

ENGLISH 254, Themes in Literature FALL 2022



The Graphic Memoir

Tawnysha Greene Section 001, Online, flexible, CRN# (41478)

Course Description: This course will address the history of the genre and how it has changed since its first inception. We will review early examples then move on to explore full texts such as *Persepolis*, *Fun Home*, *Blankets*, and *Hyperbole and a Half*. In addition to studying these memoirs, we will review criticism and explore the full parameters of the genre in that memoirs can be humorous (in the case of Allie Brosh's *Hyperbole and a Half*), philosophical (as in the case of Allison Bechdel's *Fun Home*), or be a historical narrative (as in the case of Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*). In addition to studying a variety of graphic memoirs throughout the course, students will also read a graphic memoir of their choice (from an approved list) for their final exam project. Assignments include a series of discussion posts, close readings, two major papers, and a take-home final exam.

Satan in English Literature

Scott MacKenzie Section 002, MWF 10:20-11:10, CRN# (41479)

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 as God's chief opponent. At other times, he is sinister, manipulative, petty, seductive, envious, 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, music, and film from British and American artists.

Best Lives and Daily Grinds in American Literature

Sam Turner Section 003, TR 2:30-3:45, CRN# (41480)

Course Description: The United States has often described itself as a place where hard work is uniquely rewarded and rewarding – where everyone is free to pursue his or her dreams and where anyone willing to work hard can get ahead. However true some parts of that description are, America's history is also marked in foundational ways by slavery and racism, structural economic inequality, and soul-crushing, poorly paying work of every imaginable variety. What does work mean in America today? What has it meant in the past? How have Americans over the centuries fared in their search for work that offers a life and not merely a living? This course seeks answers to such questions by reading works by Frederick Douglass, Benjamin Franklin, Edith Wharton, and Langston Hughes, among others.

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