

TERM: Spring 2027

COURSE CATEGORY: Upper-Division Elective

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: ENGL 4698.03 Reading the Ocean

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 1:45-3:25 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Robin Miskolcze

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

The oceans have profoundly shaped human history and artistic expressions, serving as both a literal and metaphorical conduit for exploration, trade, and cultural exchange. From ancient seafaring civilizations like the Phoenicians and Polynesians to the Age of Exploration, the oceans have been central to cultures around the globe. The mysterious nature of the sea has inspired countless works in many different genres, yet studying representations of oceans has only recently been foregrounded by oceanic critics as crucial to our socially and ecologically connected histories and futures. If we are to heed the climate crisis, we need to understand and evaluate the stories we tell about the sea so that we can be agents for future change. This class delves into the multi-disciplinary fields of oceanic studies and "blue humanities" as we examine storytelling from classic sea narratives to contemporary inverted fairy tales to Afrofuturist fantasy.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

*Students will learn about terms and concepts related to the history of oceanic literature and reading methodologies.

*Students will practice engaging with differing perspectives in fiction, the essay and film, comparing and contrasting the ways particular historical periods and writers portray the oceanic.

*Students will critically engage primary and secondary sources in essays, discussion posts, and a final critical or creative project

*Students will synthesize theories, contexts and criticism when leading discussions and composing written assignments

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Junior/Senior Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- ☐ DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- ☐ HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- ☐ READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- ☐ THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- ☐ PRE-1800 (UD)
- ☐ CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- ☐ RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- ☒ UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- ☐ 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

N/A