

English and Communication Department **P(EQ) COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR SPRING 2016** 

# ENGL.F 120-01: Exploring Vice and Virtue (MW, 2:30-3:45) \*FRESHMEN ONLY Dr. Joseph Pestino

In this First Year Seminar-PEQ course, the students and teacher will explore this enduring question: ?What does it mean to be virtuous or its opposite (vicious)?? By reading different forms of literature (novels, fables, satire, poetic forms, etc.), reading essays by philosophers who have written about virtue and vice, and by viewing some films, we will reflect on the way humans have viewed and defined virtue and vice, what role they both play in our behavior (individually and collectively), what relation they have to culture and society, and how our understanding of virtue and vice affects the ways in which negotiate the human condition (how we live the human journey in our universe). The course will sharpen your communication, analytical, evaluative, and critical thinking skills through reading, writing, discussing, and debating about virtue/vice as depicted in the course texts.

\*For Freshmen only who have not taken an FYS PEQ.

#### ENGL.Q 120-01: Ethics in Literature (MW, 8:05-9:20) Dr. Mark Madigan

This course will explore the following Enduring Questions: What makes for a good life and good character? What is the putative relationship between ethics and literature? We will examine ethical issues in literature through close reading and critical analysis of multiple literary genres. The course will at once introduce students to college literary study and aim to cultivate a lifetime practice of literary understanding and appreciation. It will also attempt to foster reflection on both our external physical and internal psychological worlds as they relate to living an ethical life. We will focus on the language, rhetorical strategies, emotional impact, and levels of meaning of the texts.

# ENGL.Q 120-02: Exploring Vice and Virtue (TTh, 1:10-2:25) Dr. Joseph Pestino

In this PEQ course, the students and teacher will explore this enduring question: "What does it mean to be virtuous or its opposite (vicious)?" By reading different forms of literature (novels, fables, satire, poetic forms, etc.), reading essays by philosophers who have written about virtue and vice, and by viewing some films, we will reflect on the way humans have viewed and defined virtue and vice, what role they both play in our behavior (individually and collectively), what relation they have to culture and society, and how our understanding of virtue and vice affects the ways in which negotiate the human condition (how we live the human journey in our universe). The course will sharpen your communication, analytical, evaluative, and critical thinking skills through reading, writing, discussing, and debating about virtue/vice as depicted in the course texts.

#### ENGL.Q\*120\*03: Crime and Punishment in the USA (TTh, 10:50-12:05) Dr. Edward Wiltse

This P(EQ) literature course will focus on short stories, novels, and films about crime, detection, and punishment, in order to address a crucial, enduring question: how should our society define and respond to crime and criminality? In addition to investigating the origins and development of

detective fiction, we will read literature about and by the "criminals" of detective stories, to try to hear both sides of the complex story of crime in the U.S.A., to counter-balance the barrage of crime narratives told from the perspective of the police that dominate the airwaves and cinemas. This discussion of prison literature will complement an optional Service Learning project at Monroe Correctional Facility

### ENGL.Q 140-01: Global Identities (TTh, 1:10-2:25) Dr. Suhail Islam

The purpose of this course is a broad introduction to the ways diverse conceptions of identity shape worldviews and to study narrative of identity from all over the world, from different time periods, and in different literary forms. The course also fosters the development of critical academic skills. Moreover, enjoying another area of literature not previously experienced is an equally important purpose of this course. The course argues that identity is shaped in the intersection of global structures and personal desires. Using cultural studies of identity as critical frameworks for discussion, we will examine some of the following issues: the complexities of adaptation or resistance to new cultures; hybridity; the journey as metaphor and psychological odyssey; intergenerational conflicts; protagonists' representation and negotiations of national and ethnic identities; and the interconnections of language, culture and sense of self.

# ENGL.Q 140-02: Global Identities (TTh, 2:35-3:50) Dr. Suhail Islam

The purpose of this course is a broad introduction to the ways diverse conceptions of identity shape worldviews and to study narrative of identity from all over the world, from different time periods, and in different literary forms. The course also fosters the development of critical academic skills. Moreover, enjoying another area of literature not previously experienced is an equally important purpose of this course. The course argues that identity is shaped in the intersection of global structures and personal desires. Using cultural studies of identity as critical frameworks for discussion, we will examine some of the following issues: the complexities of adaptation or resistance to new cultures; hybridity; the journey as metaphor and psychological odyssey; intergenerational conflicts; protagonists' representation and negotiations of national and ethnic identities; and the interconnections of language, culture and sense of self.

### ENGL.Q 160-01: The Power of Narrative (MW, 2:30-3:45) Dr. Jerome Denno

This course explores the theme of the Power of Narrative through close reading and literary analysis of at least two forms, with attention to the multiple possibilities for and modes of interpretation. How do generic conventions shape our experience and representation of reality? How does an author's awareness of writing within a tradition liberate and/or restrict her creativity? How have authors responded to earlier writers, as well as to contemporary historical and cultural forces? Students will emerge from the course able to discuss enduring questions through exposure to and practice of the fundamental concepts and skills of literary analysis. The course is an invitation to students to college literary study, with an eye to cultivating a lifetime practice of literary understanding and appreciation. The course offers students an exploration of narratives, long and short, and from various eras and cultures through primary and secondary readings.