Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Sara DiCaglio
Course: 303.901
Title: Reproducing Literature

Description: What is the purpose of literature in society? Does literature mirror (or reproduce) our world, or is its function something different entirely? This course introduces students to the English major through a focused examination of the topic of reproduction across scales (from human to world, cells to technologies, printing presses to the cloud). We will look at a variety of genres—contemporary fiction and science fiction, poetry, rhetoric, and film/tv—in order to understand the reproductive function of literature itself; we'll ask questions about how identity, history, physical materials, and biology reproduce within and at the outskirts of representation. Because this is an introductory course, students will be introduced to a wide view of the major through an examination of literature, rhetoric, and creative writing, helping students to find their interests within the major itself through projects tailored to individual development. Course work will include reading responses, two essays with drafting stages, and a final portfolio.

Proposed Readings: Readings may include works such as Underground Railroad (Whitehead), Handmaid’s Tale (Atwood), Frankenstein (Shelley), Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro), Body Clock (Sikelianos), Mina Loy (selected poems and writings), Battlestar Galactica, Orphan Black, the Rhetoric of Pregnancy (Seigal, selections), and others.