

# Electives in English Literature

## (A guide for use with Pre-Meds):

Source: NYU Bulletin 2000-2002

### **Electives in Literature:**

The following courses are recommended to all students interested in literature as a foundation for the study of the humanities. Students may use these courses for their major only by special permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Writing the Essay, V40.0100, is a prerequisite to the following courses.

### **Major British Writers**

V41.0060 Assumes no prior work in literature. Recommended for majors in other fields. 4 points.

Major writers of 19th to 20th centuries, including the romantic poetry of Keats and Shelley, the industrialized British empire celebrated and criticized in the works of Victorian writers like Dickens and Tennyson, to the modernist writers Eliot, Yeats, and Joyce, Woolf, and contemporary writers.

### **Major American Writers**

V41.0065 Assumes no prior work in literature. Recommended for majors in other fields. Hendin. 4 points.

Acquaints the student with major texts in American literature as aesthetic achievements and as documents of dramatic points in the development of American culture. From the optimism of Emerson and Thoreau and the darker anticipations of Hawthorne and Melville to the Civil War poetry of Whitman and Dickinson, through the work of Twain, Crane, and Dreiser to the modernism of Eliot and Faulkner, literature has provided both the timeless pleasure of art and insight into the historical moment.

### **Major British Novelists: Defoe to Joyce**

V41.0110 Karl. 4 points.

Follows the development of the British novel (texts vary), with particular attention to its historical context and its invention of new representations of the family, sexuality, and the vicissitudes of British imperialism and the British class system. Investigates how the novel form functions both as entertainment and as "education" and what impels changes in its structure.

### **History of Drama and Theatre**

V41.0125, 0126 Identical to V30.0110, 0111. Either term may be taken alone for credit.

Chaudhuri. 4 points per term.

Examines selected plays central to the development of Western drama, with emphasis on cultural, historical, and theatrical analysis of these works. The first semester covers the following major periods in theatre: Greek and Roman; medieval; English, Italian, and Spanish Renaissance; and French neoclassical drama. The second semester begins with English Restoration and 18th-century comedy and continues through romanticism, naturalism, and realism to an examination

of antirealism and the major dramatic currents of the 20th century.

**Drama in Performance in New York**

V41.0132 Identical to V30.0300. Chaudhuri, Oliver. 4 points.

Combines the study of drama as literary text with the study of theatre as its three-dimensional translation, both theoretically and practically. Drawing on the rich theatrical resources of New York City, approximately 12 plays are seen, covering classical to contemporary and traditional to experimental theatre. On occasion, films or videotapes of plays are used to supplement live performances. Readings include plays and essays in theory and criticism.

**Survey of the American Short Story**

V41.0135 4 points.

Study of theme and technique in the American short story through readings in Irving, Hawthorne, Poe, Melville, James, Hemingway, Faulkner, Porter, and others, including representative regional writers.

**Dante and His World**

V41.0143 Identical to V65.0801 and V59.0160. 4 points.

See description under Medieval and Renaissance Studies (65).

**Film as Literature**

V41.0170 Identical to V30.0501. Wolf. 4 points.

The development of the film as a major art form and its relationship to other art forms. Particular attention to the language of cinema, the director and screenwriter as authors, and the problems of translating literature into film, with extensive discussion of the potentials and limitations of each art form. Milestone films are viewed and analyzed.