

English Course Plan

Courses Taken:

I have taken four English classes at Williams, one during each semester. They have focused on British literature and poetry for the most part, although Poetry and the City introduced some American poets near the end of the semester. I'm currently taking a class on Whitman and Dickinson, which has focused on locating those two poets in their historical contexts. I found while taking Intro to Sociology that the poetry courses I have taken had a lot of overlap with sociology. Sociological language about public and private in society was very relevant with respect to Whitman and Dickinson, and I found while taking 19th Century British Novel that sociology often provided a great lens with which to approach a lot of the issues discussed in the class. Going forward, I would like to try and continue approaching literature with different methods from various disciplines.

Tentative Ideas for Future Classes:

I would like to take more classes on British literature, especially in the form of the novel. Austen and Eliot is one class which looks perfect, because it focuses on interesting aspects of narrative fiction which I first became interested in from the 19th Century British Novel. After that I want to take Modern Critical Theory, which will hopefully give me a stronger set of tools for analyzing literature. I have never taken a criticism course at Williams, but I have found that it is almost as rewarding to read and compare criticism about a work of literature as it is to read the subject of the criticism. I want to take another course on Shakespeare if I have the space for it as an elective; I thought Shakespeare and Magic was a great class, and would enjoy reading some familiar plays with a new critical focus. One class I plan on taking is the seminar on

Wonder, which was something we talked about briefly in Shakespeare and Magic but never examined very closely. By next year I hope to have an idea for a thesis, possibly about a British novel or novels and different styles of narration. I won't have a chance to take too many electives because I will have separate major requirements for math, but I hope to be able to take a few classes on more recent literature. There is a tutorial on modernism that would be great, and I would definitely be interested in taking a cross-listed class in Comparative Literature.