Advisement Newsletter
Department of English
SUNY Geneseo
Spring 2008

Advisement for Spring 2008 Registration begins March 25; registration on Knightweb March 27 – April 25

Join us for Pizza and Advice on March 26

In addition to regular academic advisement appointments this Fall, the English Department will hold a faculty-student pizza mixer with pre-registration help for the Fall semester.

Please join us at Sundance books, from 1:30-2:40 on Wednesday, March 26 for lunch, talk, and answers to your questions about English courses.

We’ll make some brief remarks, but most of the hour will be an opportunity for students to talk directly to faculty about their interests and course schedules.

The pizza (from Mama Mia’s) is free; the talk depends on you. Hope you can make it!

Electronic Bulletin Board --- The English Department website features an electronic bulletin board where you can ask questions about requirements and courses in the English major, English minor, or American studies minor (all questions will be answered by an approved moderator); ask questions and share experiences about English-related careers; find information about colloquia and guest speakers; and read news about faculty, students, and graduates. You can get to the bulletin board by typing www.geneseo.edu/~english/bb in the location bar of your Web browser or by clicking the “English Department Forum” link at http://www.geneseo.edu/~english.

Preparing for your advisement appointment

First-year students as well as students working themselves out of academic difficulty are required to see their academic advisors to obtain PIN numbers for registration. Please make your appointment early: faculty must meet with you to review your schedule and cannot simply hand out your PIN number if you show up at their offices right before your registration appointment.

Academic advising isn’t just for students who need PIN numbers, however. All students can benefit from sitting down for fifteen minutes with a faculty member to make sure you are fulfilling your requirements as well as making progress toward your degree. Faculty advisors might not have all the answers, but we know where to go to find those answers.

When you arrive for your appointment, bring along your registration materials as well as a plan for courses you’d like to take in the fall. While academic advisors will happily suggest courses to fit your needs, your own interests should drive your schedule. Please recognize as well that you won’t have time during a fifteen-minute appointment to work out class times or day preference. Also, you should make sure that you don’t have time conflicts or more than two finals on a single day.

Make an appointment by stopping by your advisor’s office, sending an email, or calling your advisor. The department secretary does not make appointments for individual faculty members.

Please remember to check the bulletin boards outside the English Department office where course descriptions are posted. You can learn the nature of slot-course offerings, and also gain some ideas about selected texts, classroom and grading policies, and so forth.
Courses of Interest to English Majors

ENGL 170 The Practice Of Criticism (Doggett, Lima, Harrison, Schacht)

American Literature  ENGL 235 (Freed, Cooper); ENGL 237 American Voices: African American Drama (Greenfield); ENGL 237 African American Migration Narratives (McCoy); ENGL 239 American Visions: Women Writers & 19th Century Social Reform (Woidat); ENGL 239 "Underground" Cinema (Okada); ENGL 332 Early American Literature (Woidat); ENGL 333 Modern American Literature (Freed); ENGL 339 American Ways: Contemporary American Literature and Hip-Hop Culture (Gentry); ENGL 339 Literature & Environment (Cooper); ENGL 358 Major Author: W.E.B. Du Bois (McCoy)

Pre-1700 British  ENGL 212 (Drake); ENGL 222 Looking at Elizabeth: The Virgin Queen in Film and Pop (Walker); ENGL 232 Renaissance Love (Finkelstein); ENGL 311 British Renaissance (Walker); ENGL 313 18th-Century British Literature (Paku)

Post-1700 British  ENGL 213 (Asher); ENGL 314 British Romanticism (Stelzig); ENGL 317 Contemporary British Literature (Doggett); ENGL 321 British Drama: Absurd Tradition (Greenfield); ENGL 324 British Novel: The Making of Modernity (Asher)

Major Figures  ENGL 358 Major Figures: Jane Austen (Easton); ENGL 358 W.E.B. Du Bois (McCoy)

Non-Traditional Lit  ENGL 142 Novels of Development (Lima); ENGL 237 American Voices: African American Drama (Greenfield); ENGL 237 African American Migration Narratives (McCoy); ENGL 239 American Visions: "Underground" Cinema (Okada); ENGL 239 Women Writers & 19th Century Social Reform (Woidat); ENGL 339 American Ways: Contemporary American Literature and Hip-Hop Culture (Gentry); ENGL 343 Women and Literature: Fascism and British Women Writers (Harrison); ENGL 358 Major Figures: W.E.B. Du Bois (McCoy); WMST 210 Race, Class and Gender (Lima)

Shakespeare  ENGL 354 Shakespeare I (Finkelstein, Stelzig)

Writing/Language Courses  ENGL 200 (Kelly); ENGL 201 (Gentry, Kelly, Beltz-Hosek); ENGL 301/303 Poetry I/II (Kelly) ENGL 302/304 Fiction Writing I/II (Hall); ENGL 305/307 Creative Non-Fiction I/II (Gentry); ENGL 361 History of the English Language (Drake)

[NOTE: You need permission to elect a 300-level writing course.]

Film  ENGL 239 American Visions: “Underground” Cinema (Okada); ENGL 285 Film Classics (Okada)

Electives  ENGL 142 Modern Memoirs (Stelzig); ENGL 142 Novels of Development (Lima)

Genre Courses (for Writing Track):  ENGL 142 (Lima, Stelzig); ENGL 237 American Voices: African American Drama (Greenfield); ENGL 321 British Drama: Absurd Tradition (Greenfield); ENGL 324 British Novel: The Making of Modernity (Asher); ENGL 358 Major Figures: Jane Austen (Easton); ENGL 358 W.E.B. Du Bois (McCoy)

Please remember that, within a given range of course numbers (200-299 or 300-399, for example), higher numbers do not indicate increased levels of difficulty.

Have you ever wondered exactly which courses you still needed to complete your degree at Geneseo? Have you ever wondered about which general education requirements you still need to complete? Did you ever think about changing your major and how that might affect your graduation date? The answers to these questions and many more are now available on-line using the program called WebCAPP which is available through Knightweb.

WebCAPP generates unofficial degree audit reports that provide you with the ability to monitor carefully your progress in meeting the degree requirements at Geneseo. With WebCAPP, you are able to check your progress:

a) in General Education;
b) in your major;
c) in your concentration or minor(s).

In addition, a "What-If" option allows you to check your coursework against the requirements of any other program SUNY Geneseo offers. This is especially useful as you consider possible changes of major/program or if you wish to add a minor or change a concentration. It is important to recognize that WebCAPP generates only unofficial degree audit reports. The pre-graduation check done with your department in your junior year continues to be the official record of degree progress. Sometimes WebCAPP doesn't pick up courses that will count for a specific requirement, so check with Richard Finkelstein if you have any concerns.
CONCENTRATORS

Please note that you often have more flexibility in your course selection than the catalogue indicates. Current options include:

- Three hours from among ENGL 200, 201, 306, or 361
- Three hours from among ENGL 212, 222, 232, 310, 311, 312, 350, 353.
- Three hours from among ENGL 213, 218, 233, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 324.
- Three hours from among ENGL 237, 241, 242, 267/M, 318, 343, 345, 360.

Please note that ENGL 358 can count in various categories depending on the offering. Please check with your faculty advisor or with English Advisement Newsletters for information.

PERMISSION FOR 300-level WRITING

In order to get permission for ENGL 301/303, 302/304, 305/307 – you need to have completed ENGL 201. For 302/304 and 305/307, Professors Hall and Gentry ask that you submit your writing sample (5-10 pages of your strongest work) to them by noon April 14. Samples should be submitted to the appropriate professor based on genre, and should include an attached cover sheet (available in Welles 226). Please do not submit your only copy of writing submissions, as samples will not be returned. A class list will be posted outside of Welles 226 on April 18. Eligible students may then pick up permission slips from the English Department secretary.

A note on Pre-Grad Checks

Some students will be contacted for pre-graduation checks during the spring semester. When invited, you can schedule an appointment with Ed Gillin in Welles 232B to go over your pre-grad forms. Please note that you do not need to initiate this process, which is triggered by the Records Office; Professor Gillin will contact you when he receives your documents. Aside from this one-time, formal process, you may, of course, continue to consult your regular advisor for information about your status in fulfilling graduation requirements during any point in your academic career.

Happy Spring!