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021
Learning Outcomes:

- Explain Indigenous theory and practice in dealing with social, economic, and environmental issues.
- Contrast Indigenous theory and practice with Western approaches to these issues at a time of gross income inequality and environmental collapse worldwide.
- Think critically about the most effective ways to deal with these global issues after having considered both approaches to these issues.

Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3563 - American Writers, American Workers: Exploring Work and Labor through Literature (3 Credits)
This class explores how writers depict, romanticize, critique, and thematize work in American literature. From chattel slavery, domestic labor, to corporate work and creative work we will explore how writers consider work and labor in all of its incarnations. In addition to reading the literature, students will be asked to develop projects that tie the texts we read in class to both past and present trends in working culture. Additionally we will also explore how the language of work and labor suffuses other aspects of American life such as mental health, relationships, and even leisure. Texts will span from the colonial period to the twenty-first century. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3565 - Black Ecoliterature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3565, FGSS 3565, ASRC 3565
Mainstream media would have us believe that driving a new Toyota Prius, recycling, and shopping clean at Whole Foods would make us all food environmentalists, right? Additionally, climate change and environmental degradation are often discussed as if they are phenomena that affect us all equally. Despite these dynamics, research in recent years tells us that while there might be some general ways that we experience our constantly changing physical environments-race, gender, and location very much affect how we experience Nature. In this course we will use literature from across the African diaspora to investigate how looking at race, gender, and location produces very different ideas about environment, environmentalism, and Nature itself.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG), (D-HA)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3571 - The Modern Irish Writers (3 Credits)
This is a course on Irish writing of the modern period. In our readings over the semester (which will include some of the twentieth century's greatest literary texts), we will cover the development of Irish writing from the Yeats-led Irish Revival of the century's early years through Joyce's high modernist virtuosity to Bowen's Bloomsbury-inflected fiction to the proto-postmodernisms of O'Brien and Beckett. Along the way we will also examine how Irish modernism raises fundamental questions about such things as: the relation between language and national identity; the nature of modernism's newness; colonial, postcolonial, and semicolonial culture; the political uses of literature; and the contending forces of cosmopolitanism and nationalism in the modern period. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2012
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3591 - Kids Rule! Children's Popular Culture (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 3591
How is the figure of the child constructed in popular culture? When and to what degree do children participate in the construction of these representations? This course surveys a variety of contemporary media texts (television, film, and the internet) aimed at children ranging in age from pre-kindergarten to young adults. We explore how these texts seek to construct children as empowered consumers, contesting adult conformity. Our theoretical approach complicates definitions of childhood as a time of innocence and potential victimhood and challenges normative constructions of childhood as a time for establishing proper sexual and gender identities. Taking a cultural studies approach, the class will consider the connections between the cultural texts and the realms of advertising, toys, and gaming.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3606 - Black Women and Political Leadership (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3206, FGSS 3206, SHUM 3206
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3610 - African Mythology: Historical and Speculative Worlds (3 Credits)
African Mythology examines how contemporary African and diasporic writers use historical and speculative fiction to reconstruct and revitalize precolonial African cosmologies. Through novels, epics, and myth-based speculative texts, students will explore myth as a living archive and as a literary method for confronting colonial erasure. The course foregrounds African worldbuilding traditions and intellectual histories often excluded from Eurocentric literary periodization, offering students a non-European entry point into premodern and early modern global thought. Emphasis is placed on myth as philosophy, narrative strategy, and cultural memory across the African continent and the Black diaspora. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3615 - Podcast, Radio, Gramophone: Literary Technologies of Sound (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3616, SHUM 3615
How can we account for the contemporary popularity of podcasts? In what ways do they build on, and break from, earlier forms of writing for the ear? In this class we will study innovative podcast fictions like Welcome to Night Vale, Forest 404, and Homecoming together with pathbreaking aural works of the 20th century, from The War of the Worlds to John Cage's Roaratorio and albums by the Firesign Theatre. We will consider the new opportunities and challenges of the podcasting medium, making our own recordings along the way. And we will look at well-known authors - from James Joyce and Dylan Thomas to Ursula Le Guin and Amiri Baraka - who experimented with then-new technologies like the gramophone, radio, audiotape, LP, headphones, the Walkman, and more.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3625 - Frederick Douglass and Frances E.W. Harper: Major Writers Sounding Out Freedom (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3625, ASRC 3625
Throughout the nineteenth century, African American writers theorized the stakes and contours of freedom in the United States. Few, however, were as prolific and celebrated as Frederick Douglass and Frances E. W. Harper. From the mid-century forward, their activist and literary work challenged expectations of racialized and gendered being in the United States and crafted new frameworks for belonging that still echo into the present. In order to traverse the various material formats, literary genres, and historical contexts that frame Douglass's and Harper's careers, this iteration of the course introduces "sound" as a critical intersection. The course invites students to approach "sound" as both the oral/aural content of Douglass's and Harper's texts and as an approach to measuring the United States's capacities for "freedom" itself. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3630 - U.S. Literature and the End of the American Century (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3632
What is (or was) American empire? This course examines U.S. literature from WWII to the early 21st century. This period has been termed the American century because of the U.S.'s dominant role in shaping global politics and culture, a dominance backed by military interventions abroad and the rise of the police state at home. How do the era's writers negotiate and challenge the police, military, and imperial powers of the U.S. state? We will place fiction, poetry, and essays in conversation with historical documents and policies, asking how literature has imagined an end to the American century.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3635 - Loving Latinx L.A.: Music, Literature, Art, and Stage (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3637, LSP 3635, FGSS 3635, SHUM 3637
This course will explore the kaleidoscopic experiences of Latinx writers, musicians, and filmmakers who have made Los Angeles their home and the subject of their artistry. Featuring the work of renowned writers such as Helena Maria Viramontes and film makers such as Luis Valdez, the course will explore how Latinx creative thinkers tangle with the city's history, propel significant resistance movements, and bring new visions of creative possibilities to the world. Students will have the chance to research any aspect of LA artistry that they find compelling as part of this course.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3660 - Reading the Nineteenth-Century American Novel (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3661
The course asks you to think about the role of fiction in producing a sense of history, politics, and culture in the nineteenth-century United States. In particular, we will think about the relations among stylistic concerns in fiction and the construction of identities formed by national, racial, gendered, and sexual allegiances. Authors include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Edith Wharton, Pauline Hopkins, and Fanny Fern.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3674 - AAPI and Empire (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 3674
The term AAPI is often used as a U.S. demographic category for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, but what brings these disparate groups together? This course explores the interrelation between East Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas as geographies and ideological imaginaries shaped by power struggles and empire. How have U.S., Japanese, and other empires structured the exchanges, intimacies, transformations, and tensions linking peoples across the Pacific, Asia and the Americas? What are the social, cultural, political, and economic reverberations of colonial invasions, hot wars, cold war, migrations, and racial formations? How does thinking about and critiquing imperialism inform what we mean when we say AAPI? Drawing on visual media, fiction, poetry, historical documents, speeches, and more, this course will track the relationship between the personal and political and ask what subjects emerge from competing imperial modernities. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3678 - Diasporas, Disasters, and Dissent: Re-Thinking Puerto Rican Studies in the 20th and 21st Centuries (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with LSP 3678, SPAN 3675, AMST 3679
Foreign in a domestic sense is the perplexing way that the Supreme Court of the United States chose to define Puerto Rico's status in the so-called Insular Cases of the early 20th century. Written over 100 years ago, this contradictory ruling looms large over Puerto Rico's precarious legal standing, despite the fact that there are now more Puerto Ricans living on the US mainland than in the island itself. Seeking to counter the obfuscation of Puerto Rico in the US imaginary, in this course students will analyze how key historical, political, and social moments connected to diasporas, disasters, and dissent have galvanized Puerto Rican cultural production in the 20th and 21st centuries. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3702 - Desire and Cinema (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 3702, COML 3702, VISST 3702, PMA 3702, LGBT 3702
The pleasure of the text, Roland Barthes writes, is that moment when my body pursues its own ideas-for my body does not have the same ideas I do. What is this erotics of the text, and what has it been up to lately at the movies? Are new movies giving our bodies new ideas? In the context of the changing art of the moving image in the 21st-century, how might we read and revise classic works of psychoanalytic, feminist, and queer theory on erotic desire and cinema? We will focus especially on relatively recent metacinematic work, moviemaking about moviemaking, by such directors as Pedro Almod?, Olivier Assayas, Michael Haneke, Todd Haynes, David Lynch, Steve McQueen, and John Cameron Mitchell.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2016, Fall 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3706 - Photo-Text (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with VISST 3706
This course will trace ideas about photography, its technical processes, as well as the presence of photographic images in literary expression, museum exhibitions, institutional practices, and popular media from the nineteenth century to the present. From the album to the archive and from the printed page to the touchscreen, we will examine the ways in which the interrelationship between photography and literature alters our understanding of temporality, knowledge, memory, mimesis, history, affect, identity, power, and desire. Reading and viewing widely across genre, medium, and format will motivate our own expressive practices: crafting interpretive essays, penning arts reviews, designing exhibitions, and taking photographs. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3734 - Whiteness in Literature and Popular Culture (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3734, ASRC 3734
After the violent events in Charlottesville in 2017, and especially the January 6th insurrection at the US Capitol in 2021, most people have become aware of the extreme form of white political identities that are now a visible presence in our society. What can we learn about the history of whiteness from literature and popular culture? What alternative conception of whiteness, including a consciously anti-racist white identity, can we glean from novels and plays, movies and TV shows? This introductory course uses works by prominent writers (James Baldwin, Toni Morrison) as well as movies (including Get Out and Blindspotting) plus TV shows (Mad Men, Sopranos) to explore these questions.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (SAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3741 - Design Thinking, Media, and Community (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 3741
This StudioLab course connects critical design teams with researchers, NGOs, and nonprofits working on human rights, public health, and environmental and land rights in the US and abroad. Practicing methods of transmedia knowledge, critical design thinking, and strategic storytelling, students collaborate on projects with the Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Health Access Connect (Uganda), NYS 4-H, and SOOFA Ranch (GA). Consulting on partners' ongoing projects, teams study and practice processes from IDEO's Human-Centered Design Thinking and Stanford's Design for Extreme Affordability, as well as UX, tactical media, and activist organizing developed by ACT-UP, Black Lives Matter, Guerrilla Girls, and contemporary, multi-platform campaigns, presenting and sharing their collaborations via project site and other platforms.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3742 - Africans and African Americans in Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3732, ASRC 3742, SHUM 3742
When an African and an African American meet, solidarity is presumed, but often friction is the result. In this course, we will consider how Africans and African Americans see each other through literature. What happens when two peoples suffering from double consciousness meet? We will examine the influence of historical forces including slavery, colonialism and pan-Africanism on the way writers explore the meeting between Africans and African Americans. Specifically we will look at how writers and political figures such as Maya Angelou, Chimamanda Adichie, Richard Wright, Eugene Robinson, Philippe Wamba, Martin Luther King Junior and Malcolm X have understood the meeting.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3747 - The Trouble with Crime Fiction (3 Credits)
Crime fiction simply dominates our screen time: White Lotus, Law and Order, NCIS, Psych, Sherlock, Only Murders in the Building, True Detective, Breaking Bad. But crime fiction is rife with trouble-femme fatales, drug-addled sleuths, random murders concealing menacing conspiracies. And literary culture loves to make trouble for crime fiction as well-to attack, parody, reinvent, complicate, and rejoice in it. This course will explore classic mystery story design in Poe, Doyle, and Wilkie Collins, and later fiction by Jorge Luis Borges, Joan Lindsay, Patricia Highsmith, Margaret Atwood, China Mieville, Tana French, Oyinkan Braithwaite, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia. We'll also analyze films and television episodes directed by Boon Joon-ho, Sally Wainwright, and Spike Lee. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Fall 2019, Fall 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3753 - Mass Culture and the Avant-Garde (3 Credits)
This course explores the creative cross-pollination between mass culture and avant-garde art, addressing key concepts in 20th century aesthetics (the middlebrow, the spectacle, pastiche, kitsch) and the evolution of the category of art itself. The mediating conditions of class, race, gender, and sexuality will be central to our examination of these conceptual histories, as will changes in the means of artistic production and distribution. Interdisciplinary and intermedial in its focus, the course will include texts by Theodor Adorno, Amiri Baraka, Pierre Bourdieu, Peter Burger, Guy Debord, Clement Greenberg, Cathy Park Hong, Griselda Pollock, Rosalind Krauss, Dwight MacDonald, Fred Moten, Sianne Ngai, Marjorie Perloff, Susan Sontag, and Hito Steyerl. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3760 - World Poetry of the Pluriverse: Regional Forms and Global Readers (3 Credits)
How do poems travel in the world? How does the world travel in poems? In this seminar, we'll read global case studies in the ways poems can sanctify or protest territorial and linguistic borders, as well as reading diverse critical accounts of the translation, marketing, and archiving of world literature. We'll study how poetry compares with other communication technologies, enacting its own forms of transit, ecology, and migration. Our readings (across all of time, though focused on the 19th-21st centuries) will investigate how race, class, and gender inflect verse's navigations of local conditions and cosmopolitan scale. Authors may include T.S. Eliot, Rabindranath Tagore, W.B. Yeats, Lorna Goodison, Yi Sang, Derek Walcott, Daphne Marlatt, Christopher Okigbo, M. NourbeSe Philip, Ilya Kaminsky, Ishion Hutchinson, and Valzhyna Mort.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3762 - Law and Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 3764
What can lawyers and judges learn from the study of literature? This course explores the relevance of imaginative literature (novels, drama, poetry, and film) to questions of law and social justice from a range of perspectives. We will consider debates about how literature can help to humanize legal decision-making; how storytelling has helped to give voice to oppressed populations over history; how narratives of suffering cultivate popular support for human rights; the role played by storytelling in a trial; and how literature can shed light on the limits of law and public policy. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3771 - Contemporary Literature and Crisis (3 Credits)
Crisis is a rupture, break or perceivable shift in what is 'normal'. Terms like the 'Permacrisis' or the 'crisis ordinary' attempt to explain our global heightened awareness about impending danger. In this class we will read widely across the 20th and 21st centuries in a variety of genres from fiction to poetry to drama. Topics will vary but may include literary responses to political, social, psychological, theological or climate crisis, aesthetic responses to moral or societal panic, war and migration/trauma, disease, as well as any links between identity and crisis in literature and the visual (photography, film, fine art). We will consider how the framing of crisis as an affective moment or event shapes how we think about chronologies of literary response and its social uses. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (SCD-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3775 - bell hooks Books: From Feminism to Autobiography (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3700, FGSS 3701
This course focuses on the study of race, class, gender, sexuality and popular culture through the examination of scholarly works and creative writings by one of the most compelling and legendary voices in black feminism: bell hooks. We will consider her body of work produced in various career stages, beginning with the classic Ain't I a Woman, and explore her writings in various categories, from her art book and autobiographies to her children's book and poetic writings. We will discuss key critical terms and themes in her repertoire and consider her major contributions to both black and feminist intellectual history. We will draw on a range of films throughout the course, including productions such as Paris is Burning, Precious, Four Little Girls, and Beasts of the Southern Wild, as well as videos.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3778 - Free Speech, Censorship, and the Age of Global Media (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 3778
Disinformation, gag laws, de-platforming, violent hate speech, recommendation algorithms, chatbots, image generators. This course will help us make sense of our increasingly volatile public sphere by surveying the history of free speech and censorship from the print revolution to the information age. In democratic societies, freedom of expression is both a cultural value and protected right; yet governments routinely regulate speech through a variety of mechanisms: from direct censorship, to licensing and copyright laws, to high court decisions about what qualifies as speech. We'll track the categories of dangerous speech-blasphemy, pornography, treason, libel-as they've changed over time. And we'll also consider forms censorship that protect freedoms and ensure civil discourse, such as banning racial stereotyping or genocide denial.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3781 - Human Rights in Law and Culture (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with GOVT 3781
Whereas human rights find legal expression in visionary documents like the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the many principles tied to human rights have long been debated by philosophers, artists, theologians, and writers. This course studies the evolution of human rights as cultural artifacts, examining how ideas about rights and humanitarianism were fashioned within literature, philosophy, film, public debate, and various international legal forums over history. Through readings covering large topics like crimes against humanity, immigration, abolitionism, and universal suffrage, we will ask: how did the world assent to a global culture of human rights? What hopes and dreams have human rights embodied? Conversely, what recurring critiques have been raised about the norms informing human rights? (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3795 - Communicating Climate Change (3 Credits)
There is a lot of consensus about the science of climate change. But many members of the public remain confused or uninformed about the severity of the situation. Some are paralyzed by fear. Others are blissfully ignorant. What are the best ways of communicating climate change to a variety of audiences? Should we tell stories? Make documentaries? Dramatize the science? This course will ask you to read, write and design many different forms and genres in order to experiment with the problem of communicating climate change, from pie-charts to science fiction and from photography to TED Talks. What can each form tell us about climate change that the others cannot? We will take on a real-world communication project over the course of the semester. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (CU-SBY)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3801 - Advanced Writing: Audiences, Genres, Media (3 Credits)
Do you yearn for the chance to write in different genres and media or for audiences beyond the university? Perhaps you'd like to try writing magazine articles or a newspaper op-ed. Or maybe you'd like to explore writing in different media so you can produce compelling online content. Through reading and discussing case studies as well as writing workshops, this course prepares students to tackle a variety of writing projects and think creatively about the connection between audience, genre, and media. And it will teach students how to produce a writing portfolio to present their work for professional purposes. These portfolios will be considered for the new Projects in Writing award, details of which can be found on the Department of Literatures in English website.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3820 - Narrative Writing (3 Credits)
This course focuses upon the writing of fiction or related narrative forms. May include significant reading and discussion, explorations of form and technique, completion of writing assignments and prompts, and workshop peer review of student work. Many students will choose to write short stories, but excerpts from longer works will also be accepted.
Prerequisites: ENGL 2800.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3830 - Narrative Writing (3 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3840 - Poetry Writing (3 Credits)
This course focuses upon the writing of poetry. May include significant reading and discussion, explorations of form and technique, completion of writing assignments and prompts, and workshop peer review of student work.
Prerequisites: ENGL 2800.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3850 - Poetry Writing (3 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Summer 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3860 - Philosophic Fictions (3 Credits)
Consciousness-what it is, where it is, how it is-has been a perennial puzzle for philosophers. What does it mean to be conscious? We all know what it feels like to be conscious, but when asked to describe the state of consciousness, to conjure with words the contours of felt experience that is consciousness, we falter. This semester we will come at the puzzle from a different direction, from literature. We'll start with some classic philosophical statements of the puzzle and then turn our attention to some poems and some stories which engage with the problem of consciousness in a variety of ways. Writing in reaction to the literature and to the puzzle of consciousness will be the central tool of our semester's exploration.
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2017, Spring 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3890 - The Personal Voice: Nonfiction Writing (3 Credits)
Writers of creative nonfiction plumb the depths of their experience and comment memorably on the passing scene. They write reflectively on themselves and journalistically on the activities and artifacts of others. The voice they seek is at once uniquely personal, objectively persuasive, and accessible to others who want to relish their view of the world and learn from it. This course is for the writer (beyond the first year of college) who wants to experiment with style and voice to find new writerly personae in a workshop environment. During the semester, we'll read models of literary nonfiction, including one another's, and work to develop a portfolio of diverse and polished writing.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, WRT-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3901 - Utopia (3-4 Credits)
With the publication of his Utopia, Thomas More coined the name of a new genre of literature in which the writer posits an ideal society - and sometimes an impossibly ideal society. In this course, we'll explore the sources of More's Utopia in political philosophy and its legacy in speculative, socialist, and science fiction. What do these literary experiments tell us about how society would have to be organized to be free of sexism, racism, inequality, war, and ecological ruination. Authors may include Thomas More, James Harrington, Margaret Cavendish, Daniel Defoe, William Morris, Marge Piercy, Ursula LeGuin, Toni Morrison. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3903 - Remembering Socialism: Literature and Film After the End of History (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3012, GERST 3612, HIST 3012
More than thirty years after the end of the Soviet Union, we have the distance needed to view the twentieth-century state socialist project from a historical perspective--even as Cold War tropes are revived amid another major confrontation with Russia. In this course, we will analyze memoirs, oral histories, historical fiction, films, and TV shows that look back at this period. How do the makers of these works use genre as a political as well as artistic tool? What are the political implications of comedy, cosplay, or melodrama when applied to communism? How does the portrayal of this period change as state socialism recedes into the distance? Texts from Russia, Ukraine, Germany, the Balkans, the UK, and the United States. All works will be in English. For an additional credit unit, students who can read Russian can (optionally) enroll in RUSSA 4491 for related practice in reading and discussions in Russian. (HIST-HEU)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3910 - Poetry and Poetics of the Americas (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3800, AMST 3820, LATA 3800, SPAN 3800
As globalization draws the Americas ever closer together, reshaping our sense of a common and uncommon American culture, what claims might be made for a distinctive, diverse poetry and poetics of the Americas? How might we characterize its dominant forms and alternative practices? What shared influences, affiliations, concerns and approaches might we find and what convergences and differences emerge? Ranging across North and South America, Central America and the Caribbean, this course will place in conversation such figures as Poe, Pound, Stein, Williams, Neruda, Vallejo, Borges, Parra, Bola?Cesaire, Nourbese Philip, Hong, Long Soldier, Rankine, Lamar, Kaminsky, and Xie. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (AFAREA, LAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3911 - Literature, Art and Environment (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3111
This course examines how philosophical, architectural, filmic, and literary practices shape our understanding of place and space, engaging with theories of mapping, spatiality, and the built environment. Does dwelling on this earth imply building? Is thinking itself an architectural act? What would it mean to undo this 'will to architecture'? What is the relation of the act to the environment? What does the situation of 'things and locations' mean for the possibilities of politics and thought? We will examine poetic and philosophical dimensions of place and site; modernity, nihilism, and its critique; belonging, the uncanny, and the stranger; utopia, dystopia, and the global built environment through readings, films, and artistic practices from figures and groups including Archigram, Bachelard, Badiou, Massimo Cacciari, Derrida, Heidegger, Isozaki Arata, Jameson, Karatani, Kiarostami, Henri Lefebvre, WG Sebald, Wallace Stevens, Superstudio, Manfredo Tafuri, Tarkovsky, Raymond Williams, and more.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2016, Fall 2010
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3916 - Fables of Capitalism (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with GERST 3610, COML 3542, GOVT 3606, SHUM 3610
This course examines the stories, literary examples, and metaphors at work in elaborating capitalist society and its ?hero,? the modern economic subject: the so-called ?homo oeconomicus.? We will examine the classic liberal tradition (e.g., Locke, Smith, Mill) alongside its later critiques (e.g., Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Brecht) as well as more recent feminist, Black, and indigenous interventions (e.g., Federici, Davis, ?land-grab university? research). Throughout we will create a dialogue between texts, both across centuries (e.g., Locke on Property with Indigenous Dispossession; Balzac?s Pere Goriot with Piketty?s Capital in the 21st Century) as well as across genres (e.g., Nomadland with Geissler?s Seasonal Associate). At stake are the narrative and figurative moments in theoretical texts as well as crucial literary sources (novels, novellas, and plays) as they collectively develop the modern economic paradigms of industry, exchange, credit-debt, and interest ? as well as the people they often leave out: women, people of color, the working class. The seminar will include working with an archive, collection, or museum at Cornell. Taught in English. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, ETM-AS), (CA-AG, KCM-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2023, Fall 2018, Fall 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3920 - Introduction to Critical Theory (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with GERST 3620, COML 3541, GOVT 3636, SHUM 3636
Shortly after the 2016 election, The New Yorker published an article entitled ?The Frankfurt School Knew Trump was Coming.? This course examines what the Frankfurt School knew by introducing students to Critical Theory, juxtaposing its roots in the 19th century (i.e., Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Freud) with its most prominent manifestation in the 20th century, the Frankfurt School (e.g., Kracauer, Adorno, Benjamin, Marcuse) alongside disparate voices (Arendt) and radical continuations (Davis, Zuboff, Weeks) as they engage with politics, society, culture, and literature (e.g. Brecht and Kafka). Established in 1920s and continued in exile in the US during WWII, the interdisciplinary circle of scholars comprising the Frankfurt School played a pivotal role in the intellectual developments of post-war American and European social, political, and aesthetic theory: from analyses of authoritarianism and democracy to critiques of capitalism, the entertainment industry, commodity fetishism, and mass society. This introduction to Critical Theory explores both the prescience of these diverse thinkers for today?s world (?what they knew?) as well as what they perhaps could not anticipate in the 21st century (e.g., developments in technology, economy, political orders), and thus how to critically address these changes today. Taught in English. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, ETM-AS), (CA-AG, KCM-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3925 - The Failure of the Postcolonial State (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3025
Using a combination of philosophical tracts (Fanon, Cabral, Lenin, Derrida) and literary texts (Soyinka, Ngugi, Coetzee, Mafouz, Gurnah), this course will take up the difficulty of the failure that is the postcolonial state in Africa. What has happened to those states that were founded upon the promise of anti-colonial revolution? What has produced this new wave of African immigrants determined to find a way of life outside of the continent?
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3934 - Caribbean Worlds: Landscape, Labor and Climate Imaginaries (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4334, LATA 4334, FREN 4334, ROMS 4334
The seminar will explore relations between the tangible effects of climate on urban, infrastructural, and ecological landscapes in the Caribbean and lived experiences of climate as mediated through literature, film, and other expressive forms. Topics will range from historical accounts of climate as 'catastrophe' - the effects of hurricanes, volcanoes, and earthquakes- to colonial histories of coerced labor, to climate as a more general horizon in the constitution of Caribbean worlds. The seminar draws on the work of anthropologist Anna Tsing, interpreting the industrialized-urbanized ecological territory in terms of capitalist ruination which, nonetheless, holds possibilities for other modes of environmentality, as the hazards effected by climate change fundamentally disrupt and transform the very urbanity constituted through colonial and later resource extractive appropriations.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3941 - Political Journalism (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with PUBPOL 3140, AMST 3145, GOVT 3221, COMM 3140
This course will explore the traditional dynamic and norms of political press coverage in the United States, and the impact of those patterns on both the government and the nation; some of the ways longstanding norms have recently shifted, and continue to shift; the larger historical forces and long-term trends driving those changes; and the theoretical questions, logistical challenges and ethical dilemmas these changes pose for both political journalists and those they cover. The course will equally cover the practice of political reporting, including weekly analysis and discussion of current press coverage, in-class exercises and simulations, readings from academic and journalistic sources, and visits from leading political reporters and former spokespeople able to offer a firsthand perspective on the topics.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: undergraduate students.
Distribution Requirements: (SBA-AG), (SBA-HE)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Summer 2022
Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate the ability to think like a journalist, in particular: to understand and interpret the elements of a variety of political reporting, and the editorial decision-making process.
- Understand, analyze, and contrast how the press and political actors influence each other, and society at large.
- Compose, evaluate, and assess editorial decisions in real time.
- Interpret and utilize the basic facts about how various political news beats and platforms operate, including congressional, White House, campaign, investigative, local, print, digital, and television journalism.

Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3950 - Beyoncé Nation: The Decennium (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 3350, FGSS 3350, AMST 3355
This popular course was introduced here at Cornell a decade ago. This year will mark the third time that we've been able to offer it, in light of all the moving parts and unique components that pulling it off requires. Beyoncé's recent albums and related tours, namely Renaissance and Cowboy Carter, have taken her iconicity to new heights evidenced in contexts from the 2024 Olympics to advertisements for Levi's Jeans. Her song "Freedom" from her Lemonade album was the anthem for the 2024 presidential campaign of Vice President of Kamala Harris. As a musical artist, Beyoncé emerged at the forefront of activism during the past decade, and helped to advocate for a more inclusive vision of the U.S. as a nation, while drawing attention to the long-overlooked contributions of African Americans to the genre of country music. All of these dimensions of her artistry and many more are important to study in order to understand her national and global impact. In this course, we examine her contributions, along with various figures connected to her, including her closest family. Beyoncé's trajectory from Houston, Texas as a member of the group Destiny's Child to international fame and superstardom and a successful career as a solo singer, actress, clothing designer and entrepreneur holds important implications for critical dialogues on the U.S. South and national femininity. We will carefully trace Beyoncé's journey to global fame and iconicity and the roles of the music business, social media and technology, fashion, and film in her development.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3954 - Spoken Word, Hip-Hop Theater, and the Politics of Performance (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 3754, LSP 3754, FGSS 3754, AMST 3754, LGBT 3754
In this course, we will critically examine the production and performance of race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender through literature and contemporary performance genres such as spoken word, slam poetry, and hip-hop theatre. (PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3977 - Body Politics in African Literature, Cinema, and New Media (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 3977, ASRC 3977, FGSS 3977, FREN 3975, SHUM 3977
This course examines how writers, filmmakers, and content creators from Africa engage with and revise public images of bodies-specifically pleasure, queerness, sex strikes, etc. Our inquiry also surveys theorists' commitment to highlighting forms of self-fashioning and agency/responsibility in addition to troubling problematic tropes of pathologization and excess. These topical explorations will be achieved through analyses of storytelling, digitality, the aestheticization of violence, and social change theories. Through contemporary films, digital platforms, novels, and essays, we will reflect on the precarious yet empowering nature of the body. Public speaking (class discussions, student presentations) and deep attention to analysis and writing (reaction papers, an abstract, an annotated bibliography, and a final paper) will help you refine your understanding of body politics.
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG, D-AG), (GLC-AS, SCD-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3980 - Latinx Popular Culture Matters (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with LSP 3980, AMST 3981, SHUM 3980
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2016, Spring 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 3989 - The Revolutionary as Author: Autobiography and Political Myth (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with RUSSL 3389, COML 3389
In this course, we will read some of the most influential examples of a genre at the intersection of literature and history: the memoir of the revolutionary. Along the way, we will consider some of the fictional works (e.g. by Turgenev, Dostoevsky) that have been important in this nonfictional tradition, as well as poetry produced by the revolutionary currents we discuss. As we study the autobiographies of Russian, American, and German leftist political figures like Piotr Kropotkin, Emma Goldman, Ernst Toller, and Angela Davis, we will consider the literary methods these writers use to intertwine their own life stories with political history. How is life-writing a form of revolutionary self-fashioning? How have literary movements intersected with revolutionary writings? With special attention to the questions of gender, ethnicity, and race.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4002 - Versification: How Poetic Forms Are Made and Analyzed (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4002
This course provides an introduction to meter and rhyme and to the study of meter and rhyme Verse readings will be short poems written in English, with a particular focus on Shakespeare?s sonnets and the poems of Housman and Dickinson. Critical texts will include writings about prosody from the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries. Non-Anglophone verse systems, particularly Russian, will be considered for a comparative perspective. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4020 - Literature as Moral Inquiry (4 Credits)
What can literary works, especially novels, tell us about moral issues? Should they be seen as suggesting a form of moral inquiry similar to the kind of philosophical discussion we get in, say, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics? Can reading philosophical works in ethics together with novels that deal with similar themes help us understand these themes better? This course is an attempt to answer these questions. We will read selections from Aristotle, Kant, and other thinkers and use these works to help us understand the nature of moral inquiry in novels like Eliot's Middlemarch, Morrison's The Bluest Eye, Flaubert's Madame Bovary, Tolstoy's The Death of Ivan Ilyich, and Kazuo Ishiguro's The Remains of the Day. Films will include Barbie (2023) and Official Secrets (2019).
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4030 - Poetry in Process (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4030
Many distinguished poets have taught at Cornell. In this course we'll focus on three, all of them widely acclaimed: A. R. Ammons, Alice Fulton, Ishion Hutchinson. A. R. Ammons is best known for charting the interplay of scientific and spiritual phenomena, in poems ranging from brief lyrics to book-length epics written on adding machine tape. Alice Fulton, who was Ammons's student, carries on his interests in science and spirituality while bringing to them a distinctively feminist perspective. Born in Jamaica, Ishion Hutchinson writes poems that explore the fraught relations between geography and history in the light of colonial violence. We'll survey each poet's work from earliest to most recent phases, paying special attention to their development of new techniques and original visions. Students may write poems as well as critical essays responding to the poets' work.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2019, Spring 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4116 - Inventing Women in the Middle Ages (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 4116
How was the category woman constituted in the Middle Ages? Not assuming that women were the same then as now, this course, in dialogue with contemporary trans and genderqueer theory, will look at medieval gender in a new light. Considering works by women, like the Book of Margery Kempe, some primary texts about women, like the trial of Joan of Arc, and some scholarship about alternatives to the binary of women and men, like Leah DeVun's The Shape of Sex: Nonbinary Gender from Genesis to the Renaissance, this course will examine woman as a constructed category and The Middle Ages as one instance of the long work of making involved in issuing women into the common-sense category that they now occupy. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4133 - From the Conquest to Caxton: Middle English Language, Literatures, History (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with LING 4220
This seminar will explore the English language and its literatures in its most diverse centuries, which 19th century philologists saw as the middle span: after the collapse of Old English language, poetic style, and indigenous power-centers at the Norman Conquest (1066), up to printing (1476), the beginnings of standard Modern English, claims to an English literary tradition, and the origins of Atlantic adventurism and imperialism. Between those benchmarks we'll consider multilingualism, English linguistic diversity and changes, social identity, literary forms, and ideas about language and literature, sampling many Middle English works and more fully reading the Katherine Group, Gawain-poet, Piers Plowman, and Julian of Norwich's Showings. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4140 - Love and Ecstasy: Forms of Devotion in Medieval English Literature (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 3140
What do love, torture, and ecstasy all have in common? How could they all be considered spiritual experiences? The thirteenth century brought a new and intense focus on the body of Christ, bloodied, wounded, and tortured. Female and male mystics began to describe Jesus as a lord, lover, and even mother in most intimate?and even sexual?terms. Guides for meditation, memory work, and holy living focused on bodily practices for approaching the divine and replicating the suffering of Christ. In this course we will explore a range of literary texts and artistic representations that illuminate this religious and aesthetic ethos. Readings will be in modern and medieval English, and will also include contemporary theoretical texts (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4170 - The Archaeology of the Text from Chaucer through the Renaissance (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 4170
This seminar explores the relation between book history and literary history during the span from medieval English manuscript culture through Renaissance print culture, with invitations to apply these concerns to any period and language. Skills taught are both theoretical and practical, focusing on manuscripts, old handwriting, literacy, printers, and issues linking material and social book-making to literary topics and forms. As a class, we will focus on the pivotal period of English literature from Chaucer to Shakespeare, but individual final editorial projects can take up any period or language. All students will learn to exploit chance archival discoveries, to write biographies of an early printer, and to use and create an edition. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2018, Spring 2012, Fall 2008
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4210 - Shakespeare in (Con)text (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 4675, VISST 4546
Examines how collaboration among stage directors, designers, and actors leads to differing interpretations of plays. The course focuses on how the texts themselves are blueprints for productions with particular emphasis on the choices available to the actor inherent in the text. This is a special seminar sponsored by the John S. Knight Institute's Sophomore Seminars Program. Seminars offer discipline-intensive study within an interdisciplinary context. While not restricted to sophomores, the seminars aim at initiating students into the discipline's outlook, discourse community, modes of knowledge, and ways of articulating that knowledge. Limited to 15 students. Special emphasis is given to strong thinking and writing and to personalized instruction with tip university professors. (ENGL-PRE, PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4225 - Arboreal Humanities: Ecology, Aesthetics, and Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with GERST 4225, COML 4225
An introduction to the arboreal humanities, this course examines the status of trees and forests at the intersection of ecological, aesthetic, artistic, and literary concerns. In addition to scientific texts and scholarly treatises, we will read popular accounts and literary works that examine the being of trees and forests in relation to and as conditions of possibility of human culture. Taught in English. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4230 - Literature and Constitutionalism (4 Credits)
Literary texts and written constitutions do not appear to have much in common. Yet there is a long tradition that has seen poetic and imaginative invention as crucial to social and political organization, from the mythic figures of Orpheus and Amphion whose verses could tame beasts and build cities, to the role of theater in Athenian democracy, to the epic poems that voice the authority of states and societies. As Percy Shelley wrote in A Defense of Poetry, poets are “the unacknowledged legislators of the world.” In this course, we will study works that expressly present themselves as making or constituting the polity to better understand how literature patterns out popular sovereignty and limited authority. (ENGL-PRE)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4240 - Metamorphoses in Renaissance Literature and Culture (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4242
Stories of transformation have been central to literary traditions for thousands of years, but these tales of shape-shifting took on a special life in the English Renaissance, when Ovid's Metamorphoses surged in popularity. This course will explore the fundamental connection between literary creativity and unstable identities - whether these narratives of metamorphosis show humans turning to beasts, trees, or stones, men changing into women, or inanimate objects coming to life and taking human form. Class readings draw on examples from Ovid, Shakespeare, and other Renaissance poets, as well as the re-imagining of these fantasies in modern science fiction and make-over shows. What do these stories of metamorphosis tell us about what it means to be human - or not?
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4270 - Advanced Seminar in Shakespeare (4 Credits)
The seminar focuses on Shakespeare's last plays including those known by the generic title of 'romances' - Pericles, Cymbeline, The Winter's Tale and The Tempest - as well as his collaborations - All is True (Henry VIII) and The Two Noble Kinsmen - and finally the currently much discussed 'lost play' Cardenio, which links Shakespeare in intriguing ways to that other great writer of the early modern period, Cervantes. As we study the final works of Shakespeare's career, we will consider the critical-theoretical question of lateness itself. What is a late work? What does that mean specifically in the case of Shakespeare? We will pay particular attention to dramatic form and historical context - including ways in which the plays themselves call the notion of historical context into question.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4315 - Passions and Literary Enlightenment (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4015
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4380 - Imagining Utopia (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with GERST 4380, COML 4380, FGSS 4380
Why is it easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism? At a time when reality appears dystopian, many are quick to dismiss utopian visions as naive or irresponsible. In this seminar, we take on the critical and imaginative task of considering what utopias can tell us about our pasts, presents, and possible futures. We encounter two centuries of utopias in which communes have displaced the family, mutual aid has taken the place of capitalist individualism, and sexuality is no longer linked to property rights. While these speculative times and places seek to overcome capitalism, imperialism, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and the climate crisis, they remain haunted by these figures. Our treatment of utopias in theory and literature therefore includes a range of ambivalent affects and genres, from critical and ambiguous utopias to philosophical treatises and manifestos.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4382 - Paul de Man (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4382, GERST 4382
This course studies major works from the great 20th century literary theorist Paul de Man, one of the founders of deconstruction. We will read carefully works from across his career, including broader theoretical statements and texts more closely focused on literary and philosophical texts. The Rhetoric of Temporality, Semiology and Rhetoric, The Resistance to Theory, Autobiography as De-Facement, Shelley Disfigured, Aesthetic Formalization in Kleist, Phenomenality and Materiality in Kant, and works on Rousseau, Hegel, and others. We will include poetry and relevant sections of philosophical and theoretical material as appropriate.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4405 - Oscar Wilde (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 4605, FGSS 4405
I was a man who stood in symbolic relations to the art and culture of my age, Oscar Wilde once announced in a characteristically immodest, yet accurate, appraisal of his talent. With his legendary wit, his exuberant style of perversity and paradox, and his tendency to scandal, he has come to stand in symbolic relation to our own age as well, and for some of the same reasons he was a delight and a challenge to the Victorians. We will explore his poetry, essays, plays, letters, and fiction, in the context of the Aesthetic, Decadent, and Symbolist movements of the late-nineteenth century and also in the context of current debates in literary criticism and the history of sexuality.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4450 - Literary Time-Travel: Victorian & Neo-Victorian Literature (4 Credits)
In the Victorian period (1837-1901), many genres of English-language fiction—the domestic novel, the bildungsroman, science fiction, detective fiction—attained their familiar and still flourishing forms. Neo-Victorian authors time-travel back to inhabit Victorian characters, settings, and themes. Neo-Victorian practices including reimagining a classic Victorian novel from the point of view of a marginalized character; populating Victorian settings with new protagonists with identities (working-class, queer, subaltern or minoritized) generally stigmatized or minimized in the period's literature; and adapting Victorian sources to contemporary media. Reading both Victorian and neo-Victorian fiction, we will explore what is at stake in these revisions and adaptations and what critical frameworks can help us interpret their effects. Students will have an opportunity to try their hands at their own Neo-Victorian adaptation. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4502 - African Novels: The Bildungsroman and Other Stories of Education and Development (4 Credits)
How does formal and informal education shape selves and communities in contemporary Africa? What does it mean for writers to be forced to learn the language and literature of conquerors and colonizers? What happens to local traditions and knowledge in the face of colonialism and globalization? Does migrating across borders teach you something about home? We will have time to consider just a small sample of brilliant works, but we will range as broadly across the continent as we can, including novels, short stories, music, and a few films from Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Uganda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Mozambique. You will be expected to delve deeply into one local context in your semester-long research project.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4505 - The Harlem Renaissance, 1919-1937 (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4506
This seminar explores one of the most consequential movements in African American cultural history, a movement of transnational impact. It was empowered in part by new social and institutional developments, including the Great Migration of African Americans, immigration from the Caribbean, and Pan-African contacts in Paris. It also benefited from new pluralistic theories of American culture and developments in the publishing industry centered in Manhattan. African American cultural vitality surged in the context of modern mobility and the rise of new publishing enterprises and technologies of sound reproduction. While chiefly centered on literature, the seminar will also touch on visual art, music, and performance. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4508 - From the Harlem Renaissance to New Harlem Novels (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4508
In this course, we will explore the literature and history of Harlem, beginning with an examination of James Weldon Johnson's Black Manhattan and Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts's Harlem is Nowhere. We will go on to explore selected literatures of the Harlem Renaissance by reading authors such as Nella Larsen, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston. Though the dates and even the very notion of the period itself are open to debate, the Harlem Renaissance peaked during the 1920s in the wake of the Great Migration to the urban North, and declined with the onset of the Great Depression. We will consider overlapping literary movements that shaped the Harlem Renaissance profoundly, from modernism to Negritude. This movement established important foundations for the contemporary black art scene in New York City and the development of major institutions such as the Apollo Theater, the Studio Museum of Harlem and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Because it encompassed a range of other art forms and media beyond literature, such as painting, photography, and music, we will explore the work of noted photographers of the period from Carl Van Vechten to James Van Der Zee, artists such as Aaron Douglas, William H. Johnson, Jacob Lawrence, Archibald Motley, and Palmer Hayden, and musicians such as Duke Ellington and Bessie Smith. We will read selected writings on Harlem from Malcolm X, Ralph Ellison and Chester Himes, and study the recent fictions by Mat Johnson, Colson Whitehead, Sapphire, Karla FC Holloway and A'Lelia Bundles. We will draw on a range of media and technology, including resources based at the Library of Congress such as Drop Me Off in Harlem and Guide to Harlem Renaissance Materials, along with contemporary photographic projects such as Gayatri Spivak and Alice Attie's Harlem and Harlem: A Century in Images by Deborah Willis and several co-authors.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2013, Fall 2009
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4509 - Toni Morrison's Novels (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4509, FGSS 4509, AMST 4519
In this course, we will engage in close and reflective critical readings of Toni Morrison's eleven novels. Morrison's writing style is characterized by highly distinctive strategies in the development of narrative and in the use of language. As we journey across her body of work as readers, we will examine a range of recurring themes, along with the love trilogy on which she focused her repertoire for several years. The course, through a comprehensive, chronological and focused look at Morrison's body of novels, will help students who entirely lack familiarity with it to gain a strong foundation for further research and study. By the end of the course, even students who already know Morrison's work will walk away with a deeper and more nuanced understanding of it. The course will help students to reinforce their skills in reading fiction, and more astute and exacting readers of the novel as a genre. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4511 - The Global South Novel and World Literature (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4511, ASRC 4512
The driving dialectic in post-colonial studies has been the colonizer/colonized, or the Third World vs. the West. But slowly the field is letting go of this arrested dialectic and in its place various triangulations are emerging: e.g. transnationalism, world literature, the global novel, and global south literary studies. Starting with a walk through the emerging theoretical concepts of world/global/transnational literature, we will primarily focus on a global south reading of African literature (itself a contested term), and perennial questions around language and translation. Specifically we will look at how writers such as Chimamanda Adichie, V.S. Naipul, NoViolet Bulawayo, and MG Vassanji challenge the post-colonial discourse and how a global south reading provides an uncomfortable conversation with transnational and world literature theories and concepts. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4521 - Gender, Memory, and History in Twentieth Century Fiction (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 4521, AMST 4521
This seminar will investigate the narrative uses of history and memory in US fiction, focusing particularly on the impact of gender on these representations. How do US writers use history in their fiction, and to what ends? What are the effects on drawing on received historical narratives? What challenges does the attempt to represent a historical event pose for a writer of fiction and how might the author negotiate those challenges? Is History a gendered category and, if so, would male and female and trans histories be narrated differently? We will look at the effects of constructing one's own history to fill a void in the received historical narrative, exploring the relationship between history (or History) and memory as well as the fictional representations of that relationship.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4526 - Black Feminism: Practice and Purpose (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4526
Black Feminism is an umbrella term that describes a range of social/political practices and theories that are historically rooted in and extrapolated from the embodied experiences of Black women. In this course we will investigate a variety of foundational and contemporary texts within the Black feminist intellectual archive. Questions we will consider: What makes someone or something (i.e. an action or practice) Black Feminist? What is Black Feminism?s purpose? (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SSC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, SBA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4535 - The Modern Imagination: The Major Authors (4 Credits)
This is an indispensable, probing, and pleasurable course focusing on major works of nineteenth, twentieth, and contemporary English and European literature. Readings will include works by Joyce, Woolf, Conrad, Proust, Kafka, Mann, Ferrante, Pamuk, Kundera, and W. G. Sebald. The emphasis will be on the joys of close reading of individual texts, but we shall place the authors and works within the context of literary, political, cultural, and intellectual history. We shall also be aware of critical and theoretical approaches. The course will seek to define the development of literary modernism and as well as Post-Modernism. We shall be especially interested in the relationship between modern literature and modern painting and sculpture, but no prior experience in art is required.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4556 - Decolonial Poetics and Aesthetics: Arts of Resistance in the Americas (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ARTH 4556, LSP 4556, AMST 4556, VISST 4556
Exploring a genealogy of Latinx, Afro-Latinx, Black, Indigenous, and Chicana/o/x theorizations of modernity and identity, the course asks, what is the decolonial? Is it a space between the colonial and post-colonial? Is it a creative process, an intellectual theorization, or a historical period? Is it a performance, intervention, or embodied experience? Tracing a historical trajectory of the decolonial in poetry, performance, installation, and visual art, the course examines decolonial modes of making and being from the sixteenth to the twenty first century.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4567 - Speculative East Asias (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 4567
We will examine cultural productions by East and Southeast Asians and their diasporas that imagine speculative, science fictional, magical realist, weird realist, or otherwise non-realist worlds. Paying particular attention to the legacies of militarism and empire, we will consider how imaginaries of East Asia are entangled with the U.S.-led Cold War system, the post-Cold War dominance of finance capitalism, and climate change. Tracking connections between diverse regions and peoples, we will explore how Asians and Asian diasporas dovetail in their visions of historical memory, present-day crisis, and future possibilities. These speculative worlds will prompt us to reflect on the world we live in now and the histories we have inherited. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4570 - Africa Writes Back: Colonizer and the Colonized (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4570, COML 4571
In this course, we shall be looking at the he said, she said of colonial/ anti-colonial literature. In particular we shall look at texts where European and African authors have been in direct conversation, with the hope of developing a deeper understanding of what was at stake in the colonial projects, and how both the colonizer and colonized understood colonization and resistance ? and the contradictions in inherent in each. Looking at the works of Mannoni, Fanon, Nawal El Saadawi, Micere Mugo, Chinua Achebe, Joseph Conrad, and others, we shall try to paint a picture that engages the voices and vulnerabilities of both lion and hunter. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4577 - Desbordando: Reading Caribbean Waters in Latinx Studies (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with LSP 4577, SPAN 4577, AMST 4577
As Latinx studies continues to expand beyond its nationalistic origins and re-examines its geographical bounds, nuancing the role of borders within the field becomes urgent. This course probes at the primacy of the border in Latinx studies by centering Caribbean waters. As a liquid that refuses to succumb to the violence of fragmentation and instead embodies iterations of radical wholeness, water has an innate capacity to undo borders, a quality epitomized by the Spanish verb desbordar (to overflow). Through discussion and analysis of key Latinx cultural products we will gain an appreciation for the multiple ways in which water sustains provocative contradictions across borders regarding representations of historical memory, gender and sexuality, migration, race, and religion and spirituality, among others. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4605 - Black Speculative Fiction (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4655, AMST 4603, SHUM 4605
This course takes up literatures and arts of Black speculation in the broadest terms, from science fiction and fantasy to Afrofuturism and Afropunk to Phillis Wheatley's and Outkast's poetics. We'll give special attention to speculation in African American literature to think through how Black people used art in the midst of anti-blackness to imagine worlds otherwise and for the pleasure of the craft. We'll read Black speculation through multiple forms, including novels, graphic novels, film, and music. Figures for consideration include William J. Wilson (Ethiop), Pauline Hopkins, Frances E. W. Harper, W. E. B. Du Bois, Octavia Butler, Ryan Coogler, Eve Ewing, N.K. Jemisin, Sun Ra, and Erykah Badu.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4612 - LA Stories: Literature, Film, and Music from Los Angeles (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4612, LSP 4612
This seminar will explore the extraordinary literature, music, art, and film emerging from and about Los Angeles. As a global city, Los Angeles offers a glimpse of a world in transit; one that challenges preconceptions and established forms. Paying special attention to the work of Latinx creators, but also engaging with the many communities, including Indigenous, African American, and Asian American, that make art in LA, this course will offer students a chance to study and enjoy a wide variety of creative forms while also learning about resilience, innovative resistance movements, and the complexity of collaboration. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4615 - Lovecraft Country: Blackness, Indigeneity, and Literary Racial Speculation (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4615
H. P. Lovecraft helped to create an American subgenre of horror and speculative fictions. He was also a notorious racist. Writing from New England, he imagined ancient and terrifying landscapes of racial miscegenation and madness that haunt a deeply anti-Black and anti-Indigenous settler colonialism. For Matt Ruff, a graduate of Cornell and author of the novel Lovecraft Country that is the basis for Misha Green's HBO series of the same name, antiblack racial violence provides the deep-seated horror that lurks beneath Lovecraft's stories. Using Lovecraft and the HBO series adaptation as a frame for thinking about the racialized present, we will spend the semester considering how the speculation of settler colonial horrors and fantasies is undone as each of the authors we read reanimate the centrality of race, Blackness, and Indigeneity to just and unjust visions of the past, present, and future.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4619 - Writing on Tape in the 60s, 70s, 80s: Art and Politics of the Overdub (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4619, MUSIC 4454
This class examines the centrality of audiotape to the aesthetic and political cultures of the late Cold War period. After writing On the Road in the mid-1950s, Jack Kerouac spent twenty years writing a novel that tried, in part, to emulate in literary writing the properties and capacities of tape recording. By the time Visions of Cody was finally published in 1972, audiotape had become an aesthetic medium in its own right, its capacity for editing inspiring revolutions in music, art, and writing. From its very inception, however, it was also an instrument of political communication and surveillance. With an eye to the state and another to the field of music, this class will focus on the way literary writing responded to and incorporated the new technology. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2020, Spring 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4625 - Contemporary Native American Fiction (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AIIS 4625, AMST 4627
If you haven't read contemporary U.S. American Indian fiction, then it might be fair to ask how much you know about the United States, its origins and its current condition. Since the 1960s, American Indians have been producing a significant body of award-wining novels and short stories. In 1969, for example, N. Scott Momaday, from the Kiowa nation, won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel House Made of Dawn and in 2012 Louise Erdrich, who is Anishinaabe, won the National Book Award for her novel The Round House. In between these two notable moments and since we can list an impressive number of Native storytellers whose work is aesthetically powerful, offering us a narrative of the United States that counters the official history. Centrally the course will focus on the various formal approaches Native writers take from surrealism to realism in representing the (post)colonial situation of Indian country and the ongoing resistance in Indian country to the U.S. legal and political regime.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021
Learning Outcomes:

- Identify contemporary Indigenous writer and the genders they are writing in.
- Communicate the main theme in the discussed novels that relate to contemporary and historical issues in Indigenous communities, such as land rights, child welfare, protection of Indigenous women, Indigenous governance systems, construction of racial and colonial regimes, etc.
- Analyze historical and legal trends in Indigenous-federal relations.

Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4630 - Rethinking Asian American Literature: Indigeneity, Diaspora, Settler Colonialism (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 4630, AMST 4632
What are the limits and possibilities for Asian American longing and belonging? Asian Americans have been variously understood as immigrants, refugees, forever foreigners, and model minorities. These ideas emerge from and shape US understandings of nation, empire, rights, and citizenship. Native and Indigenous studies scholars have asked how and whether immigrants-including exploited workers-are complicit with settlement and occupation. In this course we will read Asian American literary texts from the Americas through Asian American and Indigenous cultural critique to consider the overlapping dimensions of militarism, carcerality, racial capitalism, heteropatriarchy, and dispossession in order to learn what comparative and relational approaches can teach us.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4640 - Migrant Aesthetics: Contemporary Fiction on the Move (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4640, LSP 4640
Forced or chosen, migration exacts complex costs. How have writers from across the globe adopted and changed the novel -- a form associate with rise of imperialism -- to tell stories about migration and exile? How do these aesthetic challenges also dovetail with or diverge from the aesthetics of detention spaces and borders? Is there a useful aesthetic theory or creative practice for stories about migration when aesthetics have been closely tied to power? How do affective structures lean on or escape aesthetic habits to make new meaning, tell new stories that don't simply end in acculturation or assimilation? We will engage with these questions by studying novels, art, and memoirs alongside recent theories of aesthetics and affect. (ENGL-GLS, ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4675 - The Environmental Imagination in American Literature (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 4675
This course focuses on works that exemplify environmental consciousness-a sense that humans are not the center of the world and that to think they are may have catastrophic consequences for humans themselves. Environmental literature is not just a major strand of American literature but one of its most distinctive contributions to the literature of the world. We will be reading works mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries, both poetry and fiction, confronting the challenges of thinking and writing with an ecological consciousness in the 21st. Cornell being a rich environment in which to pursue such investigations, creative projects will be encouraged. Inspiration is assured. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4680 - Critical Approaches to Video Games (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 4180
This seminar will read key texts in critical video game studies to consider how race, gender, indigeneity, and sexuality shape the code and the machines that we play. In addition to critical readings by scholars in Indigenous studies, Black feminism, and video game studies including Joanne Barker, Christine Sharpe, Bo Ruberg, and, we will also read creative works by Mark Danielewski, Gabrielle Zevin, and Elissa Washuta among others to consider how books, narratives, and non-fiction essays transform in relation to video games.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4681 - James Baldwin: The Price of Witness (3 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4700 - Reading Joyce's Ulysses (4 Credits)
A thorough episode-by-episode study of one of the most influential books of the twentieth century, James Joyce's Ulysses. The emphasis will be on the joy and fun of reading this wonderful and often playful masterwork. We shall place Ulysses in the context of Joyce's writing career, Irish culture, and literary modernism. We shall explore the relationship between Ulysses and other experiments in modernism and show how Ulysses redefines the concepts of epic, hero, and reader. We shall also examine Ulysses as a political novel, including Joyce's response to Yeats and the Irish Revival; Joyce's role in the debate about the direction of Irish politics after Parnell; and Joyce's response to British colonial occupation of Ireland. No previous experience with Joyce is required. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4705 - Human-Centered Design and Engaged Media (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4281
This StudioLab course connects critical design teams with researchers, NGOs, and nonprofits working on human rights, public health, and environmental and land rights in the US and abroad. Practicing methods of transmedia knowledge, critical design thinking, and strategic storytelling, students collaborate on projects with the Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Health Access Connect (Uganda), NYS 4-H, and SOOFA Ranch (GA). Consulting on partners' ongoing projects, teams study and practice processes from IDEO's Human-Centered Design Thinking and Stanford's Design for Extreme Affordability, as well as UX, tactical media, and activist organizing developed by ACT-UP, Black Lives Matter, Guerrilla Girls, and contemporary, multi-platform campaigns, presenting and sharing their collaborations via project site and other platforms. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4706 - How to Make Queer Kin: Sustaining Bonds in LGBTQ Culture (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 4705, VISST 4705, FGSS 4705, LGBT 4705
How do queer people make family? What cultural and artistic practices sustain queer bonds? To answer these questions, this course examines queer and trans kinship narratives across a range of genres, including literature, film, television, and critical theory. We will theorize kinship's relationship to cis-heteronormativity, capitalism, white supremacy, and colonialism, and debate whether queer and trans kinships can model new political forms. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4708 - Fictions of the New World (4 Credits)
For nearly a century before the first settlers arrived in the Americas, English writers created fictions of the so-called New World. We'll begin the course by looking at these fantasies about the new world. What were their sources? How did these fictions prepare for and attempt to legitimate the colonization of the Americas? To what extent were English writers critical of colonization? Then we will consider America's own fictions: the poetry, narratives, and oral traditions that were produced by or circulated among settlers, indentured and enslaved laborers, and indigenous Americans for the hundred years or so after the first English settlements. Readings include Toni Morrison's A Mercy, More's Utopia, Shakespeare's Tempest, selections from Hakluyt, Donne, Marvell, Milton, Sagoyewatha, Canassetego, Winthrop, Williams, Bradstreet, Occam, and Wheatley.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4709 - Modeling between Numbers and Stories (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 4709, COML 4709
This course compares narrative method and statistical modeling historically, teaching the history of predictive data techniques from the 19th century to the present while reading short-form literature - Aesop, Gogol, Dickinson - to compare the stories the numbers tell to narrative itself. The intent is to illuminate the rhetorical forms that prediction uses while studying the development of its quantitative techniques.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4757 - Be a Man! Masculinity, Race, and Nation (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 4757, AMST 4757
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4765 - The Twenty-First Century Novel (4 Credits)
What innovations in form, style, genre, and subject matter have characterized the novel in the 21st century? What is the status of the novel in the wake of postmodernism, postcolonialism, poststructuralism, post-humanism, and the other posts of literary theory? Are we witnessing a blurring of theory and fiction? This course will explore a number of key developments and trends in the 21st century novel, such as the rise of genre fiction (fantasy, science fiction, the Western, the rock novel), speculative fiction, new historical realisms, comic/graphic novels, philosophical fiction, among others trends. Our writers may include Zadie Smith, Kazuo Ishiguro, J.M. Coetzee, Percival Everett, Colson Whitehead, Toni Morrison, Ali Smith, Sally Rooney, Tom McCarthy, David Mitchell, and Jennifer Egan. (ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4766 - Practicum in Performance Criticism and Dramaturgy (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 4866
The function of the theatre critic is well understood, but the role of the dramaturg remains mysterious in the American theatre. Yet theatre critics and dramaturgs use many of the same research, analytic, and writing skills, and need the same knowledge of history, literature, and culture, to perform their duties effectively. This practicum, designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate students, will allow participants to develop the skills central to these complementary professions. The course will include units on writing effective performance reviews, working with student playwrights on new script development, preparing informational materials for directors, designers and actors, writing program essays and other informational materials for audiences, script preparation for production, and selecting/preparing translations for production. While our focus will be on the theatre, students with interest in applying these skills to film/television/media or dance contexts are welcome. (PMA-HTC)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4771 - Social Media and Contemporary Literature (4 Credits)
This seminar investigates the role of social media in contemporary literary production and reception. We will understand both social media and literature broadly, examining literature about and written for social media, online communities focused on book reviewing such as BookTube and Goodreads, platforms for social reading and writing like Wattpad and AO3, and the use of social media by publishers and authors in promoting literature. We will read scholarship in media studies, reception studies, and publishing studies to understand how social media shapes the contemporary literary field and how literature shapes social media. Throughout, we will ask what it means to consider literature as a social phenomenon, foregrounding questions about its conditions of production and the people who read and respond to it online.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4780 - Truth and Media: Searching for Epistemological Certainty (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with STS 4780
This course focuses on questions both timely-How can news be fake?-and timeless-What counts as the truth? Each of our four course units will present scenes in the history of technology that complicate the answers to these questions. How, for example, has Big Data revived the idea of theological omniscience that Nietzsche pronounced dead in 1882? How did atlases and encyclopedias inform the notion of scientific objectivity in the 19th century? How has photography and film complicated the truism, I'll believe it when I see it? Focusing on these and other moments of historical certainty and doubt, we will return to contemporary debates about the role of communication technology in presenting facts (alternative or otherwise) to an informed public. We will end our course by questioning what type of hope, confidence or resistance we can find in a world without a solid epistemological foundation for truth.
Distribution Requirements: (HA-AG), (HST-AS)
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4795 - Climate Communications Capstone (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ENVS 4795
Students will build on coursework in Communicating Climate Change to design, create and launch climate communications projects focused on reducing Cornell's emissions. This will involve research into Cornell's operations, creativity in developing effective communications, a focus on climate justice, and engagement with Cornell students, faculty, and staff. Projects may include reducing air travel, fume hood energy waste, and meat consumption, and addressing misconceptions about tap water, lighting, and food waste. (ENGL-PST)
Prerequisites: ENGL 3795 or ENGL 1168 (Topic Communicating Climate Change) or permission of instructor.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, SCH-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4800 - Advanced Poetry Writing (3 Credits)
This course is intended for creative writers who have completed ENGL 3840 and wish to refine their poetry writing. It may include significant reading and discussion, explorations of form and technique, completion of writing assignments and prompts, and workshop peer review of student work. In addition to the instructor's assigned writing requirements, students may work on longer-form verse writing projects.
Prerequisites: ENGL 3840.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4801 - Advanced Narrative Writing (3 Credits)
This course is intended for narrative writing students who have completed ENGL 3820 and wish to refine their writing. It may include significant reading and discussion, explorations of form and technique, completion of writing assignments and prompts, and workshop peer review of student work. In addition to the instructor's assigned writing requirements, students may work on longer-form narrative writing projects.
Prerequisites: ENGL 3820.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4810 - Advanced Poetry Writing (4 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4811 - Advanced Narrative Writing (4 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4815 - Reading (with) Judith Butler (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4815, FGSS 4815
Judith Butler is one of today?s foremost theorists and cultural critics. Even though they are known, above all, for their work in gender studies and queer theory, their theoretical thought ranges widely. It also draws on a wide range of theoretical traditions, literary and filmic works, and political events. In this course, we will read widely from Butler?s work (from Gender Trouble to Who?s Afraid of Gender), as well as reading some of the key texts that Butler draws on. We will develop a critical understanding of Butler?s strategies for reading and writing to hone our own critical and theoretical skills. (ENGL-LOA, ENGL-PST)
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4820 - Shakespeare's Hamlet: The Seminar (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 4670
The most studied and written about work in Western Literature outside the Bible, Hamlet according to Harold Bloom, is our secular savior and our ambassador to death. This course centers on a close reading of the play. Through research and assigned readings the course tests theoretical viewpoints about the play against the text itself by reading the theory in relationship to the production history. (PMA-HTC)
Prerequisites: PMA 3750 or equivalent.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4850 - Reading for Writers (3 Credits)
Reading for Writers examines literary works through the eyes of a writer, focusing on the craft of literature. Topics vary with each section and semester and may focus on fiction, poetry, or both. Please see the class roster for a description.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4910 - Honors Seminar I (4 Credits)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4912 - Black Women's Autobiography in the 21st Century WritingHerStory (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4212, AMST 4212, FGSS 4212, SHUM 4212
Black women first began to shape the genre of autobiography during antebellum era slavery. They were prolific in developing the genre of autobiography throughout the twentieth century, to the point of emerging as serial autobiographers in the case of Maya Angelou. Significantly, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings(1970), the first autobiography of six by Angelou, along with autobiographies by a range of other black women writers, helped to launch the renaissance in black women's literature and criticism in African American literature during the 1970s. In this course, we will focus on how black women have continued to write and share their personal stories in the new millennium by examining autobiographies that they have produced in the first years of the twenty-first century. More broadly, we will consider the impact of this writing on twenty-first century African American literature, as well as African diasporan writing in Africa and the Caribbean. In the process, we will draw on a range of critical and theoretical perspectives. We will read memoirs and autobiographies by a range of figures, including Michelle Obama, Jennifer Lewis, Monica Coleman, Serena Williams, Gabrielle Union, and Tiffany Haddish, among others.
Distribution Requirements: (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4913 - August Wilson: the Cycle of Black Life (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 4113, AMST 4133
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4920 - Honors Seminar II (4 Credits)
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4930 - Honors Essay Tutorial I (4 Credits)
Students should secure a thesis advisor by the end of the junior year and should enroll in that faculty member's section of ENGL 4930. Students enrolling in the fall will automatically be enrolled in a discussion section, which will meet a few times throughout the semester and will give students a chance to get together with other honors students to discuss issues pertinent to writing a thesis. Topics will include compiling a critical bibliography and writing a prospectus. The Honors Director in English will contact students to set up the first meeting time.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: English seniors.
Exploratory Studies: (CU-UG)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4940 - Honors Essay Tutorial II (4 Credits)
This course is the second of a two-part series of courses required for students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in English. The first course in the series is ENGL 4930 Honors Essay Tutorial I.
Prerequisites: ENGL 4930.
Exploratory Studies: (CU-UG)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4948 - Pleasure and Neoliberalism (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 4948, FGSS 4948, ROMS 4948, SHUM 4948
The comparative seminar explores pleasure and its relationship with neoliberalism. We will adopt an interdisciplinary approach and a historical trajectory, starting with the Ancient world through the contemporary. Our investigation of philosophical, literary, and filmic reflections on pleasure and neoliberalism will engage important concepts such as the market, subjectivity, race, gender, and queerness. We highlight and conceptualize how new/old media, literary, and other artistic productions facilitate the expression, the search for, and the achievement of pleasure. Through public speaking and deep attention to writing, you will refine your conceptual accounts of pleasure and neoliberalism and their mutual imbrication.
Distribution Requirements: (CA-AG, D-AG), (GLC-AS, SCD-AS)
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4950 - Independent Study (1-4 Credits)
Independent reading course in topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses. Students select a topic in consultation with the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the course work.
Exploratory Studies: (CU-UG)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4961 - Race and the University (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 4550, AMST 4550, HIST 4551
What is a university, what does it do, and how does it do it? Moving out from these more general questions, this seminar will focus on a more specific set of questions concerning the place of race within the university. What kinds of knowledge are produced in the 20th- century U.S. university? Why is it, and how is it, that certain knowledge formations and disciplines come to be naturalized or privileged within the academy? How has the emergence of fields of inquiry such as Ethnic Studies (with an epistemological platform built on the articulations of race, class and gender) brought to the fore (if not brought to crisis) some of the more vexing questions that strike at the core of the idea of the university as the pre-eminent site of disinterested knowledge? This seminar will give students the opportunity to examine American higher education's (particularly its major research institutions) historical instantiation of the relations amongst knowledge, power, equality and democracy. (HIST-HNA)
Distribution Requirements: (D-AG), (SCD-AS)
Exploratory Studies: (EAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 4976 - Lyric Interventions: Illness Narratives and the Aesthetics of Repair (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 4676, FGSS 4676
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 5800 - Graduate Creative Writing Special Seminar (2 Credits)
This Graduate Creative Writing Special Seminar allows writing students to learn about craft from a visiting creative writer. Exact content will vary depending on the instructor, but all seminars will take an in-depth look at the craft of writing. For topic description, please consult the Class Roster.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) graduate students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6000 - Colloquium for Entering Students (3 Credits)
An introduction to practical and theoretical aspects of graduate English studies, conducted with the help of weekly visitors from the Literatures in English department. There will be regular short readings and brief presentations, but no formal papers. The colloquium is required for all entering PhD students; MFA students are welcome to attend any sessions that interest them.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: English graduate students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6010 - Teaching the Early English Survey (4 Credits)
This course provides graduate students an opportunity to consider how a survey course in early English literature c. 700 to c. 1700 might be created, taught, scrutinized, and critiqued. The class will use the ENGL 2010 undergraduate survey as a basis for graduate students' further weekly discussions of the principles and challenges of literary history across this long and much-ruptured span. Students will write papers, offer presentations, and discuss readings focusing on questions of this span's literary history and of teaching it.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6021 - Literary Theory on the Edge (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6159, PMA 6421
This course examines a range of exciting and provocative 20th- and 21st-century theoretical paradigms for thinking about literature, language and culture. These approaches provide differing, though often overlapping, entryways into theoretical analysis, including structuralism and post-structuralism, translation studies, Black studies, Afro-Diasporic Studies, postcolonial and decolonial studies, performance studies, media theory and cinema/media studies, the digital humanities, psychoanalysis and trauma theory, gender studies and queer studies, studies of the Anthropocene/environmental studies, and animal studies. Occasional invited guests, lectures and class discussions will provide students with a facility for close textual analysis, a knowledge of major currents of thought in the humanities, and an appreciation for the uniqueness and complexity of language and media.
Exploratory Studies: (SAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6050 - Archives and Artifacts (1 Credit)
Taught by curators and archivists in Cornell Library's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, this seminar provides an introduction to the analysis of books and unique archival documents as physical objects. Students will work hands-on with rare materials in the Carl A. Kroch Library to learn the skills necessary to pursue original research dependent upon locating and studying primary sources such as rare books, archival collections, photographs, and other unique artifacts. Topics covered will include descriptive bibliography and the analysis of books (their manufacture, distribution, and audiences), an introduction to archival arrangement and description, and how to navigate institutional repositories of rare materials. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss strategies and methods for locating materials related to their own projects or areas of study.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6110 - Old English (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 6110
English has a recorded history longer and more variable than any other language, including poetry and prose as skillful as writings in any period. While learning the language (especially in the first half of the course) we will investigate writings that exploit the language's powers and complexities from the earliest pieces into early Middle English, when the language and its literary traditions disintegrated and began being reinvented at the Norman Conquest. We will also sample (in translation) Latin, Old Saxon, and Old Norse materials that fed the multilingual and multicultural world in which early English developed.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6116 - Inventing Women in the Middle Ages (3 Credits)
How was the category "woman" constituted in the Middle Ages? Not assuming that women were the same then as now, this course, in dialogue with contemporary trans and genderqueer theory, will look at medieval gender in a new light. Considering works by women, like the Book of Margery Kempe, some primary texts about women, like the trial of Joan of Arc, and some scholarship about alternatives to the binary of women and men, like Leah DeVun's The Shape of Sex: Nonbinary Gender from Genesis to the Renaissance, this course will examine "woman" as a constructed category and "The Middle Ages" as one instance of the long work of making involved in issuing women into the common-sense category that they now occupy.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6120 - Beowulf (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 6120
Beowulf has received renewed attention in popular culture, thanks to the production of recent movies and riveting new translations. The poem's popular appeal lies in its complex depictions of monsters, its accounts of heroic bravery, and its lavish portrayals of life in the Meadhall. Through close readings we will also explore the darker side of the poem: its punishing depictions of loss and exile, despairing meditations on unstable kingship and dynastic failure, and harrowing depictions of heroic defeat and the vanities of existence on the Middle-Earth. Attention will be given to the poem's cultural contexts, its literary heritage, and its layered pagan and Christian perspectives. A bilingual edition of the poem will be assigned so that students may read in Old and Modern English.
Prerequisites: Recommended prerequisite: one semester's study of Old English, or the equivalent.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6133 - From the Conquest to Caxton: Middle English Language, Literatures, History (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with LING 6220
This seminar will explore the English language and its literatures in its most diverse centuries, which 19th century philologists saw as the middle span: after the collapse of Old English language, poetic style, and indigenous power-centers at the Norman Conquest (1066), up to printing (1476), the beginnings of standard Modern English, claims to an English literary tradition, and the origins of Atlantic adventurism and imperialism. Between those benchmarks we'll consider multilingualism, English linguistic diversity and changes, social identity, literary forms, and ideas about language and literature, sampling many Middle English works and more fully reading the Katherine Group, Gawain-poet, Piers Plowman, and Julian of Norwich's Showings.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6140 - Love and Ecstasy: Forms of Devotion in the Middle Ages (3 Credits)
What do love, torture, and ecstasy all have in common? How could they all be considered spiritual experiences? The thirteenth century brought a new and intense focus on the body of Christ, bloodied, wounded, and tortured. Female and male mystics began to describe Jesus as a lord, lover, and even mother in most intimate—and even sexual—terms. Guides for meditation, memory work, and holy living focused on bodily practices for approaching the divine and replicating the suffering of Christ. In this course we will explore a range of literary texts and artistic representations that illuminate this religious and aesthetic ethos. Readings will be in modern and medieval English, and will also include contemporary theoretical texts.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6155 - Theory and Analysis of Narrative (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6793
How do narratives work? What kinds of social functions do stories perform? And how can the theory and analysis of narrative help us to grasp and shape power relations? The course will introduce the history of classical narrative theory, from Aristotle and Lessing to Todorov and Genette, but it will focus especially on new trends in queer, critical race, and feminist narrative theory, and on the uses of narrative form across disciplines and social spaces. You will be expected to write a few short responses to the readings, practice giving a formal conference-style oral presentation, and write a final essay based on the conference paper.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2019, Fall 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6171 - The Archaeology of the Text from Chaucer through the Renaissance (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 6170
This seminar explores the relation between book history and literary history during the span from medieval English manuscript culture through Renaissance print culture, with invitations to apply these concerns to any period and language. Skills taught are both theoretical and practical, focusing on manuscripts, old handwriting, literacy, printers, and issues linking material and social book-making to literary topics and forms. As a class, we will focus on the pivotal period of English literature from Chaucer to Shakespeare, but individual final editorial projects can take up any period or language. All students will learn to exploit chance archival discoveries, to write biographies of an early printer, and to use and create an edition.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2018, Spring 2012, Fall 2008
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6190 - Chaucer (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 6190
Chaucer became known as the father of English poetry before he was entirely cold in his grave. Why is what he wrote more than six hundred years ago still riveting for us today? It's not only because he was the model for a number of key literary forms and features, or because he opened projects that invited participation and imitation. It's also because what he wrote was funny, fierce, thoughtful, political, philosophical, scientific, and notoriously bawdy. We'll read some of Chaucer's early work against a few of his own models, then dig into his two greatest achievements: Troilus and Crisyede and The Canterbury Tales. We'll learn to read Chaucer's Middle English, which will prove surprisingly easy and rewarding.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2018, Spring 2010
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6191 - Images, Idolatry and Iconoclasm: Late Medieval to Early Modern (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 6191
Fear of idolatry is a recurrent feature of Western culture. The Christian image threatens to short-circuit the flow of spirituality between humans and God, just as images of the ancient, pagan gods threaten dangerously to preserve the energies of those lascivious and vengeful deities. And images, whether secular or religious, are always potentially threatening to literate culture: they compete with words, and seem to possess a much more immediate power to mesmerize the imagination. The Protestant Reformation in particular targeted images as the enemy to a true religion of the Word. Legislation in England determined the wholesale destruction of religious images (iconoclasm) between 1538 and 1644. On the other hand, many writers and artists, both secular and religious, look to the image for salvation of sorts. Guided by these perceptions, we will be looking to a range of pre- and post-Reformation texts and contexts. The course will be equally divided between late medieval and early modern texts. Students without Middle English should feel entirely at ease to take this course: all texts will be presented in reader-friendly editions.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6207 - Black Feminist Theories: Sexuality, Creativity, and Power (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 6207, COML 6465, FGSS 6207
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2011
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6221 - Postcolonial Theory: Then and Now (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6221
All decolonization, wrote Frantz Fanon, is successful at the level of description. With a focus on the difference between description and critique and on the uneven relation between the academic project underlying the subfield of postcolonial studies and histories of colonialism and aspirations to decolonization across the twentieth century, this seminar will offer a retrospective survey on the assemblage of texts that has come under the name Postcolonial Theory and inquire into its purchase on this present with particular emphasis on questions of indigeneity and environmental crisis. Authors may include: Edward Said, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Homi Bhabha, Frantz Fanon, Amilcar Cabral, Aime Cesaire, Edouard Glissant, Achille Mbembe, Sylvia Wynter, David Scott, Leela Gandhi, Marlene Nourbese Philip, Jason Moore, Glenn Coulthard, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Rob Nixon.
Exploratory Studies: (SAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6230 - Literature and Constitutionalism (3 Credits)
Literary texts and written constitutions do not appear to have much in common. Yet there is a long tradition that has seen poetic and imaginative invention as crucial to social and political organization, from the mythic figures of Orpheus and Amphion whose verses could tame beasts and build cities, to the role of theater in Athenian democracy, to the epic poems that voice the authority of states and societies. As Percy Shelley wrote in A Defense of Poetry, poets are "the unacknowledged legislators of the world." In this course, we will study works that expressly present themselves as making or constituting the polity to better understand how literature patterns out popular sovereignty and limited authority.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6235 - Making Use of Renaissance Literature (3 Credits)
English Renaissance poetry boasted a classically inspired commitment to pleasure and profit, but a cognate concern with utility and experience permeated both literature the vernacular technologies of everyday life. This course considers the ubiquity of how-to writing in early modern England, as such imperatives shaped both lived experience and cultural production. Readings draw from prose and poetic genres (including essay, dialogue, and pamphlet; and lyric, didactic and devotional verse) and cover practical and impractical advice on conduct, the passions, and technologies of everyday life, including recipes, letters, hygiene, and diet. We will weigh the virtues of a range of historical and theoretical approaches to these questions, including new historicism, psychoanalysis, theories of racialization and embodiment, the sociology of manners, feminist criticism, and biopolitics and governmentality.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6240 - Oecology: Bodies and Environments before the Modern (3 Credits)
This course explores the deep prehistory of the "global weirding" that some environmental critics have attributed to the present moment – looking at the strange and often unexpected versions of living together offered by early modern English literature, and captured in the idea of the oikos, in its Greek sense of "dwelling", and its modern successors (like "ecology.") We will discuss how various literary forms (including drama, poetry, and a range of prose genres) imagine the interactions between human, animal, plant and other bodies and their environments - - interactions marked by dependency, influence, contagion, harm, and (sometimes) pleasure. Units on environmental genres (including georgic and pastoral), embodiment and medicine (especially in the Hippocratic tradition of airs, waters, and places), weather, disaster, and contagion.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6261 - Forms-of-Life: Power and Thought in Early Modern Drama (3 Credits)
At least since Samuel Johnson's 1778 Preface to Hamlet, if not before, Shakespeare's drama has been understood to "exhibit various forms of life." The "weary," "dear," "singular," "peculiar," and "calamitous" life staged in Hamlet is, in turn, often linked to the play's own dramatic form of tragedy, or what Shakespeare called "Tragical Historie." Implicit to this history is the long standing problem of the relationship between "life" and – especially dramatic – form. While the problem of "forms of life" has long been an object of philosophical investigation, from Hamann, Herder, Hegel, and von Humboldt, through, in different ways, Husserl and Wittgenstein, recent work differs from this tradition by turning from epistemological, ontological, or logical considerations, toward the question of "life" understood as a bio-political, theo-political, aesthetic and/or technological production. If, for Wittgenstein, the problem of life forms was a question of language ("to imagine a language means to imagine a life-form" [Philosophical Investigations, para. 19]), for Giorgio Agamben[1] a form-of-life is "a life that can never be separated from its form [and] a life of power." In response to renewed interest in philosophical criticism on the question of the human or even the "post-human," the purpose of the seminar is to explore the relationship between conceptualized and un-conceptualized forms of life as these are imagined in sixteenth and seventeenth century literature and drama.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6271 - Critical Problems in Shakespeare Studies: Political Theology (4 Credits)
The seminar focuses on one of the most complex and pressing problems of our time: political theology. Political theology articulates the link between faith and reason in an attempt to ground political community in a language of legitimacy. First articulated in classical antiquity by Marcus Varro in Rome and later by Augustine, political theology is a way of naming and understanding the complex problem of authority. As distinct from religion, political theology is an (ongoing) social, political and cultural discourse of power over people's real lives. Whether (in modern terms) that governmental power has to do with abortion or gay marriage, political theological arguments always need to harness and synthesize these two sources. Early modern literature plays a crucial rule in this history of articulations.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6273 - Sovereignty II: Literature and the Problem of Political Theology (3 Credits)
The seminar focuses on one of the most complex and pressing problems of (not only) our time: political theology. Historically defined in different ways, political theology is a critical discourse that links sacred and secular sources of authority – faith, and reason – in order to ground community in a language of legitimacy. Variously articulated in antiquity by Marcus Varro and others and crucially reformulated by Augustine in City of God, political theology identifies the sources of authority, describes their relation to each other, and explores their worldly administration and organization. Its analysis leads directly to political institutions, cultural practices, societal behaviors, beliefs and economic structures. Distinct from other forms of theology or political philosophy, political theology attempts to relate, narrate and/or translate language about God or the gods into the exercise of power and the "organization of bodies in space and time" (Cavanaugh and Scott). Whether in reference to the power over life or the afterlife of the soul, the body, the law, the nation or the planet, theo-political discourse performs in historical and conceptual ways, harnessing, synthesizing and legitimizing authority for its purposes. Figuration, narration, and scenic presentation are all key to this performance. We will read theoretical and literary texts that analyze this performance from different perspectives. Related topics include sovereignty, secularization, enmity, exception, sacrifice, race, translation, biopolitics, eschatology, economy, conversion, embodiment and metaphor.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6295 - Early Lyric in Transition (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 6295
The term lyric is uncommon before the sixteenth century, but the songs and short, non-narrative poetry that evidently constitute those traditions reach back to the beginnings of written literature. Theory of the lyric is a contested field, with much at stake in how poetry should be assessed and appreciated. Beginning with ancient and early medieval traditions, the seminar will focus on the star-studded period from the early fourteenth through the early seventeenth century, particularly Petrarch, Machaut, Chaucer, Gower, Hoccleve, Lydgate, Skelton, Sidney, Spencer, and Shakespeare. It will seek to explore their poems within literary exchanges as well as cultural history, from economics to media to colonialism to changes in the English language.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6330 - Animals, Affect, and Climate: The Counterhuman Imaginary (3 Credits)
This course juxtaposes core strains of current posthumanist theory-new materialism or thing theory, the affective turn, ecocriticism or environmental humanities, and literary animal studies. Using eighteenth-century literature, culture, and intellectual discourse as a starting point and then sampling related materials in the Anglo-American tradition from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, we will define these theoretical scenarios, and evaluate the broader impact of approaches to the other-than-human in literary theory and in formal critique. Texts (and selections): Newton, Opticks; Defoe, Robinson Crusoe; Hume, Treatise of Human Nature; Voltaire, Candide; Auster, Timbuktu; Heise, Imagining Extinction; Kohn, How Forests Think; Braidotti, The Posthuman.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6350 - Precolonial and Postcolonial English Vernacularity (4 Credits)
This course considers the idea of the vernacular in pre-modern England, early modern Europe, and post-colonial Africa by sampling two long historical trajectories before and after the British empire, converging on Paul Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. One samples medieval and Renaissance writings in English in relation to its institutions up to Bunyan's dissenting work, the other the aesthetic and linguistic journey Bunyan's work later undertook in England and the British colonies in Africa. What happens to vernacularity in both spans? What aesthetics emerge from the clash between standardized and 'vulgar' 'Englishes' and African languages? Around Bunyan we will sample medieval chronicles, lyrics, Piers Plowman, Things Fall Apart, and other narratives and poetry from post-colonial Africa to pursue the relationships between language, identity, aesthetics, and power.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6382 - Paul de Man (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6382, GERST 6382
This course studies major works from the great 20th century literary theorist Paul de Man, one of the founders of deconstruction. We will read carefully works from across his career, including broader theoretical statements and texts more closely focused on literary and philosophical texts. The Rhetoric of Temporality, Semiology and Rhetoric, The Resistance to Theory, Autobiography as De-Facement, Shelley Disfigured, Aesthetic Formalization in Kleist, Phenomenality and Materiality in Kant, and works on Rousseau, Hegel, and others. We will include poetry and relevant sections of philosophical and theoretical material as appropriate.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6400 - Thinking Media Studies (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 6400, MUSIC 6400, GERST 6405, ANTHR 6400, COML 6405, STS 6400, ASIAN 6400
This required seminar for the new graduate minor in media studies considers media from a wide number of perspectives, ranging from the methods of cinema and television studies to those of music, information science, communication, science and technology studies, and beyond. Historical and theoretical approaches to media are intertwined with meta-critical reflections on media studies as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry. Close attention will be paid to media's role in shaping and being shaped by race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and other politically constructed categories of identity and sociality.
Exploratory Studies: (EAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6410 - Women Writers in North America, 1830-1930 (3 Credits)
Not quite a survey, this course investigates several terms that its title might obscure. Drawing on theoretical constructions of gender, genre, race, and history, the course considers the historical conditions for women writers as they produce works under conditions of necessity, pleasure, politics, and polemical insistence. We will read poetry, short stories, letters, and novels. Authors will include Harriet Prescott Spofford, Harriet Wilson, Harriet Jacobs, and Harriet Beecher Stowe as well as Emily Dickinson, Alice and Phoebe Cary, Sui Sin Far, Sarah Winnemucca, Maria Ruiz de Burton, Edith Wharton, Nella Larsen, and Zora Neale Hurston.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6420 - Heart and Science: Forms of Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century (3 Credits)
C. P. Snow influentially argued in 1959 that a rift of methods and values divides scientists from literary intellectuals. But it didn't always look that way. In this course, we will trace the mutual influences of science and literature in the nineteenth century. What kinds of knowledge does Romantic and Victorian literature make? Attending to representations of small scales of interiority as well as vast living systems, we will consider when and how novels and poems enfold the knowledge practices of ethics, biology, sociology, psychology, and philosophy. We will also evaluate the consequences of recent accounts of the novel as information, and of critical efforts to forge methods for interdisciplinary scholarship.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: graduate and professional students.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6440 - Feminist Pedagogy: What, Why, and How (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6610, FGSS 6441
This seminar will explore the both the intellectual grounding of and the nuts and bolts of feminist pedagogy. In what context did feminist pedagogy emerge and why? How have its practitioners variously defined it? What goals in teaching have they pursued? How might this work be useful to you as a teacher beginning or honing your teaching? Both theoretical and practical questions like these will be our subject.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6450 - Literary Time-Travel: Victorian & Neo-Victorian Literature (3 Credits)
In the Victorian period (1837-1901), many genres of English-language fiction—the domestic novel, the bildungsroman, science fiction, detective fiction—attained their familiar and still flourishing forms. Neo-Victorian authors time-travel back to inhabit Victorian characters, settings, and themes. Neo-Victorian practices including reimagining a classic Victorian novel from the point of view of a marginalized character; populating Victorian settings with new protagonists with identities (working-class, queer, subaltern or minoritized) generally stigmatized or minimized in the period's literature; and adapting Victorian sources to contemporary media. Reading both Victorian and neo-Victorian fiction, we will explore what is at stake in these revisions and adaptations and what critical frameworks can help us interpret their effects. Students will have an opportunity to try their hands at their own Neo-Victorian adaptation.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6460 - Studies in Victorian Literature: Reading Feeling (3 Credits)
From rich paradigms of sympathy and sentiment adapted from the eighteenth century to newer theories of unconsciousness and crowd psychology, Victorian literature reflects shifting conceptions of feeling. This course examines how psychological claims ground the forms and experiences of reading in the Victorian period, as well as the recent theoretical turn to affect, which emerged in particular rejoinder to critical trends in Victorian studies. What evidence is there that emotions are experienced, discussed, or represented in historically and culturally specific ways? How does the work of feeling register in literary form? Readings will include novels (Bronte, Dickens, Eliot, Hardy, Schreiner); narrative poems (Barrett Browning, Tennyson, Meredith); contemporary prose; and theoretical engagements with affect (Armstrong, Felski, Deleuze, Sedgwick, Ngai, Berlant, recent debates in Critical Inquiry).
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2013
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6485 - The Rise of the African Novel: Politics of Language (3 Credits)
We shall look at early South African and African-language literature of the late 1880s through the early 1940s in relation to the literature of decolonization that spanned the 1950s through the 1980s, and the contemporary generation of established and emerging continental and diaspora African writers of international renown. Some of the questions around the misreading of African literature will include: Why did Chinua Achebe's generation privilege African literature in English despite the early South African example? What are the costs of locating the start of Africa's literary tradition in the wrong literary and historical period? What does it mean for the current generation of writers and scholars of African literature not to have an imaginative consciousness of their literary past?
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6491 - Radical Global Blackness Looking Back at our Present Times through Literature (3 Credits)
In this course we shall look at the ways black people across countries and continents developed networks of resistance, the promises and contradictions and what that means for our world today. Using thinkers and writers such as Richard Wright, Maya Angelou, Nicolás Guillén, Frantz Fanon, Assata Shakur, Shirley DuBois, Edouard Glissant, we shall map out the ways in which black people (very broadly defined) and their allies (also broadly defined) challenged and changed the meaning of freedom. Key themes will be intersectional versus interconnectedness, creolization versus hybridity, black consciousness vs black power. We shall look at BLM in the US and BLM in South Africa and Nigeria as way to use those networks of resistance to speak to our times.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6510 - 20th Century Women Writers and Artists (3 Credits)
Women writers and artists in the twentieth-century Americas invite both a chronological and a thematic focus. Often visual culture shows food and water as elements of ingestion and forced incorporation. In literature, many narrators emphasize scenes of eating and refusing to eat. And both literature and art produced during the 20th century emphasize the relation of blood to concepts of race and nation. In addition to looking at food and sexuality in visual representations of and by women, we will read critical selections on the topic. The class will include visits to the Johnson Museum. Texts will feature Edwidge Danticat, Oonya Kempadoo, Jamaica Kincaid, Maxine Hong Kingston, Toni Morrison. Artists include Renee Cox, Shirin Neshat, Cindy Sherman, and Kara Walker.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6513 - Toni Morrison's Novels (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 6513, FGSS 6513, AMST 6513
In this course, we will engage in close and reflective critical readings of Toni Morrison's eleven novels. Morrison's writing style is characterized by highly distinctive strategies in the development of narrative and in the use of language. As we journey across her body of work as readers, we will examine a range of recurring themes, along with the love trilogy on which she focused her repertoire for several years. The course, through a comprehensive, chronological and focused look at Morrison's body of novels, will help students who entirely lack familiarity with it to gain a strong foundation for further research and study. By the end of the course, even students who already know Morrison's work will walk away with a deeper and more nuanced understanding of it. The course will help students to reinforce their skills in reading fiction, and more astute and exacting readers of the novel as a genre.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6515 - The Harlem Renaissance, 1919-1937 (3 Credits)
This seminar explores one of the most consequential movements in African American cultural history, a movement of transnational impact. It was empowered in part by new social and institutional developments, including the Great Migration of African Americans, immigration from the Caribbean, and Pan-African contacts in Paris. It also benefited from new pluralistic theories of American culture and developments in the publishing industry centered in Manhattan. African American cultural vitality surged in the context of modern mobility and the rise of new publishing enterprises and technologies of sound reproduction. While chiefly centered on literature, the seminar will also touch on visual art, music, and performance.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6516 - Songs of Experiment: Disruptions of Lyricism in Contemporary Anglophone Black Poetry (4 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6525 - Modernism, Media, and Mediation (3 Credits)
What was the position of literary writing among the new media technologies that emerged in the first half of the twentieth century? How did modernist writers respond to a social and political situation in which access to media and information was at once widely distributed, and consolidated by corporations and the state? This class pursues continuities between past and present, against today's claims of heroically disruptive innovation and new crises for literature. Ths course will engage key media theorists in the context of extended analyses of two major 20th-century works - James Joyce's Ulysses and Langston Hughes's Ask Your Mama - among other key intertexts of the period.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2018, Spring 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6551 - Decadence and the Modern Novel (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6551, FGSS 6551
As Théophile Gautier said of Decadent aesthetics, “It is an ingenious, complex, learned style, full of shades and refinements of meaning, ever extending the bounds of language, borrowing from every technical vocabulary, taking colors from every palette and notes from every keyboard; a style that endeavors to express the most inexpressible thoughts, the vaguest and most fleeting contours of form, that listens, with a view to rendering them, to the subtle confidences of neurosis, to the confessions of aging lust turning into depravity, and to the odd hallucinations of fixed ideas passing into mania.” "Decadent" is an enduring term of political abuse, but also defines a canonical aesthetic movement ironically fascinated throughout the past two centuries with the style of empires in decline, including ours.
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2020, Spring 2010
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6554 - Modernist Fiction and the Erotics of Style (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 6554, LGBT 6445
I am interested in language because it wounds or seduces me, the critic Roland Barthes once wrote. How do we take pleasure in a text, even when it appears to betray us? How do we speak of the erotics of style beyond the mere thematic interpretation of sexual representation? Has such an erotics even been written yet? To explore a methodology for contemplating this elusive embrace between the aesthetic and the erotic, we will consider influential works of psychoanalytic, deconstructive, feminist, and queer theory alongside a survey of great modernist novelists whose innovative experiments in prose style have proved most sensual and most challenging, among them Oscar Wilde, Henry James, Gertrude Stein, D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Ronald Firbank, and Djuna Barnes.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2019
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6560 - Politics and Joy in Black Women's Writing (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 6561
This course will look at how Black women writers negotiated enslavement, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow era segregation while also managing to find avenues of joy, escapism, and a certain kind of freedom through art-making. In addition to reading primary texts by Phillis Wheatley, Hannah Bond, Jessie Redmon Fauset, and others we will also look at critical and theoretical work by Hortense Spillers, Saidiyah Hartman, Barbara Fields, and Karen Fields.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6565 - Decolonial Poetics and Aesthetics: Arts of Resistance in the Americas (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ARTH 6556, LSP 6565, VISST 6556
Exploring a genealogy of Latinx, Afro-Latinx, Black, Indigenous, and Chicana/o/x theorizations of modernity and identity, the course asks, what is the decolonial? Is it a space between the colonial and post-colonial? Is it a creative process, an intellectual theorization, or a historical period? Is it a performance, intervention, or embodied experience? Tracing a historical trajectory of the decolonial in poetry, performance, installation, and visual art, the course examines decolonial modes of making and being from the sixteenth to the twenty first century.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2017
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6575 - Anti-Liberalisms (3 Credits)
Critiques of liberalism have been central not only to leftist or radical visions of politics but also to critical theory (whether in literary studies, law, or political theory). Yet opposition to liberalism has also fueled a rightwing or reactionary politics-and in ways increasingly operative today. This Seminar examines the common ground connecting-and points of divergence between-left and right anti-liberalisms over history and into the present. Readings will investigate the frequents components of anti-liberal critique (whether targeted at capitalism, legal positivism, the state, or individualism); recurring alternatives to liberalism (Romanticism, communitarianism, vitalism); and various shared intellectual touchstones (Schmitt, Marcuse, Nietzsche, Marx). What are the guises of anti-liberalism today, and to what extent does such thinking unite both ends of the political spectrum?
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6600 - Erotics of Visuality (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 6610, COML 6601, PMA 6670, LGBT 6600
You didn't see anything, a woman in a movie says to her dubious lover. No one sees anything. Ever. They watch, but they don't understand. What is desire in a movie, and how do we know it when we see it or feel it? How do the images, sounds, and narratives of a cinematic event engage us erotically? How might we want to revise classic psychoanalytic, feminist, and queer theories of desire and cinema in light of the changing art of the moving image in the 21st century? We will focus especially on metacinematic work by Pedro Almod?, Olivier Assayas, Todd Haynes, David Lynch, Michael Haneke, Steve McQueen, and John Cameron Mitchell, among others.
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2016, Fall 2013, Spring 2009
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6602 - The Culture and Theory of Women of Color Feminisms (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 6602
This course examines women of color feminist cultural production in North America from the 1970s to the present. We will focus on ways that women of color feminisms arose from and posed serious interventions to both second-wave feminism and nationalist movements through an intersectional analysis of race, class, gender, and sexuality. How do creative forms allow us to address women of color onto-epistemologies, including the modalities of what Cherrie Moraga names theory of the flesh, and what Barbara Christian conceptualizes as narrative theorizing? We will read original texts from women of color feminist movements alongside contemporary literature to consider women of color feminisms' enduring impact on social change organizing and fields of study, including Black Lives Matter, queer of color critique, and critical disability studies.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6619 - Writing on Tape in the 60s, 70s, 80s: Art and Politics of the Overdub (3 Credits)
This class examines the centrality of audiotape to the aesthetic and political cultures of the late Cold War period. After writing On the Road in the mid-1950s, Jack Kerouac spent twenty years writing a novel that tried, in part, to emulate in literary writing the properties and capacities of tape recording. By the time Visions of Cody was finally published in 1972, audiotape had become an aesthetic medium in its own right, its capacity for editing inspiring revolutions in music, art, and writing. From its very inception, however, it was also an instrument of political communication and surveillance. With an eye to the state and another to the field of music, this class will focus on the way literary writing responded to and incorporated the new technology.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6623 - Natures of U.S. Empire (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 6623
What is the relationship between nature and empire? While the concept of the Anthropocene (the geological epoch of human-driven planetary change) has highlighted the entanglements between “human” and “natural” history, many scholars have critiqued its universalizing turn. This course asks how U.S. imperialism – as a primary motor of the capitalist and imperialist world system – constructs and operationalizes ideas of nature, natural history, natural resources, and the like. This course also asks how individuals and groups in the imperial cores and peripheries use ideas of nature to critique and resist U.S. imperialism. We will read scholarship from various disciplines (e.g. Kohout, Megan Black, Paulette Steeves, DeLoughrey, Liboiron, Marzec, Crawford) and engage with cultural productions like fiction, film, and poetry (e.g. by Asturias, Karen Tei Yamashita, Imbolo Mbue).
Exploratory Studies: (EAAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6630 - Asian American Theory and Literature (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 6630
This graduate seminar focuses on Asian American studies through the dual lenses of theory and literature. Asian American literature provides a consideration of and reflection on Asian American subjectivities and bodies, collectively and differentially raced, gendered, and sexualized, which condition discourses and politics of American nation, empire, and sociality. The course is structured around pairings of texts, academic and literary, to enhance our own scholarly engagement with Asian American fiction and poetry. There is an additional focus on recently published scholarship and current concerns in Asian American studies, such as comparative and critical ethnic studies as well as queer studies.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6631 - American Poetry, 1950-2000 (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 6631
This course will explore postwar US poetry through the lens of what might be called micro-periodization. Taking the decade as a privileged frame of reference, we'll ask what recognizable shifts in style, institutional placement, and cultural value occur as we move from the 50s to the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. These temporal modulations will serve as an alternative to the spatial demarcations that have typically shaped accounts of postwar poetry—e.g., by region, school, movement, etc. We'll consider, for example, how the loosely paratactic style that emerges in the 50s (Ginsberg, Lowell, Bishop) gives way in the 60s to a starker lyric mode that blends epiphany and epigram (Merwin, Wright, Creeley), yielding in turn to a more discursive style in the 70s (Ammons, Ashbery, Rich).
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6632 - Modern American Poetry, 1910-1950 (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AMST 6632
The first half of the 20th century saw an unprecedented wave of poetic innovation, much of it produced by American poets living both in the United States and abroad. This course will explore crucial texts and movements that range widely in their aesthetic and formal orientations, but that share in the expansive and experimental spirit of modernism. We'll consider key volumes by Robert Frost, Gertrude Stein, T. S. Eliot, Marianne Moore, William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, Hart Crane, and Langston Hughes, as well as major poetic sequences produced in the shadow of World War II. We'll also attend to varying modes of poetic circulation, including periodicals, small presses, and radio. Our primary focus will be on individual poems and their powers to illuminate our lives.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2010
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6633 - Q and A: Asian American Gender and Sexuality (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with AAS 6633, FGSS 6633
This graduate seminar examines Asian American racialization, gender, and sexuality. Q & A marks several meanings, the first being the intersectional subjectivity of Queer and Asian. Q & A also signals the questions and answers that emanate from queer and Asian considerations. How might we view queer and Asian within multiply entangled intellectual genealogies, political formations, and relational socialities? Where is the queer within Asian American studies, and what horizon of possibilities is afforded by a queering of Asian American studies? Conversely, how does Asian racialization complicate queer studies, particularly in engagement with or in addition to queer of color critique? Beyond, how might we locate queer Asian influences in fields of study including disability studies, performance studies, and environmental studies?
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6635 - Literature of the Civil War (3 Credits)
The works we will read this term imagine and embody a nation's survival when it faces war within its own boundaries. With a primary focus on poetry and novels, we will also look at photographs, political cartoons, recruitment posters, and trading cards-items that give a visual resonance to the iconography of national violence. Asking about gendered and racialized embodiments associated with the national project on both sides of the conflict, we will want to find out how gender, race, and nation are written into 19th-century North America.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2019, Fall 2016
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6640 - Migrant Aesthetics: Contemporary Fiction on the Move (3 Credits)
Forced or chosen, migration exacts complex costs. How have writers from across the globe adopted and changed the novel -- a form associate with rise of imperialism -- to tell stories about migration and exile? How do these aesthetic challenges also dovetail with or diverge from the aesthetics of detention spaces and borders? Is there a useful aesthetic theory or creative practice for stories about migration when aesthetics have been closely tied to power? How do affective structures lean on or escape aesthetic habits to make new meaning, tell new stories that don't simply end in acculturation or assimilation? We will engage with these questions by studying novels, art, and memoirs alongside recent theories of aesthetics and affect.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6642 - New Directions in Black Cultural Criticism: Concepts and Methods (3 Credits)
In this course we will investigate texts that challenge us to conceptualize formations of power and domination as well as formations of resistance as subversion. We will operationalize foundational and more recent texts in Black Cultural Criticism to guide our investigations. In doing so, students will learn the conceptual and methodological strategies scholars have used to formulate their research and writing processes. Students will also be challenged with developing and articulating their own concepts and methodological approaches to research questions they devise and refine throughout the semester.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6644 - Troubling Ecology (4 Credits)
Questions of sustainability, ecology, and environmental justice have begun to garner much attention within the field of Black literary studies. This course investigates the various ways that notions of blackness, indigeneity, gender formation, and ecology converge. Throughout the semester we will effectively trouble ecology by critically examining the categories of race, gender, nature, place, and technology within a contemporary catalog of texts that we might call Black Ecoliterature. Central questions guiding the course include How do our notions of race, gender, and indigeneity inform our ideas of ecology? and In what ways does centering blackness and/ or black subjects shift our extant understandings of environmentalism?
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6663 - Latinx Field Formations and The Politics of Transformative Study (3 Credits)
How do social justice and decolonial movements transform our habits of study and our systems of valuation? This course will examine the emergence of Latinx Studies as a field, paying careful attention to the creative arts (theater, literature, dance, film, art, music) in tension with the challenges emerging alongside social movements including school desegregation, environmental justice, anticarceral, immigrant and voting rights struggles. Not only will our work consider how performative practices have been central to such struggles, but we will also examine how the study of these practices became a discipline in the academy (just as they were disciplined by it). We will study major literary texts as well as other creative forms to understand how a sutured Latinidad emerged.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6680 - The Settler Colonial Turn (4 Credits)
Settler colonialism now circulates as a critical orientation across a range of disciplines as it reorients how we understand arrival and dispersal, possession and dispossession in the global north and south. It is also often presumed synonymous with Indigenous studies. This class will consider how Indigenous studies and settler colonial studies differ as we read texts and case studies that offer intersectional analyses of settler colonial studies as it has developed through postcolonial studies. Readings will draw from and be situated through interventions from global Indigenous studies, Black studies, queer studies, and feminist studies as they shape the political, historical, and contemporary understandings of race, land, capitalism, and nation within the United States and Canada in particular, with attention given to other geographies as well.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6700 - Reading Joyce's Ulysses (3 Credits)
A thorough episode-by-episode study of one of the most influential books of the twentieth century, James Joyce's Ulysses. The emphasis will be on the joy and fun of reading this wonderful and often playful masterwork. We shall place Ulysses in the context of Joyce's writing career, Irish culture, and literary modernism. We shall explore the relationship between Ulysses and other experiments in modernism and show how Ulysses redefines the concepts of epic, hero, and reader. We shall also examine Ulysses as a political novel, including Joyce's response to Yeats and the Irish Revival; Joyce's role in the debate about the direction of Irish politics after Parnell; and Joyce's response to British colonial occupation of Ireland. No previous experience with Joyce is required.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2021, Spring 2014, Spring 2012
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6701 - Humanities Data (3 Credits)
An introduction to the concepts and methods humanities scholars employ when working with data. We will discuss the concept, history, and politics of data; the logics, practices, and problems associated with quantification; data collection, analysis, and presentation; what it means to understand datasets as scholarship; and more. We will explore various computational projects and digital archives, asking what decisions scholars have made in constructing and interpreting their data and interrogating the consequences of those decisions. The class will include a hands-on component: participants will learn techniques for exploring existing humanities datasets and for constructing their own. The course is open to students across the humanities, although it will focus on literary and cultural studies. No experience with digital tools or methods is required or expected.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6705 - How to Make Queer Kin: Sustaining Bonds in LGBTQ Culture (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 6705, VISST 6705, FGSS 6705, LGBT 6705
How do queer people make family? What cultural and artistic practices sustain queer bonds? To answer these questions, this course examines queer and trans kinship narratives across a range of genres, including literature, film, television, and critical theory. We will theorize kinship's relationship to cis-heteronormativity, capitalism, white supremacy, and colonialism, and debate whether queer and trans kinships can model new political forms.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: graduate and professional students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6707 - Theory and Method (3 Credits)
This course juxtaposes selected significant theoretical concepts and ensuing critical methodologies from the mid-twentieth century to the current moment, including poststructuralism, marxist theory, critical race theory, gender theory, new materialism, and eco-criticism. We will engage with major conceptual statements, as well as illustrative and symptomatic methods of critique. Thus, the course will include reflection on the nature, status, and impact of critique itself, as a signal of the place of humanistic inquiry in intellectual, ethical, and political contexts. Theoretical readings will include statements by Jacques Derrida, Fredric Jameson, Judith Butler, Stephen Greenblatt, Cornel West, Jane Bennett, and Ursula Heise. Explorations of method will offer opportunities for students to test concepts in relation to their own critical practice, and to project a theoretical rationale for their experience as critics.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6708 - Fictions of the New World (4 Credits)
This course centers on the English-language fictions created about the so-called New World in the period just prior to the first English settlements, and on the discourses that followed in their wake: the poetry, narratives, and oral traditions that were produced by or circulated among settlers, indentured and enslaved laborers, and indigenous Americans for the hundred years or so after the first English settlements. We'll consider how these fictions shaped, legitimated, and sometimes critiqued the political and social realities of colonization and settlement. And we'll also explore creative and archival efforts that have sought to redress the fictions of the new world. This course will provide students with an introduction to archival research in rare and manuscripts collections.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6709 - Modeling between Numbers and Stories (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with SHUM 6709, COML 6709
This course compares narrative method and statistical modeling historically, teaching the history of predictive data techniques from the 19th century to the present while reading short-form literature - Aesop, Gogol, Dickinson - to compare the stories the numbers tell to narrative itself. The intent is to illuminate the rhetorical forms that prediction uses while studying the development of its quantitative techniques.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: graduate and professional students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6710 - Law and Literature (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with GOVT 6045
What can lawyers and judges learn from the study of literature? This course explores the relevance of imaginative literature (novels, drama, poetry, and film) to questions of law and social justice from a range of perspectives. We will consider debates about how literature can help to humanize legal decision-making; how storytelling has helped to give voice to oppressed populations over history; how narratives of suffering cultivate popular support for human rights; the role played by storytelling in a trial; and how literature can shed light on the limits of law and public policy.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6725 - Aesthetics and Politics of Touch (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6920, PMA 6920
The course will consider the aesthetics and politics of touch in dialogue with critical, artistic experimentation. Emphasizing interactivity and immersion in art and theory, the course will discuss renewed critical emphasis on the legacy of phenomenology (from Merleau-Ponty, Derrida, and Deleuze to affect theory) in dialogue with recent writings on global critical race and sexual theory (Glissant, Spillers, Mbembe, Ganguly, Lalu, Moten, Cardenas). Designed as an archive-based course, students will be invited to shape the second part of the syllabus around works featured in the Rose Goldsen Archive of New Media Art and in the 2022 CCA Biennial on Futurities, Uncertain with the aim of staging a final text/exhibit/performance based on conceptual approaches to touch.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2018
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6739 - Agamben's Homo Sacer (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ROMS 6739
This course will examine Giorgio Agamben's nine-volume Homo Sacer project. Beginning with Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life (1995) and ending with The Use of Bodies (2015) we will follow Agamben's thought as it addresses such topics as biopolitics, the legal order, political theology, oikonomia, work and inoperativity, form-of-life, and others. We will also read Agamben in relation to a number of his influences and interlocutors, such as Arendt, Benjamin, Benveniste, Derrida, Foucault, Heidegger, Kantorowicz, and Schmitt.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2019, Spring 2009
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6742 - Black Literary and Cultural Theory (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 6208
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2012
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6766 - Practicum in Performance Criticism and Dramaturgy (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with PMA 6866
The function of the theatre critic is well understood, but the role of the dramaturg remains mysterious in the American theatre. Yet theatre critics and dramaturgs use many of the same research, analytic, and writing skills, and need the same knowledge of history, literature, and culture, to perform their duties effectively. This practicum, designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate students, will allow participants to develop the skills central to these complementary professions. The course will include units on writing effective performance reviews, working with student playwrights on new script development, preparing informational materials for directors, designers and actors, writing program essays and other informational materials for audiences, script preparation for production, and selecting/preparing translations for production. While our focus will be on the theatre, students with interest in applying these skills to film/television/media or dance contexts are welcome.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2018, Fall 2014
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6775 - Queer Time and the Senses (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with FGSS 6775, LGBT 6775
In what temporal zone does narrative practice meet the senses? Put differently, what is the temporal work done by the senses in a text? This seminar focuses on the temporal effects of narrative representations of the sensorium, the ways that the senses can function in narrative to open up times/spaces of queer potentiality. It investigates how the experience of the sensorium can render its subject out of sync with normative time, enabling that subject to feel the pleasure of such a state rather than merely its terrors. We will also explore the extent to which the senses function to disrupt heteronormative timelines and consequently serve both as a resource for queer survival and a potentially revolutionary practice.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6776 - Affect Theory (3 Credits)
This course examines how claims about feeling ground literary theory, with particular emphasis on the consequences of the affective turn in the early 2002s, from therapeutic criticism to the biopolitics of sentiment. How does the work of feeling register in literary form? What evidence is there that feelings are experienced, discussed, or represented in historically and culturally specific ways? When does affect theory turn to literature for evidence? How do competing conceptions of affect contribute to feminist, queer, and critical race theory? We will build genealogies from Deleuze and Sedgwick to more recent work by Terada, Ngai, Berlant, Terada, Schuller, Ahmed, and more. Literary readings will include a few novels (Charlotte Bronte, Sigrid Nunez), and long poems (Anne Carson; Claudia Rankine).
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Fall 2023, Fall 2021
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6782 - Comic Books and Graphic Novels: Delinquent Reading After Modernism (4 Credits)
This course is aimed at graduate students with interests in modernism and visual studies, media theory, and graphic narrative/sequential art (especially those keen to teach, create, or write about the medium). In the first place, it'll be a chance to read deeply in theories of image/text interfaces across media. We'll read comics for their poetics of radical spatial redistribution; study the simultaneous emergence of the juvenile delinquent as legal category and the broadsheet comics that obsessed Joyce and others; ask how caricature and cartoon inflect modernist representations of personhood or plot. Focusing on BIPOC creators and queer reception histories, we'll learn from comics the art of scribbling all over normative practices of literary consecration, abusive rationalization of literacy, and hegemonic flows of cultural capital.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6791 - Acoustic Horizons (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6791
The course will explore the philosophy, psychoanalysis, and politics of sound along the artistic interface of cinema, video, performance, and new media art. From analysis of synchronization of sound and image in the talking movie to its discruption in experimental music, video, new media and sound art, we will consider the prominence of sound and noise as carriers of gender, ethnic and cultural difference. We also will explore the theory of sound, from tracts on futurism, feminism, new music, and sampling, to more recent acoustic applications of eco-theory in which sound merges with discourses of water and environment. In addition to studying a wide range of artistic production in audio, sound, new media, and screen arts, we will discuss the dialogical impact of theoretical discussions of sound in psychoanalysis and aesthetics, as well as the phenomenal growth of digital acoustic horizons in the Pacific Rim.
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2016, Spring 2009
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6793 - Genres of Translation (3 Credits)
The recent prominence of "translation studies" as a field of inquiry has brought to the fore the way the issues of translation touch both directly and obliquely on a number of key questions in contemporary literary studies and theory: the nature of linguistic meaning and hermeneutic practices, the problems and prospects of a world literature, the mechanics of historical transmission and formation of literary traditions, to name just a few. This course will examine the theory and (to a lesser extent) practice of translation, with readings of theoretical and literary texts ranging from the ancient to the contemporary. Note that though it may come in handy, fluency in a foreign language is not required to take this course.
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6815 - Poiesis (3 Credits)
Considering the etymological roots of poetry, this course explores the idea of poetry as making, creation, fabrication, composition. How have poets and theorists of lyric understood the relationship between poetry and creation and between poetry and worldmaking? How and under what circumstances did poetry come to be identified as making and doing rather than observing and knowing? To get a better grip on this peculiar idea of making that links language to materiality, to the body, and to the polity, we'll explore the relationship between poiesis and mimesis, poiesis and techne, and poiesis and praxis.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2011
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6816 - Reading (with) Judith Butler (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with COML 6815, FGSS 6815
Judith Butler is one of today's foremost theorists and cultural critics. Even though they are known, above all, for their work in gender studies and queer theory, their theoretical thought ranges widely. It also draws on a wide range of theoretical traditions, literary and filmic works, and political events. In this course, we will read widely from Butler's work (from Gender Trouble to Who's Afraid of Gender), as well as reading some of the key texts that Butler draws on. We will develop a critical understanding of Butler's strategies for reading and writing to hone our own critical and theoretical skills.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 6972 - Derrida In-And Africa (3 Credits)
Crosslisted with ASRC 6515
From the late-1970s on, the Algerian-born philosopher Jacques Derrida began to be much troubled by his African past. Reading Derrida as an African, reading for the African in Derrida, in, we might say, deconstruction, might find its apogee in Monolingualism, Or, the Prosthesis of the Other, but this course will trace the moment of African articulation in Derrida to both earlier moments and other texts, including Specters of Marx, and The Other Heading.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2014, Fall 2012, Fall 2011
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7100 - Advanced Old English (4 Credits)
Crosslisted with MEDVL 7100
Early English writers were of two minds about their homeland: they cultivated the mythology that the English were the New Israel, while they were intensely aware (and constantly reminded by Continental authorities) of their status as a backwater at the margins of Christendom. Scripture modeled for them the concept of divinely sanctioned colonization. It also portended for them the precarity of such an elite status, challenged in their day by Viking attacks, corruption in the Church, and various ecological disasters. Such conflicting ideas about their place in the world generated sophisticated reflections about difference with respect to what is now called race, nationality, indigeneity, and the status of the human in the world. Readings include numerous genres (poetry, sermons, riddles, and saints' lives available in Old English and translation) as well as a wide variety of relevant contemporary theory.
Exploratory Studies: (EUAREA)

Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2020, Fall 2016, Fall 2011
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7800 - MFA Seminar: Poetry (3 Credits)
The MFA poetry seminar is a required course for MFA poetry students.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Poetry students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7801 - MFA Seminar: Fiction (3 Credits)
The MFA fiction seminar is a required course for all MFA fiction students.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Fiction students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7810 - MFA Seminar: Poetry (5 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7811 - MFA Seminar: Fiction (5 Credits)
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7850 - Reading for Writers (3 Credits)
In general, Reading for Writers examines literary works through the eyes of a writer, focusing on the craft of literature. While the class is geared toward MFA students, all graduate students are welcome to enroll. Topics vary with each section and semester. The descriptions can be found at the class roster.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7880 - Literary Small Publishing (3 Credits)
In this course, we'll build the skills necessary to edit and publish a small magazine and will learn how to produce the kind of popular critical writing that drives literary conversation outside of academia. We'll talk about taste, craft, and critical etiquette, and will end the semester having written, peer-reviewed, and published online a small suite of incidental pieces: one book review, one interview with a writer, and one essay on some aspect of the craft of writing.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: first-year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) poetry and fiction students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7890 - Pedagogical and Thesis Development (3 Credits)
This is a required course for students pursuing an MFA degree in Creative Writing. The course will focus on the pedagogical methodology and philosophical approaches to teaching creative writing. The workshop format will include readings, guest speakers, lesson plan development, and the vetting of syllabi. Graduate students in both poetry and fiction will share ideas on teaching and thesis development.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Fiction and Poetry students.
Last Four Terms Offered: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7910 - Article Writing Seminar (2 Credits)
This workshop will take students through the process of writing and revising an academic article. We will begin by introducing the genre of the article and its key components (central claims, methodological approach, scholarly intervention, readings). The seminar will address the foundations of writing and the academic publishing landscape alongside a variety of landmark articles across subdisciplines and journals. It will, however, primarily function as a workshop, providing in-depth feedback and allowing students to leave the course with a polished article draft and the resources for its submission.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: English Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students who have completed their second-year faculty review meeting.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7920 - Prospectus and Dissertation Strategies (2 Credits)
This workshop will prepare you to research and write your dissertation. We will begin by introducing you to the genre of the dissertation prospectus, including its length and standard contents (such as the central research question/s, methodological approach, scholarly implications, chapter breakdown, and short bibliography). The seminar will function as a workshop, providing you with in-depth feedback on drafts of your prospectus. Midway through the workshop each student will have a rough draft of your dissertation prospectus as well as materials that can be used as the basis for grant and fellowship proposals. In later weeks we will develop more general strategies for researching and writing the dissertation.
Enrollment Information: Enrollment limited to: English Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students admitted to candidacy.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7940 - Directed Study (3 Credits)
This course gives students the opportunity to work with a selected instructor to pursue special interests or research not treated in regularly scheduled courses. After getting permission of the instructor, students should contact the department to request access to an instructor's section. Enrolled students are required to provide the department with a course description and/or syllabus along with the instructor's approval by the end of the first week of classes.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7950 - Group Study (2-3 Credits)
This course should be used for an independent study in which a small group of students works with one member of the graduate faculty. After getting permission of the instructor, students should contact the department to request access to an instructor's section. Enrolled students are required to provide the department with a course description and/or syllabus along with the instructor's approval by the end of the first week of classes.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)

ENGL 7960 - Placement Seminar (3 Credits)
This seminar will help prepare graduate students for the academic job market. Though students will study sample materials from successful job applicants, much of the seminar will function as a workshop, providing them with in-depth feedback on multiple drafts of their job materials. Interview skills will be practiced in every seminar meeting. The seminar meetings will be supplemented with individual conferences with the placement mentor, and students should also share copies of their job materials with their dissertation committees.
Last Four Terms Offered: Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Schedule of Classes (https://classes.cornell.edu/)