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MARCH 2017

# THE ENGLISH AGGIE

The newsletter for Texas A&M's English Undergrads



*featuring:*

Creative Writing Techniques Club // Former Student Hangout Series  
UPREPs // Fall 2017 Course Descriptions

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# NEW CLUB: CREATIVE WRITING TECHNIQUES



Transfer student Mikayla Andrade felt the need to create a space for creative writers on campus. Read on to hear all about her new organization.

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE THE CREATIVE WRITING TECHNIQUES CLUB?

Before I transferred to Texas A&M last semester, I was in a creative writing club at my community college. It was fun and allowed me to express my passion and get feedback. When I got to Texas A&M, I noticed that it wasn't really a big thing. Though I had met a lot of writers, they had no way of expressing their passion. I made it my goal to have a medium for all types of student writers no matter their major to have a place to go and get feedback on their work, and be with people who share the same interest as them. I also wanted to have a place where people could go and just get help improving their writing, whether they like writing or not. Some people are too busy or too shy to take advantage of the resources the campus offers. Therefore, I want the club to be seen as a safe haven for people to come and get assistance from fellow writers without having to go too far out of their comfort zone.

## CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE AVERAGE MEETING WILL BE LIKE?

The average meeting will start off with someone volunteering to share their work, and everyone else gives critique. If no one wants to share, we will do a writing exercise in order to push writers. By providing unique prompts, we will force them to think outside of the box. Then, we will jump into either a workshop, to help everyone improve upon something, or discussion on a certain aspect of writing. After that, if anyone has any suggestion we will listen and discuss. Though this is how I plan for meetings to go, I'm not pinning myself down to anything. I will just go with the flow and see how our members would like meetings to go.

## HOW LARGE IS THE CLUB?

I am not setting a specific number; I want as many as we can get. The more the better. I don't want to discourage anyone from coming just to check it out. With school and work I know it can be tricky to fit in one more thing, which is why we keep the door open for any student who wants to join at any given time of the year. There is no joining cutoff date, or a set number of member slots. Anyone can join at any time that is convenient for them.

## IS THE CLUB MORE OF A PROFESSIONAL OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, OR BOTH?

It can be a little bit of both, depending on the type of meeting. It is going to be social for sure, but it can get professional depending on the future. For example, I would like to have a guest speaker come and speak for our club and hopefully give us a few pointers.

## WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT CAN FUTURE MEMBERS EXPECT?

We plan to meet once a week every Tuesday at 7:00pm in LAAH 326, of course this could change, depending on what is happening in our members lives. Like I said I understand people have school and work, and coming to meetings could get tricky around finals. So I won't force anyone to come, but as of now that is our plan.

Questions or comments? Contact Mikayla at [mikaylaandrade@tamu.edu](mailto:mikaylaandrade@tamu.edu)

Former Student

# HANGOUT SERIES

Presented by The English Department

Join us & hang out with English Aggie Professionals!

**LAW/GOVERNMENT** MARCH 28 6 PM LAAH 352

**FATIMA NAEEM '11**

*Staff Attorney at Lone Star Legal Aid  
Former College Recruitment Advisor at  
Advise Texas*

**JESSICA EFFENBERGER FOLLETT '12**

*Research Assistant at McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC  
Former Legislative Aid & Scheduler at the Texas  
House of Representatives*

**TECH WRITING/EDITING** MARCH 30 4 PM LAAH 352

**ROBERTO MOLAR  
CANDANOSA '13**

*Science Writer at the National  
Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
Former Intern at NASA Goddard  
Space Flight Center & NASA Langley  
Research Center*

**TAYLOR PHILLIPS-  
RODRIGUEZ '14**

*Communications Coordinator at TAMU  
Engineering Tech. & Industrial Distribution  
Former Copy Editor and  
Page Designer at The Eagle*

**MARISSA  
MADSEN '13**

*Medical Editor at INC Research  
Former Editorial Coordinator  
and Managing Editor*

Bring your questions and get ready for great advice from professionals!

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ONLINE**



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**SNACKS  
& DRINKS**

will be provided

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# FALL 2017

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## **ENGL 202 “ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE” PROFESSOR BOENIG**

The objective of this course is to explore ways authors depict nature, construct metaphors that interpret that depiction, and evoke ideas environmental theorists use to understand nature’s fragility and human interaction with it. Proposed Readings: Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*; Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker*; Creek John Muir, *Travels in Alaska* Peter; Matthiessen, *The Snow Leopard*; William Faulkner, *The Bear*; Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*; Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*.

## **ENGL 212 “SHAKESPEARE” PROFESSOR OZMENT**

This course will introduce students to the poetry and plays of William Shakespeare in their historical, social, and political contexts. We will also explore the cultural position of poetry and how Shakespeare’s works fit into developments in the genre over the course of this time period. The theme of this course is the Other, or something or someone that is different or alien to oneself. We explore the relationship between English society and the Others, those who do not fit into the norm through their bodies or actions. We focus on three main categories of Others: monsters, or more specifically what is described as monstrous, including fantastic creatures and atypical humans; immigrants, the variety of religious and ethnic minorities who were politically and legally outside the bounds of citizenship in England; and women who challenge defined gender boundaries. For these Othered characters, we characterize how they define themselves along with the psychological and social implications of their status. For the English, we examine how what is defined as an Other clarifies values and assumptions about this society.

## **ENGL 221 “MASTERPIECES OF WORLD LITERATURE I” PROFESSOR DICKSON**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to some masterworks of world literature and the civilizations that produced them; to understand and appreciate their artistic quality and individual styles; to compare other cultures and historical periods; and to appreciate how ideas, events, and literatures have influenced one another. Of necessity we will focus on historical contexts and the cultural values of these societies as an essential part of the background to the works. In addition to improving critical reading skills, students will also have the opportunity to improve writing skills.

## **ENGL 235 “ELEMENTS OF CREATIVE WRITING” PROFESSOR HOAGWOOD**

In this course we will study and practice formal elements of short stories and poems. Elements of fiction include characterization, action, dialogue, scene construction, narrative point of view, plot structure, imagery, style, and more. Elements of poetry include verse form, rhythm, meter, expressive use of the sounds of words, diction, syntax, and more. In connection with poetry and fiction, we will study professionally written examples in relation to the principles presented in our textbooks. Toward the end of work in each of the two forms of creative writing, we will have workshop sessions for the analysis and revision of classmates’ writings.

### **REGISTRATION REMINDERS**

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- Be sure to check Howdy for your date and time to register.
- \*Please check for registration blocks (through Howdy) and get them cleared before your registration date.
- We absolutely will not be filling out new degree plans for students during preregistration advising sessions; you must bring your updated degree plan with you in order to be advised.
- If you plan on graduating in August or December of 2017, we strongly recommend that you come in for advising before registering and check in with us after registering to make sure you will clear for graduation. Please do not assume you will clear your evaluation!

**PROSE.  
POETRY.  
ART.**

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**SUBMIT**

**ENGL 303 “APPROACHES TO ENGLISH STUDIES” PROFESSOR HOAGWOOD**

In this class we will survey the principal disciplines that constitute English Studies at Texas A&M and also nationally and internationally: linguistics; composition and rhetoric; literature and literary criticism; creative writing; and cultural studies and literary theory. Then, we will practice a variety of methods and skills in research and writing by studying together the works of several important poets who represent what has come to be known as the Harlem Renaissance: our writers will include Gwendolyn B. Bennet, Sterling Brown, Countee Cullen, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Alice Dunbar Nelson, and Jean Toomer. We will also read prose by writers who help to define and characterize the artistic, social, historical, and cultural contexts of the Harlem Renaissance, including W. E. B. Dubois, Zora Neale Hurston, Alain Locke, and Richard Wright.

**ENGL 303 “SHERLOCK HOLMES, CANON, AND CURIOSITIES” PROFESSOR ROSS**

This fast-paced course will introduce you to Sherlock Holmes in a wide variety of media formats and will ask you to complete a wide variety of assignments as you encounter these Holmesian iterations. You will learn about the relevant social, cultural, technological, criminal, political, geographic intertexts that will make these stories come alive for you intellectually. Four units will focus on specific approaches taken by scholars of English, seen through the lens of Sherlock Holmes. By the end of this course, you will have encountered Sherlock in just about as many media and textual forms as the great detective has disguises: novels, short stories, illustrated serials in *The Strand*, plays, poems, essays, parodies, TV episodes, silent films, Hollywood films, comics, and fan fiction. Each unit will require you to complete a very different type of written assignment: a pastiche, a juridical ruling, an annotated map, a scholarly introduction, and a critical book review. Throughout the semester, we'll be visited by the undergraduate office to inform you about career options, academic student services, preregistration, and scholarships. In short, during this semester, you will become an expert on all things Sherlock Holmes, not only as a fan, but also as an English major.

### **ENGL 330 “ARTHURIAN LITERATURE” PROFESSOR BOENIG**

Course Description: The objective of this course is to explore the Arthurian literature of the Middle Ages and beyond. The narratives about King Arthur crossed national and cultural boundaries, and no one author can be considered the creator of the Arthur story. Usually we think of authors as creators and stories as their creation, but, typical of medieval culture, more than one writer brought this large story into being. We will therefore do a historical and cultural reading of the Arthur story to explore the relationship of the authors who wrote the actual texts and the society that called the story into being. We will end the semester by contrasting a modern version of the Arthur story with the medieval ones we will by then have studied—T. H. White’s *Once and Future King*.

### **ENGL 339 “AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE 1930-PRESENT” PROFESSOR TUHKANEN**

This course offers an introduction to twentieth- and twenty-first-century African American literature, as it developed, in its transnational contexts, after the Harlem Renaissance. Students should expect to read a novel and a scholarly article or two a week. While some sessions consist of lectures on the historical, cultural, and biographical contexts of the texts we are reading, the majority of the course will be conducted as a seminar, where students are expected to engage in class discussion.

### **ENGL 354 “MODERN RHETORICAL THEORY” PROFESSOR PILSCH**

This course introduces students to rhetoric in the 20th century. Long discounted as a means of knowledge production and a field of study, rhetoric comes roaring back in the second half of the 20th century. In class, we explore the reasons behind this return and the shape that it takes. We consider the arrival of new technological means of communication, the discovery of the unconscious mind, and the specter of propaganda as factors in this return. Students will gain a better understanding of how rhetoric works today and can leave course with an understanding of the state of modern persuasion.

### **ENGL 378 “THE BRITISH NOVEL, 1870 TO PRESENT” PROFESSOR ROSS**

This course examines the development of the novel after the dominance of the Victorian triple-decker realist novel. Beginning with the political satire of G. K. Chesterton, it explores modernist stream-of-consciousness works by Ford Madox Ford and Virginia Woolf, then examines the post-war consciousnesses of Aldous Huxley and Muriel Spark, before investigating the reinvention of modernism with Jean Rhys and the reinvention of realism with Zadie Smith. Along the way, we will discuss the interpenetration of domesticity and politics, gender and sexuality, imagination and bureaucracy. Students will take regular quizzes and write two papers for this course.

### **ENGL 460 “DIGITAL AUTHORIZING PRACTICES” PROFESSOR PILSCH**

This course will help students better understand what writing is becoming in a digital age. We will study a variety of topics and strategies for authoring content in online environments and with the help of technological tools. Students can also expect to learn about some of the theories shaping digital writing and will be asked to complete an extensive, semester-long digital authoring project of their own.

For full course descriptions and reading lists, please visit <http://english.tamu.edu/course-descriptions/>

## **IS A CLASS YOU WANT TOO FULL?**

The Undergraduate Office saves a few seats in many English courses to help our majors and minors get into the classes they need. But, forcing is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. You must come to the Undergraduate Office during your preregistration time in order to be forced into a class. If you can’t get an appointment, please come as a walk-in. Just be prepared to wait in line for a bit if necessary. We can only force students into our own courses (ENGL/LING); if you need to be forced into a class outside our department, you’ll have to speak with an advisor in that department.

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# FALL 2017 UPREP OPPORTUNITIES

The English Department is offering five (5) Undergraduate Professional and Research Experience Program (UPREP) projects for fall 2017. UPREPs are only for ENGL majors with a 2.5+ GPA (overall/major). The application deadline is 5:00pm, April 14, 2017.

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## **DR. DONALD DICKSON: SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY NEWS**

Dr. Dickson is requesting a UPREP student for Fall 2017 to help edit a book review journal. Working on this project would help the student gain valuable practical experience as a magazine or journal editor, while helping him substantially with his research. In the past five years, all of Dr. Dickson's former UPREPs have found employment as editors or technical writers in part through the experience they gained with him.

## **DR. JESSICA HOWELL: PROMOTION OF HEALTH HUMANITIES INITIATIVES**

Dr. Howell is working on several Health Humanities initiatives on campus, including curriculum development, a speaker series, a Glasscock Working Group and Seminar. During late spring or early summer of 2017, a new website will be launched that provides more information these initiatives. The UPREP student will help to regularly update this website. He or she will also help distribute promotional materials and schedule bookings for upcoming events. This student will work closely with the Dr. Howell in order to raise the visibility of Health Humanities initiatives on campus.

## **DR. EMILY JOHANSEN: GENRES OF FAILURE**

This project is centered around one primary research question: how have novel forms and genre conventions changed in the shift to neoliberalism as the dominant economic reality? Focusing on fiction written in English, post-1990 and thus after the widescale entrenchment of neoliberalism in Euro-American cultural life, Dr. Johansen considers how contemporary novels especially engage with changing norms around identity and community. In other words, if novels have historically, together with classic liberal economics, offered to their readers models for how to negotiate between individual desires and development and social expectations and requirements, how does this operate now, when neoliberalism emphasises the irrelevance of society altogether? Dr. Johansen plans to spend the fall semester building support for her claims by contextualising them in the broader corpus of contemporary gothic novels.

## **DR. SHONA JACKSON: LECTURES IN CULTURE, CONFLICT, AND FREEDOM**

This UPREP offers an opportunity to contribute to the launch of a new lectures series in the Department of English titled, "Lectures in Culture, Conflict, and Freedom." The newly created, annual series centers on the social, cultural, and political issues that affect what we can broadly refer to as the global and internal Souths. These issues include but are not limited to the following: racism, religious intolerance, indigeneity, coloniality, decolonization, neo-liberalism and poverty, territorial sovereignty, sexual sovereignty. In scope, the Series is hemispheric, transnational, regional, and translocal.

## **DR. LAURA ESTILL: WORLD SHAKESPEARE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The World Shakespeare Bibliography Online ([www.worldshakesbib.org](http://www.worldshakesbib.org)) solicits applications for an on-site intern at Texas A&M University for the Fall semester, with the potential for renewal in the Spring. The World Shakespeare Bibliography Online is the foremost bibliography for Shakespeare studies and includes more than 110,900 annotated records in more than 120 languages, with thousands of records added each update. The student intern will assist the World Shakespeare Bibliography editorial team (Dr. Laura Estill and Dr. Krista May) with preparing the WSB's quarterly updates.

For full UPREP descriptions, visit the English Undergraduate website.

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# SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

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## STAR IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT VIDEO!



We are creating a video to show prospective students what it's like to study English at Texas A&M. If you're not afraid of being in front of a camera, we want to hear what you love about being an English major! Contact [kirbiek3@tamu.edu](mailto:kirbiek3@tamu.edu) if you're interested in being featured in the video.

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### THANKS & GIG 'EM

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Wishing you had more opportunities to use those excellent essays, creative fiction, and poetry that are languishing on your hard drive or in the back of your mind? Like "Texas A&M English Undergraduates" on Facebook or follow @TheEnglishAggie on Twitter to stay informed about contests, magazines, and journals to which you can submit your work. Email your work to [EnglishAggieStories@gmail.com](mailto:EnglishAggieStories@gmail.com) and you could end up published in The English Aggie!

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