

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
Graduate Course Descriptions  
Summer 2025

Any Enrollment Issues: Please contact [graduate\\_english@stonybrook.edu](mailto:graduate_english@stonybrook.edu)

**EGL 584.30: Topics in Genre Studies**

*Shakespeare*

This course reintroduces graduate students to Shakespeare's dramatic works across four genres: history, tragedy, comedy, and romance. Each week, you will access online lectures that contextualize Shakespeare's career within the larger English Renaissance, especially the vibrant, commercial theatre scene in early modern London, and the political climate of Tudor-Stuart England. You will then read his plays in conjunction with select criticism to give you a preliminary sense of their rich histories of performance, reception, and interpretation. And you will reflect on your learning through reading responses due at the end of each week. As a class, our goals are as follows: to read Shakespeare's texts in light of their historical context and identify and analyze their distinctly literary aspects; to explore the possibilities, and challenges, of performing and adapting Shakespeare's work today; to consider current trends in Shakespeare scholarship that seek to (re)evaluate the bard through the lenses of postcolonial theory, women's and gender studies, queer theory, and critical race studies; and to discover innovative and responsible ways to teach Shakespeare's works in the classrooms of today. Major assignments include an adaptation review, close readings, and a final project tailored to your interests as burgeoning scholars, creative writers, teachers, or all of the above.

*Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.*

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

**LEC 30**

**JULY 7-AUG 16 ONLINE**

**B. KRUMM**

**EGL 585.30: Topics in Culture Studies**

*Defining "Human" through Popular Culture*

Pop culture both reflects and transforms how we define what it means to be human. In this course, we will examine historical and modern philosophies which seek to understand the human condition. We will draw on work from Rene Descartes, Martha Nussbaum, Donna Haraway, Timothy Morton, and more. Using pop culture of various genres, including film, television, music, and digital media, we will explore how cultural products shape and are shaped by societal notions of identity, community, and the human experience. Possible media include *Alien3*, *Pitch Black*, *Red Dwarf*, *Severance*, art by Damien Hirst and Davinci, and music by Tupac.

*Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.*

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

**LEC 30**

**MAY 27-JULY 5 ONLINE**

**J. BROWN**

**EGL 585.30:**

**Topics in Culture Studies**

*Electronic Literature*

“Imagine that the book were different.” This call comes from Scott Rettberg at the outset of his introduction to electronic literature—an umbrella term for a genre of writing that, while relatively new, is deeply rooted in centuries-old literary traditions. E-lit draws from a diverse range of influences, including artists’ books, Dadaist experimentation, the labyrinthine narratives of Borges, and the participatory culture of Multi-User Dungeons. The rhizomatic connections between these influences mirror the database logic that structures so many of the e-lit works we’ll be examining.

This course will begin with an exploration of electronic literature’s influences and precursors before shifting focus to literary works created for, by, and through computers. Students will engage with a variety of genres, from combinatory poetics and hypertext fiction to kinetic poetry and network writing. In addition to analyzing these works, students will take an active role in the creative process, participating in a collaborative netprov activity and developing a number of their own e-lit works. Throughout the course, we will consider both the affordances and limitations of electronic literature, reflecting on its material conditions and the challenges it poses to traditional understandings of authorship and narrative. No prior coding experience is necessary—only curiosity and a willingness to experiment with the digital.

*Prerequisite: enrollment in the English MA, Ph.D., MAT programs.*

Note: No adds after the first week of classes

**LEC 30**

**JULY 7-AUG 16 ONLINE**

**J. Heggestad**

**EGL 598:**

**Thesis Research**

Writing a master’s thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a second reader. Students who plan to take **EGL 598 must fill out the appropriate form from the Department of English website**. Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

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**EGL 599: Independent Study**

Requests for independent studies must be submitted to the Graduate Program Director. English majors only. Instructor permission and Graduate Program Director approval required. Students who plan to take EGL599 must download the appropriate form from the English department website. Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll

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**EGL 615: Independent Study**

**Students who plan to take EGL 615 must fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English website.** Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

*0-9 credits graded S/U*

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**EGL 690: Directed Readings**

For PhD students preparing for General Exams and the Dissertation Prospectus Meeting. **Students who plan to take EGL 690 (Directed Readings) must fill out the enrollment form on the Department of English website.** Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permissions to enroll.

*0-9 credits graded S/U*

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**EGL 699: Dissertation Research On-Campus**

Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab. Fall, Spring, and Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 699 (Dissertation Research) must first fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English website.** Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as

the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

*0-9 credits graded S/U*

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**EGL 700:                      Dissertation Research Off-Campus Domestic**

Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. Full-time students need 9 credits. **Students who plan to take EGL 700 (Dissertation Research) must first fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English website.** Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

*0-9 credits graded S/U*

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**EGL 701:                      Dissertation Research Off-Campus International**

Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan. International students who are in their home country are not covered by a mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed. International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by the second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if the other plan is deemed comparable. All international students must receive clearance from an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer. **Students who plan to take EGL 701 (Dissertation Research) must first fill out the appropriate form on the Department of English website.** Then students must obtain the signature of the faculty member(s) they are working with, as well as the signature of the Graduate Program Director. This form then goes to the Graduate Program Coordinator who issues permission to enroll.

*0-9 credits graded S/U*

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**English Students: All students should meet with an advisor before they register for any courses**

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**Taking courses outside of English:**

If you are interested in taking a graduate course that is not EGL or not cross-listed with EGL, you must obtain written permission from the Graduate Program Director, the semester before the course begins. Just because SOLAR allows you to register for a non-EGL course does not mean that it can count toward your degree-get permission first.

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**Non-English MA/PhD/MAT Students:**

Graduate English courses are open to all English students. Students outside of the English department who would like to take an English course should contact the instructor of the course and the graduate program coordinator for enrollment permissions.