Through communication, we do more than transmit information and ideas. Communicating allows us to make connections with other people and the world around us. These connections foster different sorts of relations – some more academic, intellectual, professional, and formal; others more creative, responsive, personal, and fleeting. In this sense, communication inspires different modes of engagement. This course approaches oral and written communication as a rhetorical enterprise – we will speak and write to inform, persuade, and inspire while attending to concerns of exigency, context, and audience. We will also consider how oral and written communication shifts in digital environments. Through the course, students will become more effective communicators and thus better prepared to engage with and respond to the world around them intellectually and creatively.

This course satisfies the Writing Intensive requirement in the general education curriculum.
Why do actors keep coming back to Shakespeare? Why do we? In this course we will read the plays that have come to define comedy and history on stage and screen, consider their historical context, and examine the ways that generations of critics and actors have reinterpreted and reinvented them.
While digital technologies allow us to approach traditional modes of writing in new ways – through word processing, blogging, texting, etc. – they also radically change what happens when we write. Social media, virtual environments, video games, A/V production tools, and platforms for designing websites open up new types of spaces and environments that in turn call for new writing practices. Through our multimedia and multimodal assignments, you will have an opportunity to develop traditional writing skills in ways relevant to your personal, academic, and professional interests. At the same time, we’ll explore what it means to write through web design, through audio and video production, through game design and code. This will also allow us to consider how digital environments transform our understanding of writing, persuasion, and self-expression.
This course asks students to produce a professional-quality writing project. The nature of this project will depend on the student’s particular interest: it could be creative or critical, fiction or non-fiction, print or digital. We will also aim to think beyond our work at Bonaventure, framing writing as a professional skill and a tool for social action and community engagement. Framing our work as a “project” resonates on two levels: we will think of ourselves as a collection of writers taking on projects that achieve a broader vision; as individuals, we will work to project ourselves – our skills, interests, passions, and investments – out into the world as we anticipate our writing work beyond Bonaventure.
English Literature II: The Individual versus Society

From the Ancient Mariner’s albatross to the elephant tusks of *Heart of Darkness*, from Jane Eyre’s Victorian girl power to modern poems of Irish resistance and rebellion, we’ll discuss and interpret some of the most significant movements, authors, and works in British literature written from 1800 to the present. This course is required for English majors and open to all students of every major. It fulfills the requirement for Literature & the Visual & Performing Arts.
In this course, we will talk about the very real problems of communicating about health and medicine through the unreal and surreal examples of zombie fiction. Protean and resilient, zombie fiction resists easy attempts to either categorize or dismiss it, serving as the basis for comedy, horror, allegory, or all three as the situation demands. It also speaks to our common fears of outbreak, contagion and associated breakdowns of authority and public order, as well as our ambivalent drives to both help and isolate those afflicted with illness. Students in the course will explore what zombie fiction has to tell us about communicability and communication in a world of tangible and unsettling regional and global medical epidemics.
English 379
African American Literature

Dr. M. Walsh
Spring, 2019   TTh 2:30-3:45

This course is a survey of major works by African American novelists, poets, dramatists, and essayists from the 19th Century through to the present day. The course will pay particular attention to how African American writers present themselves as authors. By the end of the course, we will have examined the literature of American slavery, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and contemporary black culture.

An introduction to American Literature and the Counterculture through short stories, novels, poetry, manifestos, and drama largely from the long 20th Century (the “Age of Extremes”). Featured units may include the Gilded Age, Cubism, Working Class Poetry, the Beats, the Black Arts Movement, Women’s Liberation, LGBTQ Writing, Science Fiction, Digital Poetry, and Prison Writing. Required for all English majors.

No prior knowledge of literature required.