ENGL-231: LITERATURE AND SEXUALITY

Effective Term
Fall 2025

CC Approval
02/07/2025

AS Approval
02/13/2025

BOT Approval
02/20/2025

COCI Approval
04/30/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status
Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
English (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code
ENGL - English
Course Number
231

Department
English (ENGL)

Division
Language and Developmental Studies (LADS)

Full Course Title
Literature and Sexuality

Short Title
Literature and Sexuality

CB03 TOP Code
1501.00 - English

CB08 Basic Skills Status
NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code
E - Non-Occupational

Rationale
Updating common course numbering course change.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description
This course explores literary representations of sexuality and the erotic. Students will read and analyze texts that both reflect and challenge queer and normative identities, with attention to cultural and political issues surrounding sex, gender, and orientation.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit
No

Repeatability
Not Repeatable

Grading Options
Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit
Yes

Requisites

Prerequisite(s)
Completion of ENGL-C1000 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C or appropriate placement.

Requisite Justification
Requisite Description
Course Not in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL
Course #
C1000

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:
Completion of ENGL-120 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C.

Requisite Description
Course Not in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL
Course #
120B

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:
Completion of ENGL-120 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?
No

Units
3.00000

Lecture Hours
54.00

Outside of Class Hours
108

Total Contact Hours
54

Total Student Hours
162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?
Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent
Online with Proctored Exams	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Demonstrate through explication, interpretation, and analysis an understanding of literary texts that investigate issues of sex, gender, orientation, and the erotic.
2.	Demonstrate through explication, interpretation, and analysis the relationship between literary representations of sexuality and their literary, historical, thematic, and contemporary social contexts.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Evaluate representations of sexuality and gender with the literary tradition and recognize their common tropes and motifs.
2.	Recognize and understand major themes surrounding sexuality and gender in literature.
3.	Demonstrate an understanding of how sexuality and gender in literature reflects historical contexts, particularly the social, artistic and political movements.
4.	Analyze and compare innovative texts responding to considerations of biological sex, queer and normative gender identifications, the fluidity of sexual desire, eroticized power dynamics, and sensuality in the literary arts.
5.	Demonstrate familiarity with major literary theories and social movements informing representations of sexuality and gender.

Course Content

The approach to the course content may be historical, topical/thematic or genre based, but should include readings addressing each of the areas below with attention to important representations of sexuality and gender in the literary tradition including queer, questioning perspectives. Texts should be examined for their literary constructions as well as their relation to socio-historical themes, motifs, and social movements. Lessons should focus on American Literature and contemporary LGBTQ community issues, though may include other English language texts and significant literary and critical texts in translation.

1. Gender, Sexuality, and Eroticism in the Literary tradition--may include Classical Western Tradition (e.g., Sappho, Catullus, Oedipus Rex); British Renaissance (Shakespeare's stage and Elizabethan gender roles, Romance and Chivalric Love); other World Traditions (African folklore, 16th century Japanese Haiku).
2. Colonial eroticism--understanding power dynamics and the eroticized other in colonial and postcolonial texts (Edward Said *Orientalism*).
3. 18th and 19th Century Women's writing and Male Perspectives: in particular American and British works that inform and challenge sexual norms and gendered roles (Byron's Don Juan; Jane Austen's novels; the figure of Oscar Wilde; queer perspectives on Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson).

4. Modernism, First Wave Feminism, and Transgressive Sexuality (e.g., Gertrude Stein *Tender Buttons*, H.D. *Helen in Egypt*, W. H. Auden, Ernest Hemingway *The Sun Also Rises*, Steinbeck "The Chrysanthemums," Sui Sin Far *Mrs. Spring Fragrance*, Langston Hughes).
5. 1960s Sexual Revolution, Second Wave Feminism, and the rise of LGBTQ communities (Simone de Beauvoir, Amsted Maupin *Tales of the City*, James Baldwin, Gore Vidal, Myra Breckinridge, Allen Ginsburg *Howl*) ecriture feminine, stonewall riots.
6. Late 20th Century Queer Theory, body as liminal space, gender deconstruction (e.g., Jeanette Winterson *Written on the Body*, Ursula K. Le Guin *The Left Hand of Darkness*).
7. 21st Century and Millennial perspectives; same sex marriage and trans identities (e.g., Joseph Cassara *The House of Impossible Beauties*, Octavia Butler *Lilith's Brood*, Rosanne Gay *Bad Feminist*).

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	Discuss textual representations of sexuality and gender discuss American social movements that challenge and affirm social norms.
Lecture	Introduce literary traditions and tropes of gender and sexuality and gender.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms
Discussion Boards
E-mail Communication
Telephone Conversations
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Exams on literary devices, artistic traditions, social movements, etc. informing representations of sexuality and gender.
Quizzes	Quizzes on literary devices, artistic traditions, social movements, etc. informing representations of sexuality and gender.
Projects	Research Projects -- analysis of significant text or author engaging gender issues or sexuality.
Essays/Papers	In-class and out-of-class essays that analyze literary works, writers, and/or their socio-political historical contexts.
Oral Presentations	

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Read James Baldwin's "Giovanni's Room" and Hemingway's "The Sun also Rises" and consider how they represent early and late 20th century masculinity.

Read the selections from Sappho--consider how the relate to and diverge from the depictions of women in the modernist the poems of H.D. and Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own."

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Material Type
Textbook

Author
Baldwin, James

Title
Giovanni's Room

Publisher
Vintage

Year
2013

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Winterson, Jeanette

Title
Oranges are Not the Only Fruit

Publisher
Grove Press

Year
1997

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Vidal, Gore

Title
Myra Breckinridge

Publisher
Penguin Random House

Year
2019

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Atwood, Margaret

Title
The Handmaid's Tale

Publisher
Penguin Random House

Year
2017

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Diaz, Junot

Title
This Is How You Lose Her

Edition/Version
Reprint

Publisher
Riverhead Books

Year
2013

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update
No

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status
N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status
Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status
N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status
Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass
Yes

Only Pass/No Pass
No