Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

**Instructor:** Susan Egenolf  
**Course:** ENGL 303  
**Title:** Approaches to English Studies: Regency Aesthetics and Our Understanding of the Past

**Description:** 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.

This course will foster an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of the discipline of English Studies through the introduction of various methodologies, theory, and research practices in the field. Students should expect to learn about the expansion of the literary canon, about various approaches to texts through such lenses as discourse analysis, gender theory, postcolonial studies, and cultural studies, and about traditional and cutting edge research methods. Students will learn about and in some cases practice the genres of professional and academic writing and oral performance expected of successful undergraduates in English Studies.

**Proposed Readings:** Jane Austen. Northanger Abbey (1817).  
Edmund Burke. A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful (1757--excerpts).  
Lord Byron. Don Juan (1819-1824; selected cantos).  
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Anna Seward. “Colebrook Dale.”  
Charlotte Smith. Conversations introducing poetry: Chiefly on subjects of natural history for the use of children and young persons (2 vols.; 1804--excerpts).  
William Wordsworth. Selected poems.  
Industrial Poetry and travel writing.