

**SUMMER II, 2008**  
**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**Note:** Courses designated as meeting core area requirements may also count as electives in the English major and minor.

\*Please note prerequisites for upper-level courses (3000-4000) as stated in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and University Timetable.

**English 2515: Survey of British Literature I**

**(Meets and Area 2 Core Requirement)**

**Swenson- (online)**

Students will study literary works written from the medieval period through the early eighteenth century, including such works as *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, selections from *Canterbury Tales*, *Morte Darthur*, and *Paradise Lost*. In addition, we will read prose, poetry, and drama by such writers as Shakespeare, Sidney, Spenser, Donne, Marvell, Pope, and Swift. We will be exploring many texts during the semester, thinking about the ways they exist not only as "timeless" literature, but also as products of particular times, places, and authors. Grades will be based on one paper, three exams, in-class quizzes, and class participation in both on-line Discussion Forums and in-class group work.

**English 2526: Survey of American Literature II**

**Welch**

This course will explore modernist and contemporary American literature in its range of genres (fiction, poetry, and drama) and its diversity of voices, techniques, and contexts. Authors likely to be read will include Faulkner, Hurston, Frost, Eliot, Hughes, O'Connor, Miller, Kingston, Silko, and Dove. In addition to the readings, some films, slides, and other media will be used to enrich our understanding and enjoyment of American literature and culture. There will be two short papers, two exams, and a brief oral presentation.

**English 3764: Technical Writing**

**(Meets a Writing Intensive Core Requirement)**

**Mooney, J.**

**(online)**

This course gives you practical experience in the forms of written communication you will encounter as a professional in the technical workplace, from the simple memo to a proposal, from a progress report to an article for non-specialists. By the time this course is over, you should be able not only to understand these documents, but also to produce them with ease and confidence. Attention will also be paid to such issues as the role of technology in the workplace and workplace ethics. Assignments include a resume/cover letter, a set of technical instructions, a proposal, a progress report, an article for non-specialists, and a presentation. Reading quizzes and homework assignments also factor into the final grade.

**Neilan (online)**

This course is designed to introduce students to the types of written and oral work that will be expected of them in the work force. Students will draw from their specific majors to write manuals, various reports,

proposals, summaries, lay articles, memos, and letters. Other types of work-related documents will be reviewed and discussed in class.

The course will stress grammatical correctness, audience awareness, and clarity of expression. Students will have the opportunity to have their peers review and help to revise their work. Work will be completed both in groups and singly.

A final project will require students to write a sustained document which incorporates many of the techniques discussed in the class. Students will prepare and give a formal oral presentation involving the use of visual aids, outlines, and question and answer sessions on the same topic as this final written project.

### **English 3774: Business Writing**

**(Meets a Writing Intensive Core Requirement)**

#### **Maycock**

This course is designed to prepare students for writing documents that might be required in the business world. Assignments will consist of memos, reports, letters, proposals, and a job packet, which includes a cover letter and resume that could possibly help you get a job in the "real world." Please expect to do a lot of reading and writing, including drafting and revising your work. This course meets the Writing Intensive (WI) requirement for the University Core Curriculum and is suitable for any major.

### **English 4964: External Field Study**

#### **Kark**

Put your English major or minor to work before you graduate! This field study—also known as an *external internship*—gives you the opportunity to gain valuable workplace experience performing a variety of tasks related to your English degree and skills. Depending upon the placement (some are off-campus; some are on), you might find yourself doing anything from writing to editing, from producing publicity campaigns to developing web sites, and more. Good for your resume—great for your confidence! For more information, please contact Steve Kark at [skark@vt.edu](mailto:skark@vt.edu).

***(NOTE: Students seeking placement in an internship should contact Steve Kark, Internship Coordinator, at [skark@vt.edu](mailto:skark@vt.edu) prior to enrolling for this course.)***

