

Areas of Study

Theme: Literature and Democracy

Guiding Questions: How might the ideas evoked by the works of novelists and creatives reflect or contribute to the intellectual currents of their time? What relationships have these works developed with politics, and particularly with democracy?

Courses:

PLPT 4060 – Politics and Literature

RELC 3255 – Ethics, Literature, and Religion

Theme: Literary and Philosophical Visions of America

Guiding Questions: How have prominent American thinkers and creatives presented visions of the American project? How have these visions continued to influence our own understandings of the structure and possibilities of American democratic life?

Courses:

ENGL 3434 – The American Renaissance

ENGL 4570 – James Baldwin

PLPT 4090 – Pragmatism, Religion, and Democracy – Not taught since Fall 2011; Honorary inclusion

Theme: Aesthetics in Political and Social Perspective

Guiding Questions: What are the political and social dimensions of aesthetics? How might aesthetic movements react and contribute to their intellectual contexts? What is the relationship between politics and aesthetics?

Courses:

ENGL 4580 – Aesthetics and Politics

SOC 4070 – Sociology of Art