



SPRING 2023
ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT UPPER
LEVEL COURSES

200-level English Course offerings for students who have
completed English 101 and 102



QUEENSBOROUGH | **CU**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE | **NY**

About the English Department:

English at Queensborough is about opening up new ways of thinking and knowing -- new possibilities that will make a difference in your life. Students with a Concentration in English have the opportunity to work closely with the English Department's dedicated faculty members, experts in literary and cultural analysis, creative writing, and writing pedagogy. Our faculty members are active scholars of literary history, of contemporary popular culture, gender studies, and film studies. English Department faculty publish regularly in national academic, journalistic, and creative venues. Informed by this scholarly and artistic work, our goal is to help students develop key academic literacies necessary for success in college and beyond.

About Our Upper-Level Courses:

This brochure includes a list of the English Department's upper-level courses to be offered in Spring 2023. All of our upper-level courses are open to students who have passed English 102 and are Writing Intensive. Students can choose from any course listed here to fulfill one of their Writing Intensive requirements at QCC—students don't have to take these courses in any particular order—they can choose a course based on their interest. English Concentration students may choose to take English 201: Introduction to Literary Studies as a starting point in their concentration requirements.

What Do QCC Students Think?

“My experience at Queensborough Community College as an English concentration student has been wonderful. My professors are always willing to help and have been mentoring me throughout my academic career. I believe that the guidance that my professors have provided me with will definitely help me achieve the goals I set.”

--Nadir Durrani

“During the two and a half years I spent at Queensborough Community College I learned a lot, not only about myself, but about how much I truly enjoy being an English major. When I first declared my Liberal Arts major with an emphasis in Literature I knew I would have to focus on my English classes. In time I learned so much and my work began to improve. Being an English major means you are able to watch yourself grow and change from your very first steps. ... I love to look deeply into the novels of each class and give my own thoughts while opening up my mind to the views of others. Even writing itself has become a great passion of mine, sometimes allowing me to

express myself better than words.

Now in Queens College as a full time English major and Art History minor, I look back on my work in QCC and see how far I've come thanks to the help and guidance of so many great professors. ... The further I go in my education the more I realize that English is limitless, you can choose so many different paths and utilize your knowledge in ways you've never imagined before."

--Francesca Contreras

"I feel like the greatest advantage in studying English is how much I truly learn; not only tools to help me be a better reader and writer, but everything I learn through the different pieces of literature I have encountered. To me, reading is sort of like taking a mini vacation. But, I've noticed that when I actively read, my vacation becomes all-inclusive to anywhere my book and I choose to go. And this has helped me become a more daring writer; writing about places I've personally never been to and about people I've never met."

--Michelle Velez

For more information about upper-level English Courses or the English Concentration, please contact Associate Professor William J. Ryan; WRyan@qcc.cuny.edu.

Are You Interested in Literature?

English 201- Introduction to Literary Study

Professors: Kathleen Alves, Michael Dolan, and David Shimkin

- In Person, Hybrid/Partially Online, and Online
- Transfers directly to Queens College English Majors



What, exactly, is the practical value of literary study? This course will help you consider the social, political, and personal significance of the study of language and literature.

Introduction to Literary Studies provides an inquiry into what it means to study literature, involving close reading and critical analysis of a variety of prose fiction, drama, and poetry, and informed by an introduction to some of the theoretical issues currently debated in literary studies and a consideration of how such issues have evolved historically. In addition to works of literature, students will read critical and theoretical works, some of which they will identify through their own research. This course combines a study of literature with continued training in clear and effective writing.

English 205 – Literary History

Professor: Mark Schiebe

- Online Synchronous
- Transfers directly to Queens College for English Majors

An exploration of how literary artists and their creations have responded to earlier writers, and how such responses have historically impacted literature in English. Students will also enhance their analytical and interpretative skills through writing about literary traditions, genres, periods, and movements. Readings include representative genre texts from at least two national literatures and historical periods. This course is an exploration of how literary artists have responded to earlier writers, borrowing and transforming the words, images, forms, and stories of their predecessors, bending them to their own social, political and artistic purposes. Reading and writing assignments will be grouped into three units: Short Fiction & Literary Couples; Black Lives & The Lyrical Memoir; The Evolution of the Sonnet. Authors we will study together include Zora Neal Hurston, Jhumpa Lahiri, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Anton Chekhov, and William Shakespeare.

English 206 – Genre

Professor: Joel Kuszai

- **Online Synchronous**
- **Transfers directly to Queens College for English Majors**

Broadly defined, genre refers to different forms of literary expression, such as fiction, poetry, and drama, but genres are also a reflection of cultural contexts and traditions. In this course, students will focus on different definitions of genre; issues of form, style, and content; and how ideas about genre change over time. Readings will include texts from at least two genres and two national literatures as well as material from before and after 1800.

English 212 – English Literature II: Nineteenth Century to Present

Professor: Danny Sexton

- **Online Asynchronous**

This course provides a historical study of British literature from the Romantic period through the present century. The aim of the course is to develop students' knowledge of English literature in its various genres and its historical and cultural contexts through critical reading, thinking, and writing. Students are encouraged to make connections between the Romantic, Victorian, and Modernist periods and their own interests.

English 217 – Contemporary Literature in English

Professor: Cara Murray

- **Hybrid**

This course recognizes the spread of English as a world language in the twentieth century. It will address important changes which have occurred in the English-language literature and “Englishes” from non-Western nations, the influence of postmodernist aesthetics and popular culture’s influence on literature. The readings will be selected from a number of national literatures.

English 223 - African American Literature

Professor: Robin Ford

- **Hybrid**

This course offers a study of African American literature, from enslavement to the present day, through a variety of genres and mediums, including fiction, memoir, poetry, drama, primary sources, film, and journalism. The course aims to enhance students' knowledge of the literary traditions and historical contexts which shaped African American literature. The course focuses on both aesthetic and socio-political concerns of African American writers through a range of periods and movements, including Literature of Enslavement, Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, Modernism, Urban Realism, Black Arts Movement, Afrofuturism, Postmodernism, and Literature of the 21st Century.

This class will attempt to define African American literature. Students will explore African American literature as a place where the struggle for self-definition takes place -- where writers have re-possessed and revised words and ideas that had been used to exclude them from both American literary history and America itself. Throughout the course students will examine the uneasy relationship between "race" and writing, with a particular focus on how representations of class, gender and sexuality participate in a literary construction of identity for African Americans, and how these representations respond to and interact with the majority culture's efforts to define them. Texts and authors may include Toni Morrison, Langston Hughes, N.K. Jemisin, Claudia Rankine, Lovecraft Country, Black Panther, and The Underground Railroad.

English 231 - Special Topics in Writing Studies

Professor: Charissa Che, Angela Ridinger-Dotterman

- **In Person, Online Asynchronous**

These courses will focus on fiction and nonfiction writing about a specific theme or topic to be announced in advance and will vary each semester. Descriptions of the topic in a particular semester will be available in the English Department before registration. Students may take two such courses for credit, as long as they do not repeat the topic.

English 263 - Holocaust Literature

Professor: Aliza Atik

- **Online Asynchronous**

This course offers a study of the Holocaust through a variety of genres, including poetry, novels, short stories, plays, memoirs, primary sources, film, and children's literature, in order to gain a better understanding of the unfolding, impact, meaning and significance of the Holocaust. Students will study the origins and development of the Holocaust and its political, cultural, economic and social implications through the lens of a variety of artists, writers and scholars.

Are You Interested in Culture and Media?

English 251- Popular Culture

Professor: Christopher Leary

- **In Person**

A critical study of the pervasive role the popular arts play in our lives, with emphasis on a rhetorical approach to the mass media. Students will write about the contemporary arts and related issues.

English 252- Film and Literature

Professor: Matthew Lau

- **Hybrid**

This course provides a comparative investigation of the methods and modes of film and literature, coupled with an exploration of their overlapping boundaries. Multiple approaches to the intersection between both mediums will be explored and may include such focuses as adaptation, genre studies, Western and other World films and texts, and aesthetic and historical themes, amongst others. Students will receive instructions on writing strategies specific to audiovisual media.

English 262 – New York

Professor: Noelia Diaz

- **Hybrid**

This course explores New York City through reading and writing about various movements, periods, genres, and styles of literature, including fiction, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Students will be focused on the literature and culture of New York City from the beginning of the twentieth century till the present. They will examine New York and its residents in the context of many mediums, including novels, poetry, short fiction, theater and documentary film. Some of the writers we may read are: Anzia Yezierska, Nella Larsen, Junot Diaz, Anne Deavere Smith and Karla Cornejo Villavicencio. Since New York City is the theater capital of the US previous classes attended a Broadway play and depending on circumstances related to Covid we might resume this field trip as well. Past plays the class has attended are: Half Way Bitches go Straight to Heaven, The Happiest Song Plays Last and Jesus Hopped the A Train among others.

English 264 – Graphic Genres

Professor: Susan Jacobowitz

- **Hybrid**

This course seeks to explore graphic novels and other related graphic genres and visual formats - journalism, memoir, fiction, science fiction, fantasy, juvenilia, history, and film - to investigate the evolution, power and popularity of texts that combine words and pictures. Topics and themes examined include war, family, sexuality, adolescence, ethnicity, identity, politics and science fiction. In addition to learning about graphic novels and genres, students will create their own graphic work, as well as conduct research and present on a topic, artist, genre, or work of their choice. Exploring Graphic Genres focuses on graphic texts and graphic film. For thousands of years – longer than we have had writing – we have communicated with one another using visual means. We evolved to be sophisticated interpreters of visual culture – as children often the first works we encounter are picture books and cartoons. Graphic texts and graphic films have proliferated and have become increasingly influential. Some of the topics and themes explored in the works include war and its aftermath, family, sexuality, adolescence, ethnicity, identity and politics. Texts have included Fun Home, Maus, Gender Queer, Kindred, March,

Becoming/Unbecoming, Sandman, The Dark Knight, Persepolis, Exit Wounds, American Born Chinese and I Was Their American Dream. Films have included “Persepolis,” “Spirited Away,” “Waltz with Bashir,” “American Splendor,” “Crumb” and “The Magician.”

Are You Interested in Writing Creatively?

English 220 – Introduction to Creative Writing

Professors: Alison Cimino, Benjamin Miller, Jan Ramjerdi, Irvin Weathersby

- **In Person, Hybrid, Online Synchronous**

This course provides an introduction to the writing of poems, stories, plays, and creative non-fiction, with related readings. Students submit writing for class discussion with the aim of creating an original collection of creative work in several genres.

“We are important, and our lives are important, magnificent really, and their details are worthy to be recorded. This is how writers must think; this is how we must sit down with pen in hand. We were here; we are human beings; this is how we lived. Let it be known, the earth passed before us. Our details are important.” Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*.

In Introduction to Creative Writing, students will explore the various genres of creative writing: non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and playwriting. Students will use their observations and their lives to explore reading and writing like creative writers. If you are someone who enjoys creative writing or even if you have never written anything creative, this class offers an opportunity to explore your own mind and your world through writing. As Natalie Goldberg notes in one of our texts, “Writing is the act of discovery.”

Students submit writing for class discussion with the aim of creating an original collection of creative work in several genres. Students will read and study the QCC Student Literary Journal, Collective, and look for other student writing opportunities. A strong emphasis will be placed on creating a supportive community.

ENGL 241 - Introduction to Journalism: Editing Principles and Practices

Professor: Alisa Cercone

- **Online Synchronous**

This course provides an introduction to journalistic practices through developing research and writing skills fundamental to the work of reporters and editors. Straight news, feature, and editorial writing are stressed along with the principles and practices of general editing and copyediting. Through a focus on news writing, op-eds and

reviews, students learn to to edit, revise, cut, and expand written material to make it suitable for publication in the school newspaper and for professional publication. Students are encouraged to follow best ethical practices for research and interviews, and challenged to apply the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics to real world historical and contemporary situations. Straight news, feature, and editorial writing are stressed along with the principles and practices of general editing and copyediting. Students learn to edit, revise, cut, and expand written material to make it suitable for publication in the school newspaper and for professional publication.

English 261 – Autobiography

Professor: Joan Dupre

- **In Person**

Readings in autobiographies combined with students' writing about their own lives and times. Readings selected from the world's literature including African, Asian, European, Chicano-Latin American, Native American, and American sources. In this course, students will explore the different ways people define and practice autobiography or memoir. It is safe to say that more people are sharing more of their lives (in print and in video) than ever before in history. But is this sharing on social media honest enough to lead to true self-awareness? Does it lead to the kind of empathy so essential to successful human relationships? Students will read, discuss, and write about portions of published memoirs and autobiographical essays. In addition to these published texts, they will compose their own memoir, which they will draft in stages and revise based on feedback they receive from their peers and instructor during the semester.

English Department Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to take another English course after ENGL-102?

If you're a Liberal Arts or Childhood Education major, then yes. You need to take an ENGL-200 level class to graduate. However, students in other majors can take an additional English course that is indicated as "Writing Intensive". All QCC students are required to complete TWO writing intensive course in order to graduate.

What is a Writing Intensive course?

Writing Intensive classes are designed to build writing abilities: in small classes, faculty members design assignments to help students grow as writers while they learn course material.

In WI classes, students will be expected to complete a series of short papers as part of the course requirements.

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/academicAffairs/wiGraduationReqs.html>

Are writing intensive courses very difficult?

Writing Intensive courses are not overwhelming, but you can expect to have more written assignments than in a normal, non-writing intensive course. Students should remain diligent in scheduling time for themselves to do assignments for writing intensive courses.

Is there additional support on campus for students in writing intensive classes?

Yes! The Center for Tutoring and Academic Support (CTAS) provides in-person and online tutoring services to all QCC students. Tutors are well-qualified to work with you at any point in the writing process in any of your classes.

Find out more here:

<http://www3.qcc.cuny.edu/CWCWeb/cwc.aspx>

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