

Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Mary Ann O'Farrell

Course: ENGL 303

Title: Approaches to English Studies: Keywords

Description: The class will be an introduction to English studies organized around our thinking self-consciously about what we do when we read, discuss, and write about literature and other kinds of texts. We will pay attention to specific keywords in literary and textual study, including, for example, "author," "reader," "culture," and "text," along with matters of style, pleasure, context, representation, taste, and interpretation. Thinking about what we do when we read and interpret texts, we will also consider how these words and concepts have been used in recent years to examine literature's relation to culture, history, identity, and knowledge.

One goal of the class will be to help students make self-conscious choices about their interests and practices as readers and to introduce them to new ways of thinking about texts.

The course is also meant to provide a working knowledge of how the English major works at Texas A&M.

Proposed Readings: Texts we'll work with will include a 19th-century novel (something by Jane Austen or Charles Dickens), a graphic memoir (Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*), and a film (Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*), along with shorter readings.