E 321: Shakespeare
Prof. Patricia Garcia

This course studies selected plays of William Shakespeare, and we will be fortunate enough to view performances of the plays we study in Stratford upon Avon, Shakespeare’s birthplace and home to the Royal Shakespeare Company, and at the Globe Theater in London. We will also tour various Shakespeare historical sites in Stratford. As we read the plays, we will analyze Shakespeare’s use of dramatic action, imagery, and character to practice our critical thinking skills. As we view the plays, we will examine the company’s performance choices as they expand our understanding of the play’s themes and language. We will each keep a journal to record our responses to the reading and the viewing of plays. Finally, we will present our own short, informal performances of selected scenes or speeches to experience Shakespeare beyond the roles of reader and audience.

E 349S: The Brontës
Prof. Gretchen Murphy

This course will delve into major works by the Brontë sisters: Emily’s Wuthering Heights; Charlotte’s Jane Eyre; and (if time permits) Anne’s Agnes Grey. We will also examine film or television adaptations and literary rewritings such as Jean Rhys’s Wide Sargasso Sea, seeking to understand the shifting cultural significance of these works across time. We will study the novels and their adaptations through various critical lenses, including the Marxist, feminist, and biographical. To aid in this last pursuit, we will visit Yorkshire and the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth.

E 350R: Literature of Oxford
Prof. George Christian

This course will survey fiction written with significant settings in and around Oxford. Our readings will focus on the ways in which these writers have “textualized” Oxford in historical, institutional, cultural, and political terms. Studying in Oxford will enable students to map the texts onto territorial and narrative domains and imagine “Oxford” as a crucial surface for the projection of desire. The immense variety of Oxonian fiction will allow us to read across multiple genres as well: children’s literature, fantasy, satire, tragedy, mystery, and Christian apologetics, to name a few. The Oxford setting will allow students to experience the texts in their fullest sense and to become intimately acquainted with the place, its history, and its dreams.