



EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"Don't be afraid to go to your library and read every book." —Dwight D. Eisenhower

October 2009

www.nmu.edu/english

Announcements

- ◆ Winter 2010 semester scheduling starts October 31! See pages 3-4 for a list of English department specialty courses that will be offered.
- ◆ The MA Committee is seeking feedback from graduate students about courses for the 2010-2011 school year, specifically suggestions for major authors, genres, and/or special topics you would like to see offered. Any graduate students who have suggestions or feedback for potential classes should submit them to Scott Stone at micstone@nmu.edu.
- ◆ The Council on Undergraduate Research is calling for applications for the 2010 Posters on the Hill Event occurring April 13 on Capitol Hill. This event will help members of Congress understand the importance of undergraduate research by talking directly with the students whom these programs impact. CUR is calling for students to submit their research in any of CUR's divisions (Arts & Humanities, Biology, Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematics/Computer Science, Physics/Astronomy, Psychology, and Social Sciences). Abstract submissions will only be accepted by using the online submission form. Prior to submitting the form, students should gather the contact information for all co-authors, advisors and sponsors (if applicable) and prepare a short vitae/resume and poster abstract. More information and the link to submit an application can be found at www.cur.org/pohcall.html.

- ◆ December Graduates: If you plan to graduate (vocational diploma, certificate, associate, bachelor's or master's degree) at the end of the semester, you must register for graduation so a final degree audit can be completed to verify your eligibility. Register just as you would for a class. You need to register for graduation whether you are participating in the ceremony or not.
- ◆ Two Professional Development Sessions for graduate students will be held this year. The first session, on getting into Doctoral/MFA Programs and/or landing teaching or other English-related positions, will be held November 6. The second session, on getting published and cultivating professional contacts, will be held April 2.
- ◆ The last day to drop a Fall 2009 full-semester course and receive a "W" grade is October 30th.
- ◆ Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler will be reading from his new novel, *Hell*, at the Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge St. Marquette, Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:30 pm.



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Kia Jane Richmond, President-Elect of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English, would like to announce that the council has been selected for the fourth time as a recipient of the NCTE Affiliate Excellence Award. Richmond also presented “Best Practices in the English Language Arts: Writing/Grammar Strategies for High School English Teachers” at the MARESA Fall Conference for Educators in Marquette. She will give three presentations, “The Teaching of Grammar: Toolbox to Treasure Box,” “Preparing and Inviting Teachers into Leadership and Scholarship,” and “Multiliteracies and Writing” (with her co-editor Doug Baker) at the MCTE annual convention in Lansing. An introductory essay will be published in the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*.



Lisa Fay Coutley’s poetry has appeared and is forthcoming, in *32 Poems*, *The Hollins Critic*, and *La Fovea*.

Jen Howard’s (not pictured) short stories, “Spark,” “Flock,” and “Though Bob Eubanks is Still Alive and Kicking” will appear in the fall issue of *Harpur Palate*. Her essay, “Fair Division,” originally published by Literary Mama, will be included in the collection, *A Cup of Comfort for Mothers*. Her short story, “(Love is) Thicker than Water,” about the day Andy Gibb died, originally published in *Night Train*, was named one of the Wigleaf Top 50 Very Short Stories of 2009.



James McCommons’ book, *Waiting on a Train: The Embattled Future of Passenger Rail Service*, is one of the Editors’ Fall Picks for the *Library Journal’s* September Issue. The book will be published in early November by Chelsea Green Publishing of Vermont.



David Wood has recently published a number of scholarly works: most significantly, a book on Philip Sidney, William Shakespeare, and John Milton entitled, *Time, Narrative, and Emotion in Early Modern England*. Two of his essays on *Othello* have also come into print: one in the journal, *Shakespeare Yearbook*, the other in *Disability Students Quarterly*. The latter essay was published in a special issue, “Disabled Shakespeares,” which Wood co-edited for the journal. Wood also co-chaired a specialist seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America (SAA) meeting last April and has been invited to present papers this winter at the Modern Language Association meeting in Philadelphia and at next year’s SAA meeting in Chicago.

Congratulations to former MA graduates:

Kevin Avery, who is working as an adjunct instructor at Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, IL.

Ben Wielechowski, is teaching as a part-time instructor at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor and Schoolcraft in Livonia.

Kyle Flak, whose book of poetry, *Harmonica Days*, has been published by New Sins Press.


Attention English Department faculty, staff, and students: If you have anything to add to EDEN (Announcements, Achievements, ect.) or any suggestions on how to make the newsletter better, please e-mail editor Stacy Milbourn at eden@nmu.edu.



Winter 2010 Semester Specialty Courses


Several specialty courses have been announced for winter semester. These courses are:

EN 311: World Literature in Translation: Celtic. This course will survey the literature (with appropriate cultural and his-torical contexts) of six Gaelic languages from the British Isles and France -- Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Manx, Cor-nish, and Breton -- from the earliest recorded literature to the present. Due to the predominantly oral nature of Celtic literatures until recent times, much of what we read will be poetry. We will also sample much prose, including legends and sagas, a modern novel, and a nonfiction memoir. Under a variety of subjects, we will be asking what makes this Western European literature distinctive in the way it constructs the world and re-veals the Celtic experience. And we will attempt to separate what is authentically Celtic from what has been reinvented or popularly imagined to be Celtic. Note: This course DOES satisfy the Humanities (Division II) Lib-eral Studies requirement, but DOES NOT satisfy the World Cultures requirement.



EN 366: Applied Literary Theory. Students in this course will study several of the most important and exhilarating contemporary approaches to literary and cultural interpretation. The central figure of the course will be humorous literary critic, Slavoj Zizek. He combines neo-Marxism with post-Freudian psychoanalysis and a cri-tique of postmodernism. This course will inform students about what is wrong with postmodernism, as well as teaching students what it is (or was). Examples will be drawn from film (*Blue Velvet*, *Dead Poets Society*, *Inde-pendence Day*) and television (*Seinfeld*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Mad Men*), as well as the writings of Alice Munro, Toni Morrison, Don DeLillo, and more. The course is required for the Graduate Bound major and highly recommended for all English majors.

EN 495/EN 511: Teaching Reading in the English Classroom. This course will be offered by Professor Laura Soldner. Designed for graduate students and upper-class English majors and minors, this course would be es-pecially pertinent to students on the pedagogy track in the graduate program, as well as for students planning to teach or go on to graduate school. Students in this course will study current and foundational research in the field of reading and explore its applicability to classrooms, learning centers, or other educational settings. Stu-dents will learn about and practice prereading, comprehension, retention, vocabulary, and metacognitive strate-gies in order to strengthen their own approaches to reading and implement methods in their instructional plan-ning and delivery. Students in the course will also be invited to participate in the preparation and delivery of a conference presentation with Professor Soldner at the International Reading Association's annual conference in Chicago, which will take place April 25-28, 2010.




EN 495/EN 595: Word and Image: History, Theory, Practice. This course will be taught by Professor Russell Prather and Art & Design professor, James Phegan. This course, which is offered jointly by the English Depart-ment and the School of Art & Design, will investigate word-image relationships from historical, theoretical, and practical perspectives. The second half of the semester will foreground contemporary forms of word-image com-bination, particularly comics and graphic novels. The course is designed to bring together students from the English MA and MFA programs, as well as undergraduates from the English and Art & Design departments. Assignments are likely to include a short critical paper and research presentation, and will place special empha-sis on students' own creative experiments combining word and image, culminating in a final creative project. Drawing ability is not required to take this course.



Winter 2010 Semester Specialty Courses (Cont'd.)

EN 507: Advanced Writing Theory (WEB). The course will be taught in a pedagogical direction and will cover how to teach a writing course online. Students will be presented with a step-by-step approach for developing an online course and will create one throughout the semester. This course is designed for students that plan to continue teaching after their MA/MFA and especially MFA students on fellowships who will be teaching for the department during the summer. The topics of the class will include: course organization, assignment development, online collaboration, technologies associated with virtual classrooms, and assessment of online writing. The first class will meet face-to-face, but the course will be taught over WebCT.



EN 530: Major Authors: Salman Rushdie. This course will focus on Salman Rushdie, whose novel, *Midnight's Children*, received a Booker Prize in 1981. He was appointed a Knight Bachelor for services to literature in 2007, and in 2008 *Midnight's Children* won a public vote to be named "Best of the Booker," the best novel to win the Booker Prize in the award's 40-year history. Rushdie's writing reflects a broad arena of cultural literary debates regarding post-modernity and post-coloniality. His novels critique social and cultural borders, explore race, hybridity, and intertextuality in a postcolonial context. One of the questions asked in the course will be: What is postcolonial literature? The course will focus on contemporary narratives from Rushdie and the readings will explore the lasting artistic and political impacts of colonization.