

# MAJOR NEWS!

Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of English

## A Note From The Director...

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Dear Students,

Looking forward to a short week? For those of you celebrating, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. For those of you who are not celebrating, we wish you a peaceful, productive, and fun break.

Have you read or heard about Gilbert and Gubar's *The Mad Woman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth Century Literary Imagination*? Published in 1979, the text took on patriarchy in both literature and literary criticism. Chances are if you have studied 19th century literature, one of your professors has mentioned the book. We mention it here because [Sandra Gilbert](#), one of the authors, died November 10, 2024 in Berkeley, CA. It's hard to over emphasize the books' impact. If you are interested in GWS, take some time to look at the work that made Gilbert (and her co-author [Susan Gubar](#)) academic stars.

Keep reading for overviews of great classes and calls for papers.

We are always looking for writers and would love your feedback on how to improve the newsletter. Email us at [english@uic.edu](mailto:english@uic.edu).

Sincerely,

Kate Boulay, Ph.D.  
Director, Undergraduate Studies  
[kboulay@uic.edu](mailto:kboulay@uic.edu)

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## Spring 2025 Courses

# WATCH YOUR WORDS

(they might just be dangerous.)



What is rhetoric & why is it persuasive? Can it be controlled? Who knows how? Be part of the answers.

## UNDERSTANDING RHETORIC ENGL 154

### **ENGL 154 Understanding Rhetoric: Passion and Persuasion**

**CRN: 46158**

**Day/Time: MWF 10:00-10:50**

**Professor Jeffrey Gore**

This course is designed specifically for students considering careers in law, politics, or media and professional writing. What makes us think certain thoughts? Experience certain emotions? Trust the ideas and recommendations of others? Between the rational mind and the feeling heart is where rhetoric finds its home as a field of study. Although some politicians or media pundits use the word rhetoric to describe the deceptive words of their opponents (“their proposals were ‘mere rhetoric’”), rhetoric has played a central role in educational systems around the world for thousands of years. In the fifth century BCE, Aristotle defined rhetoric practically, as a lawyer or politician might, as “the faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion.” But these “available means” – to reason, to gain credibility, and to capture hearts and minds – are also the same tools that speakers, writers, and content creators can use to deceive and control the public. In this course, we will approach rhetoric from different perspectives, as a tool for the good – used by such inspiring speakers as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Greta Thunberg –and as a dangerous tool, which has the potential to put our rational, thinking minds on hold. Readings will include selections from the history of ancient and modern rhetoric and a number of test cases that challenge our assumptions of what it means to be a worker, a citizen, and a member of a community.

**\*\*Highly Recommended for Pre-Law, Political Science, and Professional Writing students.**

Fulfills Creative Arts and Individual and Society General Education requirements.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)  
Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

**ENGL 154 Understanding Rhetoric**  
**CRN: 46159**  
**Day/Time: MWF 2:00-2:50**  
**Professor Keegan Lannon**

“Rhetoric” is one of those hard to define concepts, like “freedom” or “beauty.” Any definition put forth will, under the smallest amount of scrutiny, seem inadequate. Aristotle, one of the first thinkers to formally define rhetoric, defines rhetoric as: “The faculty of discovering in any particular case all of the available means of persuasion.” There is no mention of mode of communication, so do all ways of speaking, writing or thinking have rhetoric? What about non-persuasive communication (if that even exists)? Are some means of persuasion limited, and if so by what? What does it mean to persuade a person? And so on...  
The more deeply you dive into what rhetoric is, the more it seems like everything is (or maybe has?) rhetoric. Like String Theory, rhetoric could be seen as the Theory of Everything for communication theories. In this course, we will examine how messages are communicated—both in written and visual forms—and how our thinking (and our sense of self) is influenced by the rhetoric we encounter.

Fulfills Creative Arts and Individual and Society General Education requirements.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)  
Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

## GO POST-COLONIAL.

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



Colonial empires transformed  
the environment ... and the  
earth. Learn how.

**INTRO TO COLONIAL &  
POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE**  
**ENGL 223**

# ENGL 223 Introduction to Colonial & Postcolonial Literature: "The Empire Writes Back With a Vengeance"

CRN: 46499

Day/Time: MWF 2:00-2:50

Instructor Zara Imran

In this introductory course we will aim to create an understanding of what the "postcolonial" is and its relation to the literary. A foundational exploration of this course will be how does literary representation speak to processes and legacies of Empire and decolonization? Students will be exposed to key themes and debates surrounding postcolonial studies and how processes of Empire, nation building, movements of independence and globalization have come to and continue to shape our understanding of the post-colony and the Global South, critically interrogating the relationship between colonizer and colonized. In looking at a range of literary and theoretical texts, we will try developing a more critical understanding of contemporary issues such as identity, nationalism, gender and sexuality, subalternity, migration, decolonization, and resistance.

Fulfills Creative Arts and World Cultures General Education requirements.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

## WRITE LIKE A BOSS.

(literally.)



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

### COURSES IN NEW MEDIA, PUBLISHING, EDITING & PROFESSIONAL WRITING

ENGL 280 Media and Professional Writing

CRN: 46186

Day/Time: TR 8:00-9:15 **ONLINE**

Instructor Gregor Baszak

Writing well means to use as few words as you can to convey a message. It also means always keeping your audience in mind. Our class will be about these core principles of professional writing and more. You will learn the ins and outs of some core journalistic and public relations genres and assemble a portfolio that you will present on a personal website at the end of the semester. English 280 is the prerequisite for English 493, the English internship for Nonfiction Writing. An important note: This will be an ONLINE class with ONE LIVE session per week on Zoom during our regularly scheduled class time. Attendance of the live sessions will be mandatory, so make sure the class actually fits your schedule. For the rest of the week, you'll complete work on your own time by checking the prompts on our Blackboard course page.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

## **ENGL 280 Media and Professional Writing**

**CRN: 46187**

**DAY/TIME: MWF 9:00-9:50 ONLINE**

**Professor Jeffrey Kessler**

This course will introduce students to genres in professional media and communication with close attention to writing with directness and clarity. We will discuss many aspects of professional writing, developing a rhetorical mindset towards genres in journalism, feature writing, and public relations. Along with several shorter writing assignments, students will produce a portfolio of their work presented on a personal webpage. English 280 is the prerequisite for English 493, the English internship for Nonfiction Writing.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

# WHEN WE LOVE...

(our hearts speak.)



Study the form and technique of poetry. Develop a portfolio of poems and a deeper understanding of the genre.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE WRITING OF POETRY ENGL 290

### **ENGL 290 Introduction to the Writing of Poetry**

**CRN: 46193**

**Day/Time: TR 2:00-3:15**

**Instructor Nestor Gomez**

Fulfills Creative Arts General Education requirement.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

# TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

(because the other way might be the only way.)



Trace traditions and movements in English and American poetry. Remember, it's what we stay alive for.

## STUDIES IN POETRY ENGL 303

### **ENGL 303 Studies in Poetry: The Lyric Tradition in 20th Century American Poetry**

**CRN: 34226**

**Day/Time: TR 12:30-1:45**

**Professor Christina Pugh**

Lyric poetry has always been a vessel for the pleasures of music, feeling, and complex thought. This course focuses on a selection of American poets in the twentieth century (including Frost, Williams, Stevens, Brooks, Gluck, and others), to be considered in light of their participation in the age-old genre of the lyric. The course will address the following questions: what is the role of musicality (including, but not limited to, formal constraint) in varieties of the twentieth-century lyric poem? What are the differences between aural and silent (readerly) reception of poetic voice? How do we construct what is commonly known as a poetic “speaker,” and how are the idiosyncrasies of particular speakers articulated through poetic tropes and techniques? Do lyric poems support or resist story-telling and narrative? What is the role of emotion in the lyric? Can lyric poetry viably respond to visual phenomena or to broader cultural issues, including those associated with differences of race and gender? And of course, how do these poems construct versions of “Americanness”? We will approach these questions with the aid of critics including W. R. Johnson, Paul Allen Miller, Roland Barthes, and others. As we approach these questions, we will be working on both the micro level (listening to the idiosyncrasies of each poet’s particular voice) and the macro level (considering how each poet navigates larger issues surrounding the genre of the modern and contemporary lyric). Course requirements include several short papers, a longer final paper, and a class presentation.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

# 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

### **ENGL 422 The Literature of Decolonization: From Colony to Postcolony**

**CRN: 43656, 43657**

**Day/Time: MW 3:00-4:15**

**Professor Sunil Agnani**

This course introduces students to what used to be called third-world literature, or postcolonial literature. The aim is to understand anticolonial nationalism in tandem with decolonization. We will investigate the legacies of European colonialism through a study of fiction, essays, and films produced during the colonial period and its aftermath. We begin with Conrad and Kipling around 1900, then shift to those in the colonies 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, and Salman Rushdie—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? 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? Finally, we will read Amitav Ghosh to find out how the Black Atlantic shades into the Indian Ocean with the abolition of slavery and the rise of indentureship. Criticism from: Edward Said and Gayatri Spivak.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

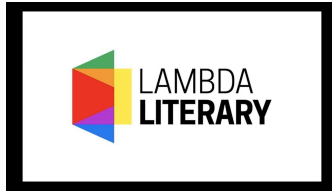
Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)



# Sigma Tau Delta & Lambda Literary

Sigma Tau Delta announces a unique opportunity to intern with Lambda, the nation's leading LGBTQ+\* literary organization. The Program Intern will work with the prestigious [Lambda Literary Awards \(Lammys\)](#).

The internship is ideal for individuals passionate about LGBTQ+ literature and eager to gain experience in program management, communications, and event planning. Click [here](#) for more information.



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## How to Connect with Faculty



# How to **CONNECT WITH PROFESSORS**

**TWO DATES!**  
**Monday, Nov. 24th &  
Tuesday, Nov. 25th**  
**12 PM on Zoom**

## **Receive step-by-step guidance!**

Build confidence and comfort interacting with professors by learning strategies to approach and prepare for meaningful conversations.

## **Topics**

- **Research opportunities**
- **Mentorship**
- **Student drop-in hours**
- **Recommendation letters**

**RSVP**  
**for the**  
**link**

**We hope to see you there!**



**UIC** LIBERAL ARTS  
AND SCIENCES  
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Email: [First-at-las@uic.edu](mailto:First-at-las@uic.edu)  
Web: [First-at-las.uic.edu](http://First-at-las.uic.edu)

## **Give a Paper at ACLA's Annual Meeting**

**The American Comparative Literature Association** seeks abstracts for the undergraduate seminar at its (virtual) **2025 Annual Meeting**.

From Heinrich von Kleist's "The Earthquake in Chile" to Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* and Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, literature teems with warnings about the perils of "bad reading": when

characters who over-identify with fantasies, and plotlines face dire consequences. This seminar will offer an opportunity for comparing representations of “bad reading” along with the situations and repercussions they generate. What are the cultural, intersectional, geopolitical, and historical vectors of bad reading in and beyond imperial nations and their canons?

Click [here](#) to propose a paper. Abstracts must be received by December 2, 2024. Contact [info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org) with any questions.

## Spend Summer 2025 in Washington, DC



The Hertog Foundation has announced its **Summer 2025 fellowships**:

**Political Studies:** students learn the theory and practice of politics with leading scholars and practitioners, including elected officials, journalists, and policymakers.

**Constitutional Studies:** explores key constitutional debates with distinguished legal experts and Supreme Court advocates.

Students interested in world affairs and foreign policy can learn from high-level practitioners and flag officers, with **War Studies** and Security Studies programs. Our faculty includes former CENTCOM commander **Gen. Frank McKenzie** and Palantir’s defense lead **Mike Gallagher**.

For students who can’t make it to DC this summer, our virtual [Humanities at Hertog](#) seminars offer lively conversation on great texts.

**All opportunities are fully funded.** Click [here](#) for more information.

## Comedy or Tragedy?

Spring 2025 brings not one but **two** classes on **Shakespeare!** As you can read below, **Professor Buslik's** course focuses on the lighter side and **Professor Thomas'** course focuses on film adaptations of some of the most famous plays. Not an easy choice but you can use either for **Creative Arts** or **The Past** general education requirement.

**ENGL 213 Introduction to Shakespeare**

**CRN: 46498, 46629**

**Day/Time: TR 2:00-3:15**

[Professor Gary Buslik](#)

Shakespeare is FUN! Sure, we already know about his tragedies and history plays, but what about his farces and comedies, his jesters and jokes? We'll have laughs learning about the happier side of Shakespeare's life and times. We'll read a short biography about him, his work, and Elizabethan theater while watching a few terrific Hollywood movies of his most famous—and HAPPY—plays. We'll engage in lighthearted discussions about why you think the man from Stratford wasn't just the greatest writer who ever lived, but the one with the best sense of humor.

**ENGL 213 Introduction to Shakespeare: The Celluloid Bard: Shakespeare through Film**

**CRN: 46497, 4628**

**Day/Time: MW 3:00-4:15**

**[Professor Alfred Thomas](#)**

In this course we shall examine some of Shakespeare's plays and poems through the lens of cinematic adaptations from the anglophone and non-anglophone world. In addition to reading the texts closely we shall consider how filmmakers transformed word into image as well as using Shakespeare's world to reflect their own. Examples will be a British film version of Richard III transposed to a fascistic England of the 1930s; an American Hamlet in which the prison house of Denmark becomes a corporate tyranny; a Russian King Lear which reflects the grim experience of Soviet totalitarianism, and a Japanese Macbeth envisioned as a warrior Samurai society.



# UIC Student Affairs Scholarships

**UIC Student Affairs** has opened its application process for scholarships to **support continuing students during the 2025-2026 academic year**. Applications are now available for **over 30 competitive scholarships** for students across colleges and academic disciplines.

Students can log in to the [UIC SnAP portal](#) to review the specific requirements of each scholarship. Students must submit a [General Application](#) in the portal before addressing criteria specific to each scholarship. **The deadline for applications is Jan. 28, 2025**. It is recommended that students visit UIC SnAP well in advance of the deadline to participate in this scholarship process.

## **The UIC Student Affairs scholarship opportunities include:**

- \*David and Mary Keren Scholarship
- \*Dr. Thomas Beckham Memorial Scholarship
- \*Eileen and Michael Tanner Scholarship Award
- \*Eleanor Daley Scholarship
- \*Elise Malary Memorial Scholarship for LGBTQIA+ — Undergraduate Students Fund
- \*Ethel Bohlen Scholarship
- \*Fred Garcia Award
- \*Gordon J. Flesch Memorial Scholarship
- \*Hassan Mustafa Abdallah Memorial Scholarship
- \*Jim's Original Scholarship
- \*Michael J Lewis Scholarship
- \*Navy Pier Scholarship
- \*Noveline Delk Kennedy Scholarship
- \*Ram Lal Seekri Scholarship
- \*Rundgren Foundation Scholarship
- \*Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) Scholarship
- \*Tadao Murata Undergraduate Scholarship
- \*Undergraduate — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship
- \*Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Scholarship

If you have questions about the scholarships or the application process, contact the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office at [scholarshiphelp@uic.edu](mailto:scholarshiphelp@uic.edu).

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## **Calls for Writing**

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# WE WANT YOUR VOICE

Send us your previously unpublished work.

DEADLINE:  
**DECEMBER 15**

Questions about submitting?  
Contact us at [lrr@uconn.edu](mailto:lrr@uconn.edu)

**Creative Writing Program**  
University of Connecticut  
215 Glenbrook Road, U-4025  
Storrs, CT 06269-4025

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or on [Submittable](https://www.submittable.com)

## Mantis Seeks Submissions

*Mantis* is currently seeking submissions for their **2025** issue in five categories: [New Poetry](#), [Poetry in Translation](#), [The Materiality of Poetry](#), [The Formality of Poetry](#) and [DANCE-POEM-DANCE](#).

*Mantis* has produced 22 issues, establishing itself as an important venue for writers and readers of poetry around the world. Recent issues have featured work by Rae Armantrout, Franny Choi, Kenneth Fields, Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto, Laura Reece Hogan, Salgado Maranhão, Heather Dohollau, Zeynep Köylü, Ma Yan, Franca Macinelli, and many more!

More information and submission details may be found on our [Submittable](#) page. Submissions close **November 15** (New Poetry and Poetry in Translations) and **December 1** (Special Sections).



## Outrageous Fortune Calls for 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 2025 issue** until **March 24th, 2025**, to the email [outrageousfortune@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:outrageousfortune@marybaldwin.edu). Please feel free to browse our [website](#) as well as our [Submission Guidelines](#). We also encourage you to follow us on Instagram ([@outrageousfortune.mag](#)) for regular updates on the magazine and content.

## About Major News

**Major News** is a 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.

Thanks to all the contributors of this issue and our interns: Alejandra Jimenez, Makayla Goldman, Mia Goldman, Ness Gorlewski, Aliya Babar, Dante Hall.

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