

Winn

Library Resource Form Required for New Non-Gen-Ed

Submission Deadlines: Fall - October 11, 2005 Spring - February 14, 2006

TITLE Minor Curr. Change - CLAS - Change in Course Title for 1502.425 *and Catalog Description (Contemporary Fiction of the U.S.)*

Sponsor(s) Barbara Patrick e-mail: patrick@rowan.edu
e-mail:
e-mail:

DEPARTMENT English
College Liberal Arts + Sciences

If LAS-check: History/Humanities Social/Behavioral Sciences
 Math/Science

- UNDERGRADUATE
 - New non gen-ed
 - Short-Term non gen-ed
 - Minor curricular change
 - Existing non gen-ed cou
 - Non gen-ed degree requi
 - Major
 - Minor, specialization, cence
 - Track, certificate program
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Signatures Required: representing approval before submission to Office of the Senate

Department Chair: Cindy L. Vitte Date: 2/9/06
Department CURRICULUM Chair: Cindy L. Vitte (Per Affidavit) Date: 2/10/06
Academic DEAN: John H. ... (No Common) Date: 2-10-06

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: Open Hearing Date: 4/9/06
Approved: 4/23/06
Not Approved:

Signature: College Curriculum Chair [Signature]

Signature: SENATE CURRICULUM CHAIR [Signature]
Date: 5/9/06

Comments: _____

Signature: Executive Vice President/Provost: [Signature]
Date: 6/14/06
Approved:
Not Approved:

Signature: REGISTRAR [Signature]
Date: 6/15/06 Course Description Received & Approved
Hegis Taxonomy & Course # _____

Notification Forward:
 SCC CHAIR Academic Dean
 IR Department Chair
 CAP VP/Student Affairs
 Registrar Other-

Minor Curricular Change—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English
Change in Course Title for ENGL 02.425
Change in Catalogue Description for ENGL 02.425

Details

a. Title Change Requested From *Contemporary Fiction in the United States* to *Contemporary Literature*

b. Catalogue Change Requested:

From: current catalogue description which reads as follows:
Contemporary Fiction in the United States (1502.425)

This course focuses on American fiction from the end of World War II to the present. The study of works by writers such as Bellow, Ellison, Barth, Coover, Pynchon, Momaday, Morrison, Carver, Mason, and Tan will demonstrate the three major characteristics of the period: the persistence of an anti-modernist or realistic tradition, the emergence of a highly experimental anti-realistic, “post-modernist” movement, and the explosion of an iconoclastic and anti-hierarchical body of work dealing with issues pertinent to race and gender. This course may not be offered annually.

To: revised catalogue description which reads as follows:
Contemporary Literature (ENGL 02.425)

This course, an upper level elective, explores literature written within the students’ lifetimes, enabling students to gain fluency in different ways of reading different kinds of writing. Students will explore the social relevance of texts and of the act of reading as they examine recent developments in the literary tradition, especially as they may relate to issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, political hegemonies, and current literary theory. This course may not be offered annually. No prerequisites.

c. Sponsor: Dr. Barbara Patrick, Department of English

Rationale:

a. Rationale for Title Change: The current title of the course precludes the inclusion of any authors not American, and sadly we have no course in contemporary British literature (or Canadian or Irish or European literature) and not enough faculty to teach such a course if we did have one. In an age of mass travel and instant messaging, the old distinctions of national boundaries are increasingly artificial. Authors commonly live in two or more countries within their lifetimes and may live in one country and publish in another (e.g. Martin Amis, Jeannette Winterston, Isabelle Allende, Jose Saramago, John Banville—the list goes on). There are, of course, exciting developments in the work of contemporary authors of other countries that do not fall under the headings of other courses that we offer, for

example, “World Literature” (ENGL 02.116) or “Modern European Literature” (ENGL 02.482).

Furthermore, the current title of the course precludes the inclusion of any non-fiction. This is increasingly unfortunate as the rise of the memoir, of travel writing, and of journalistic writing have been prominent features of contemporary fiction in recent years. (One thinks of authors Dave Eggers, Jonathan Raban, Tim O’Brien, Martin Amis, Tobias Wolff, Paul Theroux, Bruce Chatwin, Toni Morrison, Jennifer (nee Jim) Boylan, and Azar Nafisi among others.)

b. Rationale for Catalogue Change: The current description is dated. It no longer reflects current thinking on how to teach contemporary texts. Furthermore, the consensus of the department is that the number of authors from which a given professor may choose is so great that a listing is reductive.

c. Curricular effect: The title change will not have any curricular effect. It will simply offer a wider array of options to teachers and students engaged in this exciting course of study.

d. Changes in requirements of Major or Minor: There will be no changes in requirements as a result of this course title change.

Results of Consultation: Dr. Tanya Clark, who teaches World Lit (ENGL 02.116), and Dr. Nathan Carb, who teaches Modern European Literature (ENGL 02.82). All agreed that this would be a positive change for our students, introducing them to a wider and more diverse body of works than was previously allowed.

- a. Dr. Tanya Clark (English)
- b. Dr. Nathan Carb (English)