Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Ira Dworkin
Course: ENGL 303
Title: Approaches to English Studies (W): 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.

By examining text and context, the class will consider the ways that diverse Anglophone literary works enter into conversations with each other and, more widely, with broader cultural archives, including materials available at Cushing Library.

Proposed Readings: