



"Writing a novel is a terrible experience, during which the hair often falls out and the teeth decay. I'm always irritated by people who imply that writing fiction is an escape from reality. It is a plunge into reality and it's very shocking to the system."

—Flannery O'Connor

A CALL TO REGISTER

The prospect of another tough semester is likely to be the last thing any of us want to deal with while trying to make our way through a month full of term papers and final exams. But with that in mind, registration for the 2011 Spring Semester is already well underway, so if you haven't signed up it's time to get moving! Some classes have already reached maximum capacity, but there are plenty more excellent course offerings with slots available.

If you are unsure about taking a particular class, you are strongly encouraged to register anyway, as certain courses may be cancelled due to under-enrollment. Students may drop classes without Professor's approval or financial penalty until January 30.

At the time this article was written, four sections of "Analysis and Interpretation of Literature" (ENG200) still have numerous slots available. A handy class for any English majors in their first or second year, it also will fulfill the Humanities and Writing Intensive GE requirement. "Great Books Western" (ENG210) is an excellent choice for those interested in the classics, while a Major Authors course in Melville (ENG470) is a good fit for advanced students seeking upper-division credits.

For anyone who appreciates a good dose of Eastern culture, "Contemporary Asian Film" (ENG299) has numerous openings. A GE Diversity and Writing Intensive course, "American Women Writers of the Twentieth Cen-

tury" (ENG231) also has seats. Finally, ENG399, a one-credit modular course, "Digital Rhetoric," is still open.

And it's never too early to start thinking about taking a course or two over the summer to keep your brain from lapsing into its usual summer atrophy. For those of you returning home for the break, the English Department will be offering over a dozen online courses starting on May 25. These classes provide a great opportunity to stay on track toward graduation all from the comfort of your own home!

For example, "American Literature I" will be offered for those of you who are trying to wrap up the survey courses, "Women in Literature" and "Short Story" will satisfy the GE Humanities category, while

"Contemporary Ethnic Literature of the U.S." will fulfill a Diversity requirement. Check facebook.com/npenglish and www.newpaltz.edu/english for the latest updates.

There will also be two sessions of on-campus summer classes meeting for approximately three hours a day, four days a week. Session one, running from May 25 to June 25, will feature the survey courses "English Literature II" and "American Literature II," along with "Creative Writing I & II." Session II will meet from July 6 to August 9, and will offer "English Literature I," along with undergraduate and graduate sections of "Shakespeare." Registration for summer courses, online and seated, begins April 11 at www.newpaltz.edu/summer.



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Faculty Profile: Joann Deiudicibus

A love of English, particularly poetry, began early for Joann Deiudicibus. She says: “When I was in the sixth grade I sat next to encyclopedias, and I’d look through them. I remember a Blake quote: ‘To see a world in a grain of sand, / And a heaven in a wild flower, / Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, / And eternity in an hour’ that stuck with me” (from “Auguries of Innocence”).

When Deiudicibus took a poetry course in college, she was hooked. She says “I think I already knew this was part of who I was and what I wanted to do. I knew this is what I was good at and what I was interested in.”

Joann went to SUNY Orange, came to New Paltz as a junior, stayed for the English MA, and was a TA. She taught as an adjunct and decided to stay in the area.

Now, as Composition Program Staff Assistant, she helps oversee the daily operations of the program, aids students with registration, reviews student’s petition cases for credit, edits and helps develop program materials, trains faculty and TAs, as well as coordinates events—in short, ensures that students are getting everything they can out of the program.

Deiudicibus notes the program has improved over time; it has become more streamlined, higher-caliber, and continues to hold students to high standards. She says “We have a lot of instructors who are extremely dedicated to teaching, to their students and to the program, and we have a very solid one—we’ve looked at others, and we think we’re focusing on the right things to really prepare our students for the rest of their college careers and their lives.”



When asked about her approach to teaching and her goals, she says one of the important ideas for her is “to be able to illuminate that writing is malleable; many students have been conditioned to think that writing magically falls out of their heads, perfect on the page. To make them understand that the first two pages are expendable, that writing really needs to be molded and shaped and completely restructured sometimes.”

She notes that covering all the modes of writing shows students that there are multiple forms that are beneficial and useful, but that taking risks in the classroom is important—what works for one class or group might not work for another.

Deiudicibus says that she is trying to integrate more “practical” tasks, because of the broad and diverse population of students we have. She explains “I want to experiment more with letter-writing. We’ve talked a lot about it in class as a dead art—which it is, in many ways—I want to talk to the students about professional email, because we’ve talked about email, and text messages, and other online communication.”

In addition to her duties in the Composition Program, this semester she is teaching Composition I, and she coordinated the Understanding Poetry modular course for the third year in a row. Poetry is Joann’s favorite genre—it’s what she reads, and writes, and she says that she loves the experience of demystifying poetry for students. Deiudicibus recently performed readings of her poetry at the New Paltz Celebration of the Arts (COTA), and for the launch of the new local poetry magazine *Avosting Alchemy*.

Professor Deiudicibus’ Writing Tip(s):

To paraphrase Orwell: Good writing or prose is like a windowpane. It shows rather than tells, does not elucidate by abstractly explaining its subject, but reveals and makes lucid familiar ideas and subjects through concrete, concise, unexpected language.

Also: Cut any word that does not contribute to the essential meaning and purpose of the work. (Kill extra verbs, unnecessary adjectives and adverbs, passive voice, imprecise colloquial phrases or filler.)

Karen Wallace's *Wendy*

“One day I was looking at an old copy of *Peter Pan* on the shelves and got the idea to write about a young girl growing up in Edwardian times. That young girl was Wendy Darling and the book is about the events in her life that make her imagine a boy who will stay young forever.”

So says Karen Wallace on her 2004 novel, *Wendy*.

The Departments of Theatre Arts, English, and Elementary Education are sponsoring the visit of Karen Wallace, the award-winning British author of adult and juvenile fiction who will speak about her novel, *Wendy*, a dark and fresh spin on J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* in a presentation entitled “Growing Up in Edwardian England: The Story of Wendy” on Thursday, December 2 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in LC 108. The event is free and open to all.



Ms. Wallace's visit is in conjunction with an adaptation of her novel into a play by Theatre Arts student Rachael Brandt. The dramatization will be performed in Parker Theatre on Friday, December 3, Saturday, December 4, at 8 p.m., and again on Sunday, December 5 at 2 p.m.

The production, which is student directed, designed and performed, is part of the Black Box Theatre of the Department of Theatre Arts, which encourages and promotes student-driven creative projects. The performances are free and open to all.

In addition, Ms. Wallace will host a Writing Workshop for students on Friday, December 3 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in JFT 1010. There are limited spots available. You can still contact Professor Stephen Kitsakos to reserve your place! (845) 257-3866 / kitsakos@newpaltz.edu.

The Linguistics Program is Growing

Contrary to popular belief, Linguistics is not a field exclusive to translators, polyglots, and the men and women that write our beloved—or despised—MLA handbooks. In fact, it's not even essential that one be bilingual in order to take on the challenging study of Linguistics. The only real requirement is a fascination with the structure, operation and interpretation of language at the deepest possible levels.

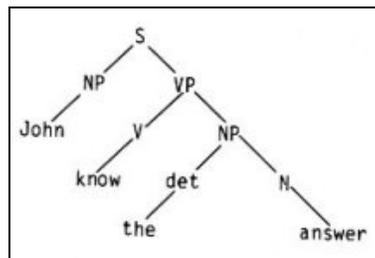
Linguistics is an excellent way to expand the horizons of English Majors. Although foreign languages can always provide a new perception of English, Linguistics gives students a chance to work within their native tongue while approaching the language from the perspective of a social science.

Students will learn how to break down sentences and individual words into the smallest units of meaning, exposing the philosophical, cultural, and psychological assumptions that lie at the root of all languages. Not only will a background in Linguistics make the study of Old and Middle English a significantly less laborious proc-

ess, it can even give fresh insight into the numerous assumptions and eccentricities of our own Modern English that we often take for granted.

Two English/Linguistics courses will be offered this semester: ENG327, “The Development of Modern English,” and ENG393, “American English.” Both courses will be taught by the Linguistics Program advisor, Oksana Laleko.

Here at SUNY New Paltz, Linguistics is an interdisciplinary program with courses rooted in a wide variety of fields such as Psychology, Communication Disorders, Philosophy, and of course, English. While most students opt for an 18-credit minor, those who wish to immerse themselves even more deeply in the field can arrange a “contract major.” Contract majors require course-work from multiple departments and constitute an individual program of study tailored to each student's unique set of interests. All interested students should contact Professor Oksana Laleko, at lalekoo@newpaltz.edu, to discuss their interests in the field.



Briefly Noted

There will be a used book sale on Wednesday, December 8 starting at 8:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Sojourner Truth Library. Discounts will be given to SUNY students with proper identification.



The campus Tutoring Center is available to provide students with free help in studying and writing (257-3580). Spots for tutors are also available to well-qualified candidates. Those interested should contact Landan Gross at grosslg@newpaltz.edu.



The CAS internship stipend program is offering financial assistance to qualified full-time undergraduates. Applications for Spring 2011 are due in the Career Re-

source Center by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 3, 2010. Contact Beth King at kingb@newpaltz.edu for more information.



For students interested in research opportunities, consider the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience and the Academic Year Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE/AYURE) programs. The focus of these programs is to encourage student participation in faculty-mentored research, scholarship, or creative activities that generate new knowledge or works. For more information, go to www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_sure.html or contact Professor Jed Mayer at 257-2748 or mayerje@newpaltz.edu.

“What I’m Reading”: Malorie Seeley

This issue’s “What Are You Reading?” comes from adjunct lecturer Malorie Seeley (MA 2010).

“This semester has found me the busiest I have ever been, but despite my lengthy and ever-present to-do list, I try to clear out at least some time for myself each day to relax and unwind with a good book. I know that reading, like breathing, is a necessity in my life, and I know that I must remember to do both.

That being said, my favorite “pleasure read” right now is *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (the sixth book in the series). This is my first read through the series and I am enjoying it immensely. I am



also enjoying reading the books I’ve selected for my Composition II class, which focuses on women’s coming-of-age stories (by women writers). Reading books along with one’s students often allows for new insight into the texts, and I have appreciated both Sandra Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street* and bell hooks’s *Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood* in new, different ways upon rereading them this semester.

I also have my eyes on some exciting reads for this winter break: I have, for example, been looking at a new, unread copy of Daphne du Maurier’s *Rebecca* on my bookshelf, and am looking forward to having some extra free time to read that novel.”

Footnotes

1. December 10 - Last day of classes.
2. December 13 - Study/make-up day if needed.
3. December 14 - Common Exam Day.
4. December 15-21 - Final Exams.
5. December 22 - Residence halls close at 10 a.m.

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