**Instructor:** Ira Dworkn  
**Course:** ENGL 303.901  
**Title:** Approaches to English Studies: The Work of World Literatures

**Description:** English 303 is an introduction to English Studies for English majors. In this writing-intensive class, we will become acquainted with the many different methodologies professional 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.

**Proposed Readings:** The course will begin with Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness and the far-reaching apparatus contained in the Norton Critical Edition (5th edition). For a more recent variation on the novel, we will read Viet Thanh Nguyen’s The Sympathizer, which won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and is a response to Francis Ford Coppola’s film version of Heart of Darkness (Apocalypse Now, which is set during the U.S. war in Vietnam). We will continue to read across genre with Claudia Rankine’s Citizen: An American Lyric, a hybrid work that won the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry (it was also nominated in the criticism category), in order to consider the ways that diverse writers engage with and transform their media. We will reader shorter works by writers including Binyavanga Wainaina, Chinua Achebe, Edward Said, Franco Moretti, Simon Gikandi, Julia Alvarez, Ana Menendez, NourbeSe Philip, Marianne Moore, Thomas Iguh, and others.