

## *English 114 and 115 Course Descriptions, Fall 2018*

### English 114a, Fall 2018

Section Numbers, Titles, Instructors, and Descriptions	Days Times
<p>1 <b>The Material Culture of Childhood</b> Heather Klemann This section takes place in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library where we'll explore Yale's holdings of children's toys, books, and images. How do these artifacts construct cultural concepts of children? What are they doing in a university archive?</p>	<p>TTh 11:35- 12:50</p>
<p>2 <b>Rebels, Outcasts, and Heretics</b> Felisa Baynes-Ross What inspires rebellion? How do discourses of resistance legitimate marginalized national, racial, sexual, or gender identities? Examining topics that include colonialism, civil rights, and contemporary social movements, this course investigates the relationship between dissent and the formation of identity.</p>	<p>MW 2:30- 3:45</p>
<p>3 <b>The Grotesque</b> Rasheed Tazudeen What makes a work of art <i>grotesque</i>? How do grotesque works function socially and politically? We will explore the concept of the grotesque across various disciplines including literature, music, philosophy, visual art, and psychoanalysis.</p>	<p>MW 11:35- 12:50</p>
<p>4 <b>Democracy and the Media in the Digital Age</b> Jami Carlacio In a democratic society, the media are expected to create an informed citizenry able to debate issues in the public sphere. Are they doing their job? We will investigate how the media shape public opinion in the digital age.</p>	<p>MW 1:00- 2:15</p>
<p>5 <b>(Re)Defining Family</b> Alison Coleman What is family? And how do external forces, ranging from war to social media to the economy, affect families around the globe? Through scholarly lenses including economics, history, law, and sociology, this seminar explores today's rapidly changing definitions of family.</p>	<p>MW 1:00- 2:15</p>
<p>6 <b>Serious Play</b> David de León When do play, games, and improvisation become part of survival? How do things like jazz, hip-hop, theater, and gaming work to frame identity, overcome trauma, or preserve culture? Are we playing around? Or are we playing for keeps?</p>	<p>MW 2:30- 3:45</p>
<p>7 <b>Gossip, Scandal, and Celebrity</b> Maggie Deli Are celebrity gossip and scandal fundamentally frivolous? Or do they protect the less powerful? And what are the ethics of using gossip to police human behavior?</p>	<p>TTh 11:35- 12:50</p>
<p>8 <b>Me, Myself(ie), and A.I.</b> Craig Eklund What is the self? Paradoxically, the closest thing to us is the most obscure of all. This course explores the seminal questions of selfhood (free will, subjectivity, consciousness) and novel insights offered by neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and, yes, selfies.</p>	<p>MW 9:00- 10:15</p>
<p>9 <b>Me, Myself(ie), and A.I.</b> Craig Eklund What is the self? Paradoxically, the closest thing to us is the most obscure of all. This course explores the seminal questions of selfhood (free will, subjectivity, consciousness) and novel insights offered by neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and, yes, selfies.</p>	<p>MW 2:30- 3:45</p>

10	<b>Time's Management</b> Greg Ellermann This course considers time as a social and political category. Time determines the value of our work, shapes our habits, and even constrains our desires. Can we imagine new ways to live in (or outside of) the measure of time?	TTh 4:00- 5:15
11	<b>What Is a Book?</b> Eric Ensley This course asks you to contemplate and write about what makes a book materially, textually, and communally across a broad historical span, from medieval manuscripts and Victorian serial novels to Harry Potter and steamy romances.	MW 4:00- 5:15
12	<b>World-Wide Webs: Global Media in the Internet Age</b> Emily Glider What do we mean when we say that digital media “shrinks,” “flattens,” and “connects” the globe? Do digital communications facilitate social awareness or stoke international tensions? Do they bridge global inequalities or exacerbate them?	TTh 11:35- 12:50
13	<b>Navigating Nostalgia</b> Anna Hill How does nostalgia shape the present? Can one feel nostalgic for the future, or for a past that never existed? When can nostalgia become dangerous? This course explores the vexed histories and ongoing role of nostalgia in contemporary American culture.	MW 2:30- 3:45
14	<b>Who Needs Gender?</b> Sam Huber Feminist and transgender interrogations of the man/woman binary long predate today’s anxieties about bathrooms, hormones, and government IDs. Taking our title question seriously, this course will consider the role of binary gender categories in struggles for gender justice.	TTh 2:30- 3:45
15	<b>Mind and World</b> Suzanne Young Do we discover the world or create it? Can we know the world directly? What can we know about other minds? We will explore these questions through texts such as <i>The Matrix</i> and debates about animal and machine minds.	MW 11:35- 12:50
16	<b>Vegetarians, Gourmands, Cannibals</b> Seo Hee Im What you eat is what you are, in ways both literal and figurative. Topics include the politics of food consumption, the ethics of meat eating, and cannibalism.	MW 1:00- 2:15
17	<b>Communicating Pain</b> Arthur Wang How does physical pain becomes visible, audible, and tangible in the world? This course explores possibilities for expressing and responding to bodily suffering in politics, literature, art, and medical ethics.	TTh 2:30- 3:45
18	<b>Landscape and the Environment</b> Jakub Koguciuk To what extent is our vision of landscape reflective of our knowledge of nature? How does landscape communicate human interventions in the environment?	TTh 1:00- 2:15
19	<b>The Logistics of Climate Change</b> Tim Kreiner Why is there so much disagreement among scholars concerning the quickening pace of climate change alongside the emergence of supposedly post-industrial economies? What can we do about that pace today?	TTh 11:35- 12:50
20	<b>Dopamine and Its Discontents</b> Stephen Krewson Experts and amateurs alike now frame well-being in terms of dopamine and serotonin regulation. How did reward circuit manipulation and the need to optimize one’s own biochemistry become common knowledge?	TTh 9:00- 10:15

21	<b>What Is College For?</b> Elizabeth Krontiris This course aims to engage you in reflection about the institution of college—about the purpose of your own time spent at Yale as well as the diverse roles that institutions of higher education have played in American society.	MW 4:00- 5:15
22	<b>Cotton Gins, Computers, and Bombs</b> Isabel Lane From textile production to ICBMs, how does technology shape our world and our lives? More importantly, is it a good thing? This seminar asks what technologies are, how we interact with them, and if it's O.K. to rebel against them.	TTh 2:30- 3:45
23	<b>The Artifice of Memory</b> Alex Verdolini What is memory and can it be trusted? We will explore what the concept of memory has meant in historical contexts ranging from antiquity to the present day and how it is used in disciplines ranging from neuropsychology to law.	MW 2:30- 3:45
24	<b>Must We Be What We Eat?</b> Scarlet Luk How deep is the relationship between the food we eat and the people that we become? This course will explore how colonial, sexual, and anthropocentric politics form our eating practices and attitudes, and how we can begin to challenge them.	TTh 9:00- 10:15
25	<b>Divine Punishment: Health, Religion, and Morality in America</b> Meredith Ringel-Ensley Gwyneth Paltrow, faith healers, and the inventor of graham crackers: their unconventional approaches to health and wellness are more similar than you'd think. This course investigates connections between science, religion, ethics, and modern health and wellness movements.	TTh 2:30- 3:45
26	<b>Media Frenzy: From News to True Crime</b> Yahel Matalon This class will explore sensationalism, the news, and the rise of true crime as modern phenomena, from the Gilded Age's major print shockers to more recent media events like the OJ Simpson trial and the death of Princess Diana.	TTh 1:00- 2:15
27	<b>Is America Exceptional?</b> Christopher McGowan Is US democracy uniquely strong or durable? How has America's imperial history (slavery, settler colonialism, US global power) shaped American democracy and its limits? This course examines central questions surrounding the discourse of American exceptionalism.	MW 1:00- 2:15
28	<b>Why Is Art so Boring?</b> Margaret McGowan Sometimes visiting an art museum or reading a novel thrills us. Sometimes it bores us. This course explores contemporary art movements from the 1960's to the present—including conceptual art, minimalism, and pop art—that seem designed to bore us.	TTh 1:00- 2:15
29	<b>Travelers and Tourists</b> Pamela Newton Our travel experiences shape the way we see the world and understand our place within it. What motivates us to travel? What do we gain as travelers and/or tourists, and what do we lose?	TTh 1:00- 2:15
30	<b>Telling the Truth</b> Barbara Riley What is "the truth"? How do we determine the credibility of information? Drawing on politics, journalism, psychology, history and ethics, this seminar examines the idea of objectivity in a "post-truth world."	MW 11:35- 12:50

31	<b>Censorship and the Arts</b> Tim Robinson What right does any authority have to control expression? This writing seminar will treat legal and critical debates from recent times, as well as various arguments concerning politics, artistic freedom, and religion, ranging from those of Plato to Tipper Gore.	TTh 4:00- 5:15
32	<b>The Real World of Food</b> Barbara Stuart Ever wonder how the food we eat in this country is produced? This course will answer this and other important questions as we study the impact of the Farm Bill on our food and the environment in which we live.	TTh 11:35- 12:50

**English 115a, Fall 2018**

<b>Section Numbers, Titles, Instructors, and Descriptions</b>		<b>Days Times</b>
1	<b>Good Literature</b> Ryan Wepler This seminar explores the kinds of pleasure we experience while reading and tries to figure out what makes a work of literature good. We'll also consider whether reading good literature can make you a good person.	MW 11:35- 12:50
2	<b>Homesick: Nostalgia in Literature</b> Andrew Brown Nostalgia is usually a bittersweet, harmless experience. But some authors argue that it can be dangerous—even deadly. This course examines literary works that explore both the comforts and the hazards of yearning for distant places, people, things, and times.	TTh 1:00- 2:15
3	<b>The Art of Mourning</b> Annie Killian How do we face death and find the will to keep living? In this course we will ask whether literature can help us prepare for our own end, work through grief, and reckon with (inter)national tragedies.	MW 2:30- 3:45
4	<b>Black Lives in American Literature</b> Tim Kreiner Taking cues from the Black Lives Matter movement, this course asks how black life shapes literary history. At the same time, we will ask how literature shapes our sense of antiracist politics today.	TTh 4:00- 5:15
5	<b>Literature, Labor, and Climate Change</b> Katja Lindskog What can fiction tell us about climate change and its causes? This writing seminar explores a variety of answers to that question. From children's books to post-apocalyptic horror, literature reflects changing attitudes to how we depend on, and struggle against, nature.	MW 9:00- 10:15
6	<b>Self-Help Literature</b> Alexandra Reider Can reading literature make us better, more successful people? How might it? Should it? This course looks at literature that encourages its characters (and its readers) to draw lessons from its pages — as well as literature that, conversely, seems ambivalent about or even discourages that same process.	TTh 11:35- 12:50
7	<b>Literary Journeys and Other Worlds</b> Julia Chan This seminar explores “the journey” in literature from <i>The Odyssey</i> to science fiction. Reading narratives of both self-discovery and cross-cultural encounter, we will consider the relationship between place and identity, and ask how travel disrupts and reshapes it.	TTh 2:30- 3:45