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# MAJOR NEWS!

Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of English

## Note for the year.

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**Dear Students:**

**Welcome back to classes!** How is your first week going so far? Are you still searching for courses to fit your schedule or interested in learning more about expanding your love of English literature and writing? There are currently courses still available for you to join. Take a look below and find a course that could make your journey at UIC even more valuable.

Are you interested in becoming a writer? Or, do you have writing you would like to share? UGS is looking for writers. If you would like to write for us, email at [kboulay@gmail.com](mailto:kboulay@gmail.com).

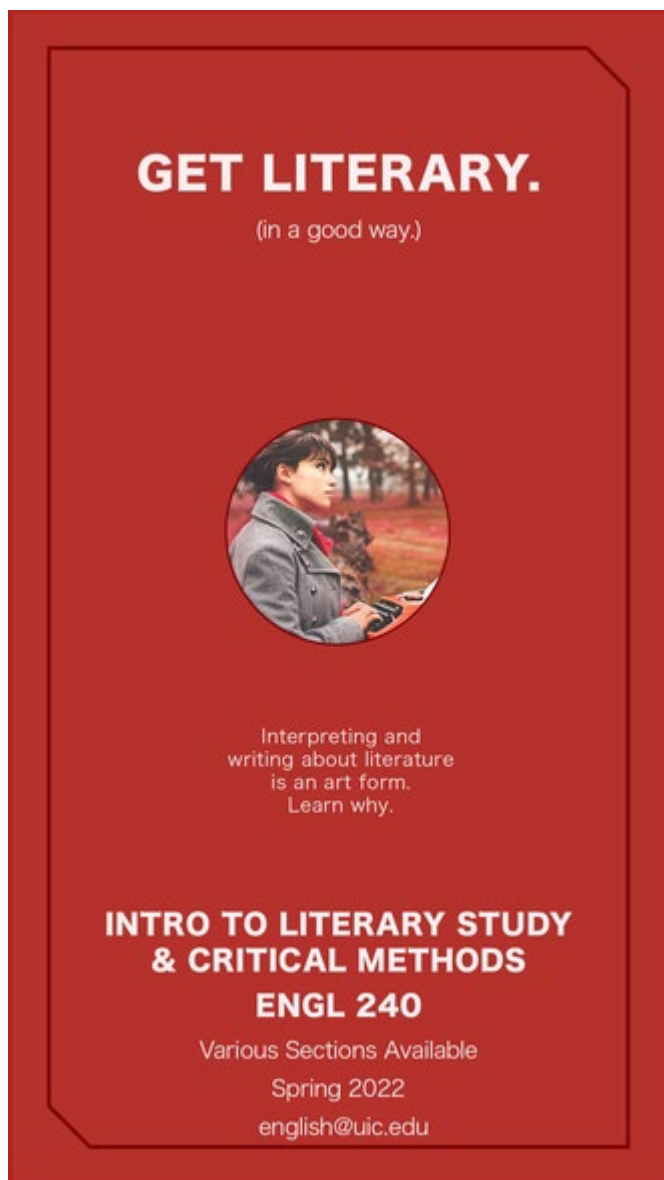
We wish you all the best for the coming semester!

Sincerely,


Prof. Robin Reames, Director of Undergraduate Studies  
[rreames@uic.edu](mailto:rreames@uic.edu)

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## Spring 2022 Courses



**GET LITERARY.**  
(in a good way.)



Interpreting and  
writing about literature  
is an art form.  
Learn why.

**INTRO TO LITERARY STUDY  
& CRITICAL METHODS  
ENGL 240**

Various Sections Available  
Spring 2022  
english@uic.edu

### **English 240: Introduction to Literary Studies and Critical Methods**

Prof. B. English and Maryann Mohanraj

CRN: 19977/20949

Days/Times: MW 3:00-4:15

Professor Bridget English

The process of reading literary texts gives us pleasure because it allows us to enter another world and to imagine what it is like to be someone else. In this sense literature encourages us to empathize with others. But how do we make sense of this experience which reading enables and how is it connected to the “real world”? What methods can we use to better understand or decipher the meaning of a novel, short story, poem, or play? In this course we will study different theoretical approaches to literature, including Marxist, psycho-analytical, historical, structuralist and post-structuralist literary and social theory in order to gain skills of literary analysis, but also to learn about different ways of “seeing” or understanding the world around us. After completing this course students will have a better understanding of what literary theory is and how to apply it, and will also know how to formulate their own thesis based on this understanding.

Have a question? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to enroll? [Click here.](#)

CRN: 32435/32436

Days/Times: MWF 12:00–12:50pm

Professor Mary Anne Mohanraj

The purpose of this course is to give you an understanding of the principles of literary theory, particularly focusing on questions of aesthetics....that is what literature is and how people have thought about it over time. We will examine how we make judgments about literature, and what we base those judgments on. We will read theoretical works along with literary works and try to understand the interrelationship of theory and practice. The course will also be a writing course, with the goal of improving the quality and style of your writing.

Have a question? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to enroll? [Click here.](#)

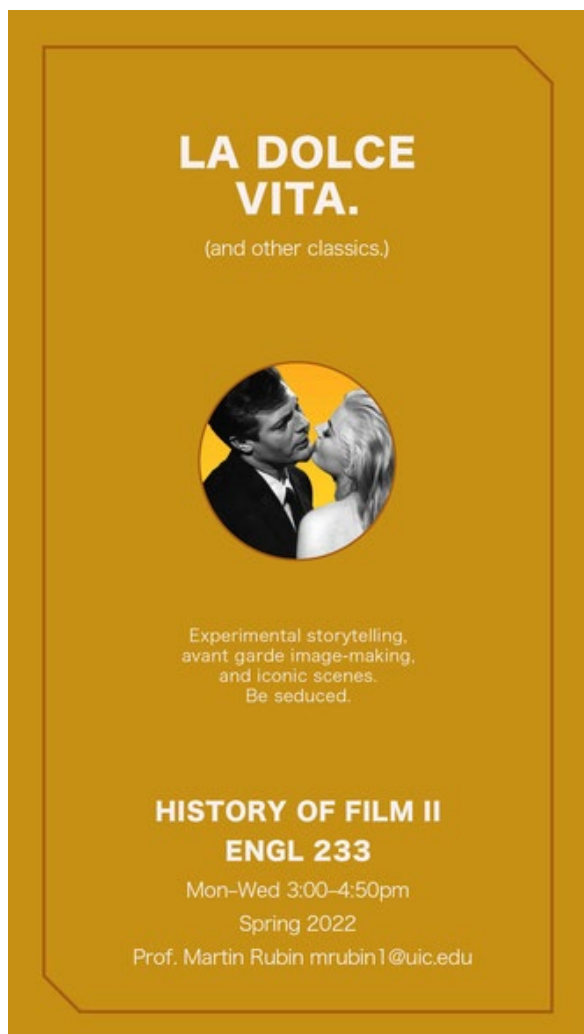
## English 202: Media and Professional Writing

Prof. Jay Shearer


In this course, you will develop skill and perspective in different forms of media and professional writing. Through extensive reading, interviewing, writing and discussion, you will learn to analyze and produce work appropriate for these dynamically evolving industries. We acknowledge this as a moment of acute transformation in the way we ingest and disseminate the written word. Taking these shifts into account, students will develop confidence as media writers and future participants in the professional workplace. You will examine multiple aspects of media and communications—from journalism to PR—and eventually produce a writing portfolio (as presented via links on a personal web page), preparing you for internship and employment opportunities

Questions? [Email the instructor.](#)

Ready to enroll? Click [here.](#)



**LA DOLCE VITA.**  
(and other classics.)



Experimental storytelling,  
avant garde image-making,  
and iconic scenes.  
Be seduced.

**HISTORY OF FILM II**  
**ENGL 233**  
Mon-Wed 3:00-4:50pm  
Spring 2022  
Prof. Martin Rubin [mrubin1@uic.edu](mailto:mrubin1@uic.edu)

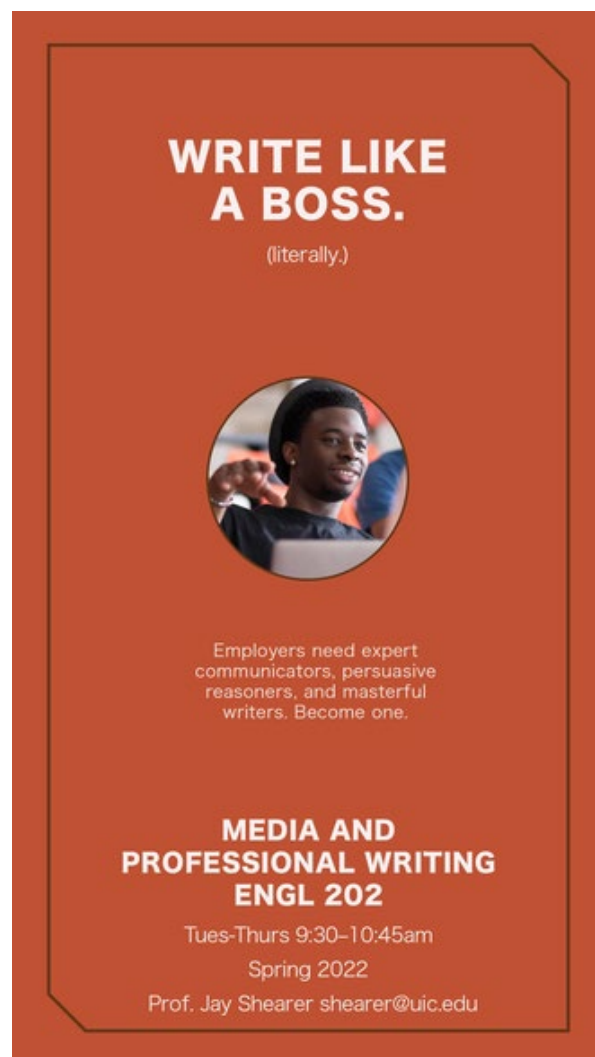
## English 233: History of Film II

Prof. Martin Rubin


An overview of the modern era of film history, with emphasis on the various “new waves” that rocked the cinema establishment during the postwar period, and on the major technical developments (widescreen, Dolby stereo, digital media) that have changed the ways we see, hear, and consume movies. Among the areas likely to be covered in the course are: the Italian neorealist movement of Rossellini and De Sica, the early American avant-garde of Deren and Anger, the postwar Japanese cinema of Kurosawa and Mizoguchi, the European art cinema of Bergman and Fellini, the rule-breaking French New Wave of Godard and Truffaut, the immediacy-seeking Cinéma Vérité movement of Drew and Pennebaker, the identity-building African cinema of Sembene and Mambéty, and the technically innovative blockbusters of Coppola and Spielberg. Course requirements include regular written responses and online quizzes. History of Film I is not required; this course is self-sufficient.

Have a question? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to enroll? [Click here.](#)



**WRITE LIKE A BOSS.**  
(literally.)



Employers need expert communicators, persuasive reasoners, and masterful writers. Become one.

**MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING**  
**ENGL 202**  
Tues-Thurs 9:30-10:45am  
Spring 2022  
Prof. Jay Shearer [shearer@uic.edu](mailto:shearer@uic.edu)

## English 122: Understanding Rhetoric

Prof. Mark Schoenknecht


In the 4th Century BC, Aristotle famously defined rhetoric as “the faculty of observing, in any given case, the available means of persuasion.” He saw the usefulness of rhetoric in helping us arrive at solutions to the kinds of problems that couldn’t be solved using exact knowledge. Aristotle’s teacher Plato, who thought of rhetoric as the “art of enchanting the soul,” had other ideas. He condemned rhetoric (or “sophistry”) for its ability to steer people away from the truth by making the non-real appear real. While many new conceptions of rhetoric have been introduced in the years since Plato and Aristotle roamed the halls of the Lyceum, no definitive consensus about what constitutes “rhetoric” has yet been reached. Given this messy history, how should we understand the notion of “rhetoric” today? In an effort to address these questions, our course will begin by exploring some general theories of rhetoric as both a discipline and a practice. We’ll read a variety of commentaries and canonical texts, paying particular attention to the way certain key terms and themes arise out of the history of rhetorical theory. About halfway through the semester, we’ll start looking at contemporary rhetorical scholarship that takes up issues of political economy (defined as the study of the relationship between individuals and society, and between markets and the state).

Throughout this phase of the course, we’ll want to highlight the ways the key terms and themes we identified earlier are taken up in present-day rhetorical discourse. In doing so, we hope to not only arrive at a better understanding of rhetoric and its relevance to our lives, but to develop transferable capacities in reading, writing, and public speaking.

Questions? [Email the instructor](#).

Ready to enroll? [Click here](#).


**WATCH YOUR WORDS.**  
(they might just be dangerous.)



What makes language persuasive? Can it be controlled? Who knows how? Be a part of the answers.

**UNDERSTANDING RHETORIC  
ENGL 122**

Mon-Wed-Fri 1:00-1:50pm  
Spring 2022  
Instr. Mark Schoenknecht mshoe6@uic.edu



**DECOLONIZE  
YOUR MIND.**  
(don't worry, it's a good thing.)

What's 'post' about post-colonial 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

## English 422: Postcolonial and World Literature

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 19th-century 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.

Questions? [Email the instructor.](#)

Ready to enroll? Click [here.](#)

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## Calls for Writers, etc.

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### Black Lawrence Press' Big Moose Prize

Each year Black Lawrence Press will award [The Big Moose Prize](#) for an unpublished novel. The prize is open to new, emerging, and established writers. The winner of this contest will receive book publication, a \$1,000 cash award, and ten copies of the book. Prizes will be awarded on publication.

The annual deadline is **January 31, 2022**. Click [here](#) to submit.

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## About Major News

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**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](mailto: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/>.

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## Department of English Office of Undergraduate Studies

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<https://engl.uic.edu/programs/undergraduate-studies/>



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