

ENGLISH 254, Themes in Literature SPRING 2020



Satan in English Literature

Dr. Scott MacKenzie

Section 001, TR 2:10-3:25 (20654)

Course Description: This course will examine the various personifications of the literary character Satan over a millennium of English literature, art, film and drama. During that time he has been presented in many guises. At times, he is the personification of evil - the tempter and architect of humanity's downfall and God's chief opponent. At other times, he is sinister, manipulative, petty, seductive, enviable, noble, a trickster, or merely a comical being. Readings will include Anglo-Saxon and Middle English texts (in translation), the works of John Milton, Christopher Marlowe and Ben Jonson, and later poetry, prose and film from British and American artists.

The Hero's Journey in Tennessee Literature

Dr. Julia McLeod

Section 002, TR 11:10-12:25 (20655)

Course Description: From its early days as a wild frontier to its current status as a site of economic, political, and cultural impact, Tennessee has been a place of adventure and adversity that has captured the imagination of writers from across the state. Beginning with Davy Crockett's autobiography, this course traces the hero's journey in Tennessee literature through works by Mark Twain, Ida B. Wells, Thomas Harris, Cormac McCarthy, Wilma Dykeman, Ann Patchett, and others. The course meets WC requirements with weekly reading response journals, a short paper, two exams, and a personal narrative webpage in Adobe Spark.

Literature, Disability, and Deafness

Dr. Rob Spirko

Section 003, MWF 11:15-12:05 (20656)

Course Description: What does it mean to be human? To be "normal"? For people with disabilities, the answers to these questions can determine how well they are included in society—or sometimes the difference between life and death. We'll look at representations of people with disabilities, most written by disabled people, including units on memoir, Deaf culture, the freak show and other problem-posing texts. The genres we'll read include fiction, non-fiction, graphic novel, poetry, plays, and film. There will be four papers, and you'll have the option to explore digital composition, including podcasts and video blogs, as ways to respond.

All sections of English 254 satisfy UT's General Education requirements in both Arts & Humanities (AH) and Communicating through Writing (WC).