

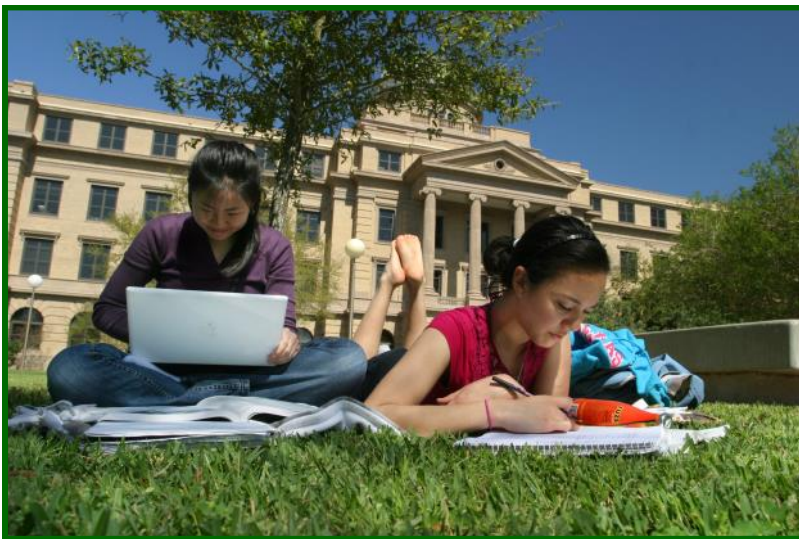


THE ENGLISH AGGIE

March 2016

www.english.tamu.edu

Texas A&M University–The Department of English Undergraduate Studies



Source: Texas A&M University

Inside the Issue:

- ⇒ First Folio! An Interview with Dr. Estill (Pgs. 2-3)
- ⇒ Summer/Fall 2016 Course Descriptions (Pgs. 4-6)
- ⇒ *Southern Knuckles* Student Literary Magazine (Pg. 7)

*“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” -Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations**

First Folio!

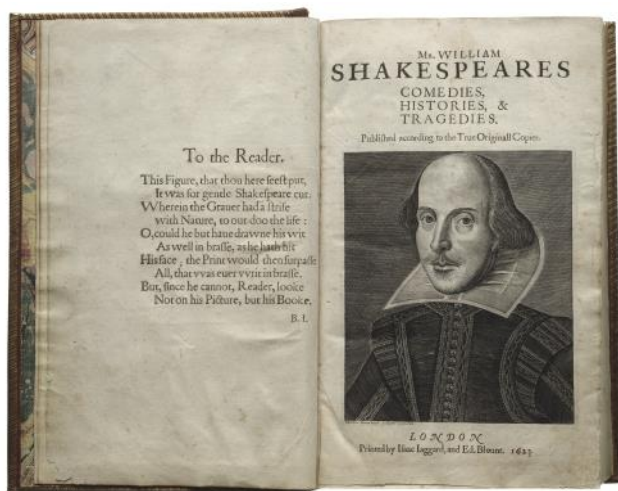
Interview with Dr. Laura Estill, Editor of *World Shakespeare Bibliography*

What is the First Folio and when will it be here?

The First Folio is the first published collected works of Shakespeare (1623). It includes all of his plays except *Pericles* and *Two Noble Kinsmen*. Without the publication of the First Folio, we would have lost a number of Shakespeare's plays, including *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*.

How was A&M selected to host this exhibit?

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC decided to send one copy of the first folio to each state. A team of faculty and staff at Texas A&M put together an application explaining the reasons why we would be ideal to host the folio: for instance, we are home to the *World Shakespeare Bibliography*, we have an extensive early modern collection at Cushing (including a second folio, from 1632), and we could facilitate an array of exciting and engaging programming.



What are some of the interesting events taking place on campus?

The events on campus include an exhibit in the Stark Galleries and an exhibit at the Cushing library, public lectures, free live performances, a film series, and some hands-on workshops. For a full list of events, visit lonestarfolio.tamu.edu/events/.



Who would this exhibit appeal to?

The events on campus are designed to reach out to a variety of audiences: for instance, there are teacher training workshops to inspire teachers to teach Shakespeare



FIRST FOLIO!

THE BOOK THAT GAVE US SHAKESPEARE
ON TOUR FROM THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

J. Wayne Stark Galleries, Memorial Student Center
March 8 - April 3 2016

in innovative ways. There is a book history day at the Cushing library during March Break that will appeal to families and be a fun day out, where children can be involved in lots of hands-on activities, including paper-making. Theatre professionals are offering workshops for undergraduate and graduate classes. We have K-12 students coming to campus to see the folio and participate in workshops, such as the Emily Ann Theatre's Shakespeareance program. The film series and performances could be of interest to those across campus, regardless of field of study, and to those in the community.

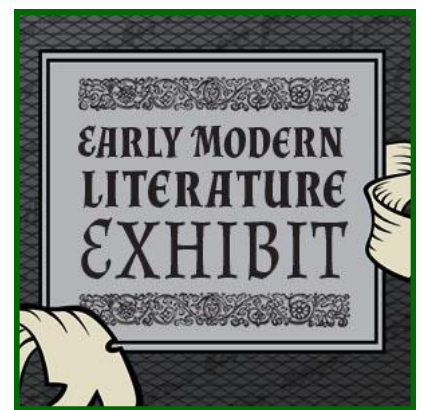


What are you personally most excited about with this event?

I'm particularly looking forward to the performance of *Brudermord* by Hidden Room Theatre. *Brudermord* is a German puppet version of *Hamlet* from 1710. This performance, which is translated into English, revels in the combination of comedy with absurd tragedy. It's a real treat to have this critically-acclaimed performance come to Bryan-College Station.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Although the folio itself will only be here from 8 March - 3 April, there are events before and after, including the film series, *Alternative Shakespeares* (featuring, for instance, Bollywood Shakespeare movies and the film *Shakespeare Behind Bars*) and the exhibition at the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives. Cushing holds many rare and valuable items -- a lot of Aggies don't realize we have them. This year, one of the hashtags commemorating the anniversary events is #ShakespeareLives. Celebrating Shakespeare through performance, analysis, and experiential workshops shows that, indeed, Shakespeare lives here in Texas and the Brazos Valley, too. We can learn about ourselves, our school, our community, and our society by exploring Shakespeare together.



All Picture Sources: lonestarfolio.tamu.edu



Fall 2016 Course Descriptions

Please note, course descriptions are subject to change.

***SUMMER II 2016* ENGL 481 “Jekyll and Hyde: Literature and Film” (Dr. Hoagwood):** This seminar (a Writing Intensive course) will study *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and several stage and film adaptations. Cultural context and conflicting interpretations will engage with other literary works, background materials, philosophical works, and scholarly sources. Requirements will include daily papers, quizzes, exercises in research and writing in class and out, a critical paper, an annotated bibliography, and a research paper. We will also read extensively in our library-reserve list, including literary, historical, and film studies.

ENGL 303* “Disease and Healing in Literature” (Dr. Collins): This course will introduce students to the medical humanities, an area of study that brings both humanistic and scientific perspectives to bear on issues that must be confronted by doctors, patients and the hospitals that train the former and try to heal the latter. Possible readings include Audre Lourde’s *The Cancer Journals*, Susan Sontag’s *Illness as Metaphor*, William Carlos Williams’ *The Doctor Stories*, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Sigmund Freud’s *Dora*, Atul Gawande’s *Better: A Surgeon’s Notes on Performance*, and other writings on doctor-patient interactions, medical ethics, medical education, addiction, mystery diseases, and experimental treatments.

ENGL 303* “The Work of World Literatures” (Dr. Dworkin): This course is an introduction to English studies for English majors. In this writing-intensive class, we will become acquainted with different methodologies scholars use to read, discuss, and write about literature and other important cultural texts. What kinds of questions do we ask in the discipline of English studies, and what approaches and tools do we use to answer those questions? Moreover, we will consider the relevance of English studies to the wider world within which readers read and writers write. What do the questions and critical methodologies we bring to texts have to offer to the culture at large? Throughout the semester, we will practice the basic skills essential to more advanced study in English: close reading, clear writing, and the formulation of fertile, well-informed research questions.

ENGL 303* “How to Read, Write and Think Like an English Major” (Dr. McWhirter): This writing-intensive course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the English major at Texas A&M, and a basic familiarity with the kinds of questions scholars in our discipline ask and the rhetorical strategies, research methods, and critical methodologies available for engaging those questions. The course will be focused on a limited number of texts drawn from 20th/21st century American literature and culture – from Faulkner to Jhumpa Lahiri – each of which will be approached through at least two distinct scholarly methodologies, and accompanied by model works of criticism exemplifying those methodologies. Requirements will include a variety of writing assignments.

ENGL 303* “Regency Aesthetics and Our Understanding of the Past” (Dr. Egenolf): Artifacts from the past, such as paintings, toy theatres, dishes, souvenirs from abroad, plans for landscape gardens, letters, coupled with literary texts, provide us with a rich understanding of a society far removed from our own, while simultaneously shedding light upon the ways in which our own culture has been constructed. This course will use Tom Stoppard’s 1993 play *Arcadia* as a touchstone in our own investigation of the literature and culture of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Stoppard’s play is very much about how we know about the past and how we make sense or make a narrative out of sometimes misleading traces of the past. It’s also a play about landscape aesthetics, courtship, Lord Byron, literary critics, and chaos theory.

*ENGL 303 only needed for students on the ‘14-’15 & ‘15-’16 degree plans



ENGL 356 “Literature and Film” (Dr. Morey): We will read approximately five nineteenth-century English novels or novellas and then view adaptations of each of them. The course focuses on the narrational strategies specific to each medium in order to apprehend the structural differences between them. We will consider how the story telling proper to each medium presents the consciousness of characters and controls the attention of the reader/viewer. We will also consider why the film industry has a propensity for certain kinds of texts in preference to others in order to develop an understanding of the ways in which literature serves the film industry (and the film industry literature).

ENGL 359 “Forms of Creative Writing—The Short Story” (Prof. Hannah): This class will study, in depth, the three major genres of short fiction: the traditional, the modern, and the post-modern using such masters of the form as Joseph Conrad, Ernest Hemingway, Robert Coover, and others. The students will take three examinations on the forms and will produce one original composition based on one of the major forms.

ENGL 390 “The Great War in Literature and Film” (Prof. Hannah): This course will examine World War I from various perspectives including history, literature, and film. We will study, in depth, the fiction, poetry, and memoir that emerges from the war. We will also view the war as represented in film. The course will consist of three major exams and a researched paper also presented as a brief oral report.

ENGL 392 “Studies in Literature, Religion and culture: Gods, Heroes, and Myths” (Dr. Ezell): You may have seen *The Clash of the Titans*, played *God of War*, or know who Wonder Woman’s mother was, but do you know about the original Titans, Kratos and Hippolyta and what their stories were? Why did Mary Shelley call her novel *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*? This course serves as an introduction to Greek and Roman mythology as both systems of religious belief and practice and as they served as inspiration for later English writers. We will be reading classic myths including Homer’s *The Odyssey*, parts of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, *Jason and the Argonauts*, and plays by Euripides such as *Medea* and *The Bacchae*. The end of the course will focus on how later generations of English writers adapted the stories about Orpheus, Amazons, Prometheus, Jason, Apollo and other gods and heroes to entertain and comment on contemporary life.

ENGL 396 “Texas Literature” (Dr. Earhart): Texas literature explores fiction and non-fiction written by and about Texas and engages with non-textual materials including film and song. We will explore the development of Texas identities and responses to the rich cultural diversity within the state. The course features a component that focuses on Texas A&M University, including an archival project that examines early founders of TAMU such as Matthew Gaines and Sul Ross.

ENGL 415 “The Visions of Henry David Thoreau” (Dr. Reynolds): This course will examine the career of Henry David Thoreau, best known for his book *Walden* (1854). Thoreau possessed a heightened and radical religious sensibility, and his life-long goal was to experience communion with the divine, whether from the door-step of his hut at Walden Pond, camping with his brother on the Concord River, climbing Mount Katahdin in Maine, or walking along the seashore at Cape Cod. Sometimes he achieved the most marvelous moments of spiritual ecstasy, but at other times he failed. Through a close reading of Thoreau’s writings, we will seek to understand and appreciate Thoreau’s spiritual quest.

ENGL/WGST 474 “Studies in Women Writers” (Dr. O’Farrell): Women writers and women readers in nineteenth-century England wrote and read in the context of a cultural conversation about their activities: what might women write or read? What would happen to them (their bodies, their prospects) if they wrote professionally or read the wrong things? What ought they and oughtn’t they know or acknowledge knowing? Against the background of these debates, many women did write and read, often focusing their time, their work, and their pleasure on novels, using literature as a way of engaging with their world, which seemed to them sometimes hostile, sometimes alluringly yet perilously “safe.” In this course, we will be interested in both popular and lesser-known nineteenth-century women writers (and their readers), in how they represented their world and their work in novels, and in how their language and their ideas intersect with issues that concern us today. Readings will include works by Austen, the Brontes, and Eliot, among others. Requirements will include short writing assignments, a longer final paper, and a final exam.

(continued on next page...)



(...course descriptions continued)

ENGL 481 "New Asian Voices" (Dr. Bhattacharya): Since the notorious rise of Salman Rushdie, South Asia has produced many other writers who write the human condition in a world now understood as global. This course will reveal the wealth of new writing in English from South Asia that is transforming and in some instances dominating the international literary world. The major writers to be read will be Jhumpa Lahiri (Pulitzer prize winner), Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, prolific chronicler of Asian lives in the diaspora; Neel Mukherjee, author of the Booker-Man Prize short-listed *The Lives of Others*; and Mohsin Hamid, author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*.

ENGL 481 "Early Cinema and the Invention of Modern Life" (Dr. McWhirter): Focused on films dating from the origin of motion pictures in the late nineteenth century to the end of the silent period (roughly 1930), this course will examine the ways in which early cinematic productions are simultaneously symptoms and shapers of modern culture and society. Along with regular screenings of a representative range of silent-era films from the U.S., Germany, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Japan, and elsewhere, work for the class will include a short, basic history of early cinema, and readings focused on the history, theory, and analysis of cinema's relations to modernity. The main requirement will be an 18-20 page research paper on a topic of each student's own choosing.

ENGL 481 "Victorian Fantasy" (Dr. Nelson): This course will examine Victorian fantasy literature (novels, short stories, and poetry) for adults and children. Our emphasis will be on the cultural preoccupations that fantasy was used to articulate, as well as on the ideological and social agendas that fantasy was sometimes used to further. Authors studied will probably include Bram Stoker, Robert Louis Stevenson, H. G. Wells, Christina Rossetti, Dinah Mulock Craik, John Ruskin, Lewis Carroll, and George MacDonald. The course will be organized around vampires, monsters, ghosts, magic, and wonderlands; within those categories we will contemplate Victorian concerns about sexuality, family relationships, science, imperialism, and more. Students will complete daily in-class writings, produce a close-reading paper and a longer research paper (which may draw upon the former and which will involve a separate prospectus and bibliography assignment), and take a comprehensive essay final exam.

ENGL 481 "The Cultural Jane Austen" (Dr. O'Farrell): This course is designed to offer the manifest pleasures of reading Jane Austen and to help students develop the critical skills with which to examine those pleasures at the same time. Our readings will include Austen's completed novels, as well as critical and biographical readings that raise recurrent issues in thinking about Austen. We will also spend some time investigating the formation of Austen as a cultural icon (the kind of writer you find on websites, on tote bags, and in movie theaters with zombies, as well as in the library).

For more information concerning courses offered next semester, please visit english.tamu.edu/fall-2016.



Sigma Tau Delta

is now accepting applications for the
Spring 2016 semester.

Applications can be picked up in the English department,
LAAH 352, or go online to english.tamu.edu.

Deadline: March 31, 2016



Southern Knuckles

Written by Laura Matas '16

Southern Knuckles is a new, independent literary magazine created by Alex Cowan '16, and Josh McCormack '17, which focuses on Southern culture. The bi-annual magazine is web-based for now, with hopes of print in the near future. *Southern Knuckles* stands apart from other literary magazines in that its focus is exclusively on that of Southern culture and its writers. Cowan states, "We didn't really see another literary magazine that had a Southern focus." Rather than being a genre-based magazine, *Southern Knuckles* centers on regional literature.



The idea for *Southern Knuckles* came from the duo's shared interests in pursuing publishing in the future—as well as a deep appreciation for the South in which they grew up. Both Cowan and McCormack have a history in publishing, through their experience working as staff members on TAMU's [Eckleburg Project](#). When asked about the origin of the magazine's name, McCormack says, "A lot of times, I think, Southern culture gets belittled or bashed in a way, and so... the idea of *Southern Knuckles* is that writers are able to show [its] good qualities and fight for them."

"We want to create a good, quality magazine that shows a diversity of authors and artists—all revolving around Southern culture."
-Josh McCormack

Southern Knuckles accepts student submissions of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and artwork. [Submission guidelines](#) are posted on the *Southern Knuckles* website, and there are no submission fees. The magazine is currently accepting submissions for the first edition until April 6th. If you find yourself hesitating to submit your work, Cowan wants to assure you that they accept "pretty much anything you can submit through the computer," so send in your Southern-based works!

"We want to showcase other writers who want to have their works published."
-Alex Cowan

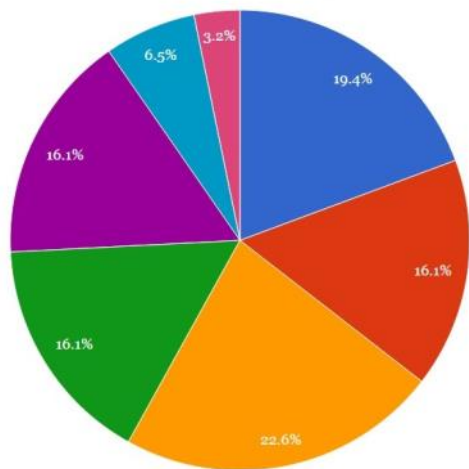
Make sure to visit the *Southern Knuckles* [website](#), "like" their [Facebook page](#), follow them on Twitter [@SKLitMag](#), and submit, submit, SUBMIT!!



These are a few of our **FAVORITE** THINGS: Pastimes

For each edition of *The English Aggie*, we will feature a section of “favorites.” Students will have the opportunity to respond with their “favorites” on the Texas A&M English Undergraduate Facebook and Twitter Page.

What is your favorite way to spend your free time?



- Sleeping
- Watching Netflix
- Hanging out with friends
- Reading
- Playing video games
- Playing an instrument
- Playing sports



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