MAJOR NEWS! Office of Undergraduate Studies Department of English

A note from the director...



Dear Students:

Our first in-person **Open Mic Night**, now known as **Open Podium Night** was a success! We were treated to wonderful work by **Xiomara Demarchi**, **Eva Durance**, **Carolina Hinojosa**, **Savannah Johnson**, **Leo Redican and James Sharpe**. Our next **Open Podium** takes place in **Spring 2022**. Watch this space for more information.

Speaking of **Spring 2022**, we have some great classes for your consideration. See below for more information. We also have not one but two! interviews with interns by **Chasitity Garland** and **Tavon Sanders** writes about the political importance of a degree in English. And, that is not all. A number of publications are looking for paid (and unpaid) submissions and graduate schools offering full-funding to all students are looking for new recruits. Plus, LAS has six scholarships for students in English. Finally, **the faculty-student chess match** is raging. Newly declared English major **Diego Martinez** countered **Professor Freeman's** move, itself a response to senior **Jaron Cano's** move.

Sincerely,

Prof. Robin Reames, Director of Undergraduate Studies rreames@uic.edu

Spring 2022 Courses

English 491: Advanced Writing of Fiction

Prof. Lisa Stolley

TELL YOUR STORY.

(and find your voice.)



Craft stories, shape narratives, create characters. Enter a new world.

ADVANCED WRITING OF FICTION ENGL 491

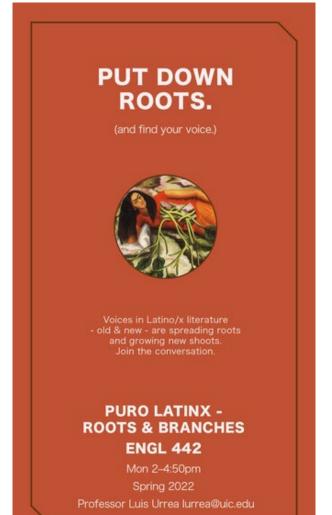
Mon-Wed-Fri 12–12:50pm Spring 2022 Prof. Lisa Stolley: Istoll1@uic.edu

ENGL 442: Topics in Latinx Literature: Puro Latinx—Roots & Branches

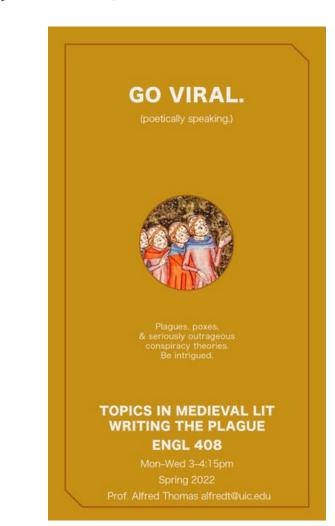
Prof. Luis Urrea

This course will feature a quick survey of the roots of Latinx Literature and an adventuresome climb out along the branches into the 21st century to understand how we tell our stories. We will have zoom conversations with several authors and even take a detour into Latinx moviemaking as well as popular music (roc en espanol).

English 491 is for fiction writers who have a working knowledge of the components and structure of the short story or novel. You will continue to develop voice, style and technique through close reading and analysis of published short fiction, and through writing and workshopping of your own stories. Attention to narrative necessities - conflict, characterization, point of view, detail, dialogue, setting, etc., and how these elements work together to create the whole of a successful story will be an important aspect of this course. Readings and short exercises will be assigned in the first few weeks, followed by workshop format. Constructive critique of peers' work will be based on criteria established by students and instructor. Students will write two complete stories (or chapters if you are writing a novel) over the course of the semester. One of those stories will be revised and submitted as the final project at the end of the semester.



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English 408: Medieval Lit - The Literature of Pandemic from Chaucer Onwards

Prof. Alfred Thomas

The Black Death, the greatest biomedical crisis in human history, killed about half the population of Europe between 1348 and 1353, but continued to ravage the continent for the next three hundred years. In this course we shall explore how medieval and early modern writers from Chaucer to Shakespeare reacted to these high rates of mortality. Some authors like Geoffrey Chaucer and the Pearl-Poet address the Black Death obliquely, while others like such as the early Italian humanist Giovanni Boccaccio address it head-on. One of the most serious consequences of the Black Death was the scapegoating of vulnerable minorities like Jews and lepers who were accused of poisoning the wells and were murdered in large numbers.

The point of the course is to understand the similarities as well as differences between medieval and modern reactions to epidemiological catastrophe and how COVID-19 has also led to hysteria and the scapegoating of ethnic minorities today.

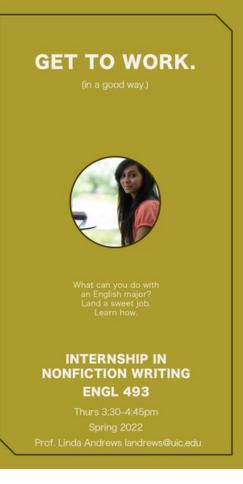
English 493: Internship in Nonfiction Writing

Prof. Linda Landis Andrews

"What can I do with an English major?" is a question that often concerns students, particularly when parents and others ask about the future. No need to hedge; every organization needs writers to provide information through websites and blogs, to add creativity to the focus of its work, and to move its ideas forward. Writers are gifted people and their skills are needed.

Becoming a contributing writer takes planning, however, starting with an internship, which provides an opportunity to step off campus and use the writing and analytical skills gained through English courses.

In ENGL 493, guided by an instructor and a supervisor,



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English majors quickly adjust to a public audience and conduct research, gain interviewing skills, write content, edit, learn technology, assist with special events, to name a few of the tasks assigned in an internship. Students are enrolled in ENGL 493 while concurrently working at an internship for 12 hours a week.

Employers include nonprofits, radio and television stations, online and print newspapers and magazines, public relations firms, museums, associations, law firms, and health organizations. There is an internship for every

interest. Because of the pandemic, many internships are conducted remotely, which makes the world a stage. Last spring one intern worked for an organization in Denver and another worked from home in Ho Chi Minh City.

DECOLONIZE YOUR MIND.

(don't worry. it's a good thing.)



What's 'post' about postcolonial literature? How does decolonization reshape the novel?

THE LITERATURE OF DECOLONIZATION ENGL 422

Tues-Thurs 3:30–4:45pm Spring 2022 Prof. Sunil Agnani sangnani1@uic.edu

ENGL 422: Topics in Postcolonial & World Lit: From Colony to Postcolony

Prof. Sunil Agnani

This course introduces students to what used to be called third-world literature, or postcolonial literature. We will investigate the legacies of European colonialism through a study of fiction, essays, and films that were produced during the colonial period and its aftermath. We begin with Conrad and Kipling, then shift to those in the colonies in order to examine the cultural impact of empire, anti-colonial nationalism, and the role played by exile and diaspora communities.

What challenges do works from writers on the receiving end of empire—such as Gandhi, Fanon, Césaire, J.M. Coetzee, Assia Djebar, Michael Ondaatje, Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh—pose to the conventional idea of justice? How do they reveal contradictions within the languages of liberalism and progress that emerged in 19thcentury Europe? How do such writers rework the classic forms of the novel? Finally, how has the failure of some of the primary aims of decolonization (economic sovereignty, full political autonomy) affected more recent writing of the last 40 years? Criticism from: Edward Said and Gayatri Spivak.

And the Freshwater Lab... Learn about the world, in the world!

ENGL 483: Studies in Language and Rhetoric: The Freshwater Lab

The Spring Freshwater Lab course focuses on law, policy, and rhetoric concerning the Great Lakes and other crossborder watersheds. Through grant funding, guest professors and speakers from a wide range of environmental organizations and initiatives visit class and work with individual students on their ideas and projects. Following spring break, students have the opportunity to develop their own projects or to undertake an internship at an organization focused on water or the environment. Professor Havrelock helps to place students in an internship most aligned with their interests and extends summer funding for the internship through a competitive process. In Summer 2021, all Freshwater Lab interns were funded and met for field trips along the lake and river. More information is available at http://www.freshwaterlab.org/internship

CRN: 42760 (u)/42761 (g) Days/Times: T 2:00-4:50 Instructor: <u>Havrelock, Rachel</u>

The Secret Lives of English Majors Humanities Majors and Earnings Parity across Race

Tavon Saunders

While the existence of racial and gender inequity in various societal systems in the world is no secret, there are few areas where inequity can be as damaging to one's quality of life as in the workplace. Research done by the University of Texas shows that Black college graduates on average earned 22.5% less than their white counterparts in 2019, and similar trends could be found among Hispanic and female graduates across all races. Such wage gaps are especially prevalent among the STEM and business fields. But the same research by UT showed that a particular group of graduates are better-equipped to combat such workplace inequality: humanities graduates.

When examining college graduates' earnings data from 2002 to 2018, University of Texas researchers found that humanities majors across all races and genders made roughly the same amount in their fields, and they had very interesting theories as to why. First and foremost, classes for humanities majors are often much smaller than classes in STEM. This enables students to receive more specialized help from instructors, and in turn makes them more likely to find mentors who can provide them with guidance throughout their college experience and beyond.





Mentors can be invaluable resources, especially to students who may be the first in their family to attend college and need help navigating the tumultuous waters of academia.

Another key finding is that, unlike STEM counterparts, humanities majors don't usually have access to extracurriculars or recruiting events that give them a more direct line to their intended career path when finding work during or after college. Such activities may include investment clubs for finance or accounting majors, engineering societies for engineering majors, or pre-health organizations. While this can seem to be quite a disadvantage at first, it actually has its own benefits in the long run. Humanities majors learn quickly how to put themselves out there and hit the ground running when it comes to finding work, from researching fields they're interested in to reaching out to professionals who can offer advice, connections or even internships. By relying on nothing but their skills and determination from day one, humanities majors are well-versed in navigating the job market by the time of graduation. Lastly, it was found that humanities majors are more likely to work for liberal, open-minded employers who are less likely to use antiquated (and at times, discriminatory) employment practices. After four years of being in courses where they are encouraged to speak their minds, develop their critical thinking skills, and support their viewpoints with evidence and logic, humanities majors are much less tolerant of social injustices, and far less likely to accept working for authoritarian employers that don't value them.

While we should all seek to stamp out social injustice, especially in wages among the workforce, it seems there are few graduates better equipped to fend for themselves and fight back against workplace inequity than humanities majors like yourself. Your studies are preparing you not only for the responsibilities and tasks of your future career, but how to thrive and know your worth in the workforce, and in life, and that's why you should be proud to be an English major or minor.

Major News Success Story



Intern Sarita Cavazos's Moment of Greatness Chasitity Garland

Sarita Cavazos, a transfer student in Political Science at UIC, is now one of the many students who was offered an internship position and experienced eye opening moments, enhancing her preparation for a career. Before attending UIC, Cavazos attended an arts school with a creative background. She soon realized that the arts wasn't for her and wanted to pursue a career in law, which eventually led her to UIC. Cavazos emphasizes that it was the best decision she made. In her own words, "If I could go back in time, I will always do it again."

Cavazos only focus was Political Science and not exploring other career fields. However, after speaking to her advisor, Cavazos gained interest in exploring her writing skills by

declaring a Professional Writing minor, which was not her original intention. Her advisor suggested that since she is into Political Science she should advance her writing skills since it is more focused. Apart from the requirements

for the Professional Writing minor, students have to take **English 493: Internship in Nonfiction Writing.** This course teaches students how to write professionally with organizational communication while also meeting deadlines for writing assignments.

Cavazos describes her experience in the course, "It has been an amazing edition not only just for my resume and strengthening my writing skills for law school but a peak into other genres of writing. I now have this peek into journalism, PR, and every aspect of writing I've thought I'll never have a peek into." Cavazos initially was nervous about taking the course due to the heavy workload but she says, "Thank God I did.. Having to balance an internship and coursework has been incredible and an amazing learning experience."

Cavazos internship experience is at **Borgen Project** as a Political Affairs Intern. Her responsibilities include social media posting, sending letters to the editor, researching foreign affairs and issues, creating fundraising strategies for marketing, discussing complex issues, and participating in professional meetings while preparing documents for them. Canazos takes a moment to appreciate her internship and states, "I think this internship will help me continue the path of politics. It has been a wonderful network experience and can help me explore other career fields I can pursue." You can find out more information about the Borgen Project and future internship opportunities by clicking here.

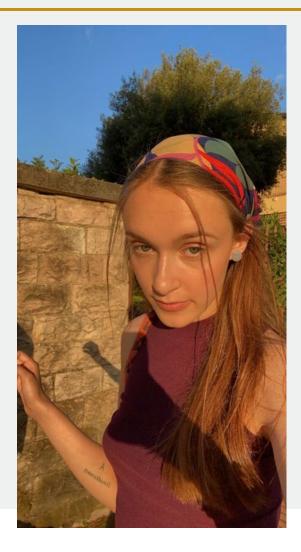
Canazos admires the decision she made by taking a risk and knowing **English 493** would be a course that would require dedication and perseverance. However, she made it through and was able to successfully manage her internship and class work. "This class has taken away that fear, and I feel more qualified for future positions."

Major News Success Story Intern Sarah Phelps Successful Academic Progress

Chasitity Garland

Sarah Phelps, a four year undergraduate student at UIC majoring in English with a concentration in Media, Rhetorical, and Cultural Studies and a minor in Social Justice, is another out of many English majors who have been able to experience the professional work setting and shares her experience as an intern while also taking **English 493: Internship in Nonfiction Writing**.

Phelps's experience in **English 493** has helped her feel more prepared for graduation. Phelps recalls and admires the guest speakers that came to her class and says, "It opened my eyes to new opportunities." Phelps explains how each guest speaker was from all different backgrounds and had something new to offer about career fields she had not even known about. Phelps also enjoys being able to learn about her classmate's internships while



also building relationships with them. She is confident about being able to share her internship experience with others, her development during it, and adapting to the professional work life.

Phelps is at Children's Legal Center as a Grant Writer and Public Relations intern currently. Her responsibilities include drafting proposals, reviewing letters of inquiry for grants, writing thank-you notes, observing reports, running social media accounts, advertising marketing strategies, and conducting interviews. During the internship, she enjoys being able to expand her network and do something important since the clients are all undocumented immigrants. "I feel like I'm making some sort of difference even if I'm just writing the grants. You can find more about Children's Legal Center and internship opportunities by clicking here.

Phelps final words of encouragement for undergraduate students seeking for an internship, "Try to pick something that you would not pick. Search for more than one internship. Broaden your horizons, you will never know what you will find."

Calls for Writers, etc.

Ploughshares Seeks Writers



Ploughshares is currently accepting applications for regular contributors to the Ploughshares Blog. Applications are due November 10, 2021 at 9:00am (Eastern Time).

Regular contributors are contracted on a 12-month basis, with contracts starting January 1, 2022. Regular

contributors are responsible for writing one critical essay per month (regular contributors may occasionally write personal essays or conduct interviews in place of their monthly critical essay assignment). Publication dates for these pieces will be set by Ploughshares Blog editors before January 1, 2022, and regular contributors will be responsible for submitting pitches at least ten days prior to these predetermined publication dates and drafts at least seven days prior to these predetermined publication dates. All drafts undergo editing, though the level of editing needed is determined case-by-case; at a minimum, all pieces will be line edited, copy edited, and fact-checked. Regular contributions are between 1,300 and 1,999 words each; regular contributors are **paid \$35** per piece contributed. Regular contributors are permitted to submit pitches for book reviews and longform essays outside of their regular contribution contract.

To apply, please email <u>blog@pshares.org</u> with the subject line "2022 BLOGGER APPLICATION" and the following materials attached:

- 3 pitches, following the suggestions outlined <u>here</u>
- 3 writing samples, of published and/or unpublished but finished work

Please read the blog to get a sense of what we cover and what we've already covered. Since 1971, Ploughshares has discovered and cultivated the freshest voices in contemporary literature, and remains at the forefront of American publishing by providing readers with groundbreaking poetry, prose, and literary coverage across a variety of print and digital formats. We value strong voices and new perspectives on literature above all.

All applications will receive a response.

Writers interested in publishing one-off pieces may pitch the Ploughshares Blog editors at any time, following guidelines at *Ploughshares'* website.

Dreamer by Night Magazine Seeks Submissions

In honor of her late aunt, UIC alum **Aleena Haider** has founded **Dreamer by Night**. An online magazine, **Dreamer by Night** is currently accepting submissions on grief, loss, etc. For more information or to submit work, please email <u>adreamerbynight@gmail.com</u>.

Outrageous Fortune Calls for Outstanding Submissions

Outrageous Fortune, the country's first nationwide online literary magazine for and by undergraduates, is currently accepting submissions. We accept all areas of work, including digital files such as video-recorded spoken word and short films. Each semester we look for fiction, non-fiction, drama, film, art, photography, and poetry. While we operate on a rolling submissions basis, we are accepting submissions for consideration to be included in our Spring 2022 issue until **November 30, 2021**, to the email <u>outrageousfortune@marybaldwin.edu</u>.

Please feel free to browse our <u>website</u> as well as our <u>Submission Guidelines</u>. We also encourage you to Like our <u>Facebook Page</u> and follow us on Instagram <u>@outrageousfortune.mag</u> for regular updates on the magazine and content.

Violet Margin Seeks Submissions

Violet Margin (formerly *Alchemist Review*) is by students, for students. We are accepting work from undergraduates across the nation to create a collection of prose, poetry, and art that will be published and printed in our **Spring 2022** edition.

We want our literary journal to be a home for the atypical, the absurd and the perverse. *Violet Margin* values the stories, experiences and the voices that tend to lie in the margins. We know that every young creator has a voice that demands to be heard, and our journal strives to be the public outlet that voice needs.

Submissions due by December 3, 2021.

For guidelines, etc.: *Violet Margin*.

Internships, Scholarships, Fellowships & Jobs

Six Scholarships for UIC English Students

LAS is currently accepting applications for the followoing scholarships. Use <u>SnAP</u> to apply. Applications are due **December 1, 2021**.

Bernard Shaw Prize is a financial need-based scholarship awarded to an LAS undergraduate student majoring in Communication, **English**, History, or Political Science. **This scholarship can cover all educational expenses for the academic year.**

PNA-Hugh Hill Endowed Scholarship is available to LAS undergraduates majoring in **English** or Communication. Applicants must have past or current internship experience in electronic and/or print media at a television or radio station, magazine, or newspaper.

Raquel M. and Alfredo Garza Scholarship is a financial need-based scholarship for LAS undergraduates.

Robert Corley Memorial Scholarship is available to LAS undergraduate and graduate students in the humanities or social sciences.

Peter James Barbato Memorial Scholarship supports LAS undergraduates living in the community surrounding UIC, with preference given to students whose family home is in the Near West Side, Tri-Taylor, South Loop, West Loop, and West Gate neighborhoods.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Scholarship is awarded to a UIC undergraduate who is a Vietnam veteran or the child or grandchild of a Vietnam veteran.

Questions? Contact lasscholarships@uic.edu

Upcoming Events

Senior Thesis Presentations Friday, December 3, 2021 Room: UH-2028 Time: 3:00-4:00 pm

Are you considering taking ENGL 399: Independent Study? Come listen to this semester's ENGL 399 students give an overview of their varied projects. Please email <u>kboulay@uic.edu</u> to reserve your place.

Finals Week Pizza Party Monday, December 6, 2021 Room: UH-2028 Time: 12:00-1:00 pm

Celebrate finishing the semester and get ready for finals with pizza and soft drinks. Bring your friends, relax with your peers and take a quick break before the semester ends. Please email <u>kboulay@uic.edu</u> to reserve your place.

Game On! Faculty - Student Chess Match



Senior Jaron Cano Explains: Why Chess?

Senior English Major, Jaron Cano, who made the first move last week, explains why he loves chess: "Chess made a sneaky attack during the pandemic. Locked in our homes throughout the past year and a half, a lot of us used the game to pass the time."

Jaron started taking an interest in the content that expert players were making available online. "Grandmasters like Hikaru Nakamura and the bubbly Botez chess sisters took to the live streaming Twitch platform. This allowed everyone around the world to watch, listen, and laugh at the game in real time from the comfort of their homes." Jaron thinks this move made chess more approachable and less stuffy. "High-ranked players streamed advice and tips while also bringing in celebrities and Internet personalities to play on the twitch platform."

He also thinks chess's profile was raised by *Queen's Gambit*, staring Anya Taylor-Joy: "We follow a female protagonist, Beth Harmon, taking on the patriarchal chess world in style. Stores ran out of chess boards a few weeks

after the show's release."

Overall, Jaron feels we have more to learn from chess. "Chess has embodied the lessons of the pandemic. Adapt to circumstances, be flexible and persistent. Whether it's the game in the English department or the game on the way to school, chess is bringing us together one move at a time."

Senior Jaron Cano makes his move, pawn to C4.



Professor Freeman boldly counters, knight to F6!

Newly-declared English major Diego Martinez counters, knight to C3. Welcome to the department, Diego!

Professors, it's your move... Stop by UH 1933 to play!





Graduate Programs

All graduate programs advertised in this newsletter provide full funding for students. It is our policy to only advertise programs that fit the financial needs of our students.

Saint Louis University

SLU English offers fully funded stand-alone MA and PhD programs. Every full-time student we admit receives full tuition remission as well as a living stipend and health insurance. In turn, our students serve as research assistants, writing consultants, and instructors in our composition and literature classes. This experience helps to prepare students to go on to pursue careers in college teaching, secondary education, professional writing, and many other fields.

Our students take a range of courses across the curriculum in English. We regularly offer graduate seminars in global, U.S., and British literature as well as literary theory and rhetoric and composition. As we are the institutional home for the African American Review, we have a particular strength in African American literature. The department's history, which includes having such figures as Walter J. Ong and Marshall McLuhan on the faculty, means that we also have a strong focus on textual, media, and digital studies. And our ready access to the Vatican Film Library makes our department an excellent fit for students interested in earlier periods of English literary history. Outside of these areas, students focus on periods across the discipline, drawing from approaches including gender and sexuality studies, disability studies, digital humanities, and many others.

Questions? Contact rachel.g.smith@slu.edu

Don't miss the live webinar on Monday, November 8 at 5pm central time.

University of Victoria offers a MA in English. The program includes:

- Graduate funding for all students, including international applicants
- Teaching opportunities
- Seminars on professional skills and job-seeking
- Frequent student-faculty mixers and informal talks
- Innovative and fascinating courses from Paradise Lost to video games and beyond
- Reading groups and collectives (theory group, BIPOC students, Digital Humanities cluster, etc.)

Ouestions? Email englgradsec@uvic.ca



FER OF ARTS IN

At the University of Victoria

Our program offers a variety of opportunities and resources.

- Graduate funding for ALL STUDENTS, including international applicants Teaching opportunities

- Seminars opportunities Seminars on professional skills and job-seeking Frequent student-faculty mixers and informal talks Innovative and fascinating courses from Paradise Lost to video games and beyond
- Reading groups and collectives (theory group, BIPOC students, Digital Humanities cluster, etc.)

nt is inclusive and open to a diverse array of students and We are committed to deepening UV/c's institutional comm diressing systemic barriers to equity, diversity and inclusio

knowledge and respect the lekvegen peoples on whose to ry the university stands and the Songhees, Exquirall an es whose historical relationships with the land continue to malt and WSANEC

Amazing experience with the English Department There is a tinge of notatigits in me that asys 'you will miss the ocurses, professors, stat!, taxly speces, and even contributions after you greaduster. ' will call?, for the lack of a better phrase, ''Gatsby effect.'' –Farhad Poordakan, MA

Highly successful in grants competitions (SSHRC) Cutting-edge Teaching and Research World-class faculty FUNDING for every incoming student

About Major News

Major News is an occasional newsletter for undergraduates and faculty of UIC's **Department of English**. If you have an event or issue of interest to our community that you would like us to consider including, please email details to **english@uic.edu**. The deadline for inclusion in the current week's issue is **Wednesday at noon**. All materials received after this time and deemed acceptable for inclusion in *Major News* will appear in the following week's edition.

Past issues of Major News are available at: https://engl.uic.edu/news-events/newsletter-archive/.

Department of English Office of Undergraduate Studies

Contact us:

601 S. Morgan St., 2027 UH Chicago, IL 60607 Phone: (312) 413-2200 | english@uic.edu https://engl.uic.edu/programs/undergraduate-studies/



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