

ENGL 102 Course Descriptions, Spring 2026

English 102: AI and Its Impacts (Cantrell)

The release of ChatGPT in November 2022 rocked the worlds of education and work, as teachers and students, employers and employees all began to figure out the effects Artificial Intelligence (AI) would have on them. Three years later, we are still largely determining these effects, but AI seems now to be an increasingly unavoidable part of daily life with which we will all need to contend, for better and worse. This course will take AI as a topic for investigation and writing. Course texts including recent podcasts and articles about AI will acquaint students with the basics of how AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini work, the recent history of their development, and the impacts they are having on writing and the workplace. Essay assignments in the course are structured to encourage students to explore their own personal histories with AI, discover how AI has affected fields in which they are interested, and combine these perspectives into a comprehensive essay that balances personal experience and secondary research.

- ENGL 102-03 MWF 9:10 - 10:00 (CRN: 40009)
- ENGL 102-04 MWF 10:10 - 11:00 (CRN: 40010)

English 102: "Cultish Language" (Espinoza)

This course is organized around the theme of "cultish language," through which we will investigate how language constructs authority, shapes systems of belief, and directs cultural change. By studying cults and cult-like groups, we can examine how individuals and communities seek to influence one another, negotiate belonging, and redefine cultural norms. Students will analyze the rhetorical strategies by which language fosters cohesion, enforces hierarchy, and authorizes particular worldviews. Major assignments will include personal essays reflecting on experiences of persuasion and belonging, rhetorical analyses of media representations of cultish discourse, and a collaborative digital media project that develops a well-researched argument about a cult or cultish movement of your choosing.

- ENGL 102-21 TR 3:15 - 4:30 **OLS** (CRN: 41048)
- ENGL 102-22 TR 4:40 - 5:55 **OLS** (CRN: 40727)

English 102: Writing about Sports (Hanrahan)

Love them or hate them, sports intersect with every part of American culture, including business, economics, media, education, music, art, health, science, and questions of identity. In ENGL 102-02, we'll read, write, research, and talk about these intersections at a local level (here at Shepherd) and beyond. Whether you are your team's number one fan or someone who hated gym class, you'll find something to write about in this class, choosing and shaping projects that interest you while building your rhetorical skills.

- ENGL 102-02 MWF 9:10 - 10:00 (CRN: 40008)

English 102: The Writing and Rhetoric of Fairy Tales (Householder)

Tales Told and Retold: The Writing and Rhetoric of Fairy Tales—This course will focus on both analyzing and writing about fairy tales. Over three units, we will use fairy tales and their various interpretations and retellings to think about the research and composing process. Students will track the development of cultural identity, as well as the production of storytelling over generations, through a combination of personal retelling and cultural analysis.

- ENGL 102-01 MWF 8:10 - 9:00 (CRN: 40007)
- ENGL 102-05 MWF 10:10 - 11:00 (CRN: 40288)
- ENGL 102-06 MWF 11:10 - 12:00 (CRN: 40011)

English 102: Dystopian Fiction and Film (James)

From totalitarian regimes to environmental collapse and technological domination, dystopian fiction and film reflect society's deepest fears and greatest anxieties. This course explores the evolution of dystopian narratives across literature and cinema, examining how these stories critique political systems, social norms, and human behavior. Students will engage with classic texts by authors such as George Orwell, Margaret Atwood, and Octavia Butler,

alongside contemporary films like *Children of Men*, *Snowpiercer*, and *The Hunger Games*. Through comparative analysis, critical discussion, and creative projects, we will explore key themes such as surveillance, identity, resistance, and the consequences of unchecked power. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of how dystopian storytelling serves as both warning and mirror for the present and future.

- ENGL 102-12 TR 8:10 – 9:25 (CRN: 40234)
- ENGL 102-14 TR 9:35 – 10:50 (CRN: 40278)

English 102: Science Writing (Nixon) Restricted to STEM and Nursing Majors!

This course will cement major concepts introduced in ENGL 101/101S (e.g., audience, exigence, rhetoric) as students explore a single topic of their choosing across the entire semester. The class will together undertake projects assessing credibility of web-based sources, conducting secondary research, and reading and summarizing scholarly articles. Written assignments will build up to and include an annotated bibliography and a research paper, and the course will end with formal presentations of semester-long research projects.

- ENGL 102-10 MWF 2:10 – 3:00 (CRN: 40121)

English 102: Storytelling (Shorr-Parks)

When asked what the audience could expect from this halftime performance, Kendrick Lamar answered with a single word: storytelling. The story is the most powerful tool available to us as communicators, and this class will help you harness the power of the story across multiple settings and types of writing. In this class you will write three papers: a profile telling the story of a person you know, an evaluation of the storytelling in two movies, and finally a group paper where you retell the story of a person unfairly vilified or misaligned.

- ENGL 102-07 MWF 12:10 – 1:00 (CRN: 40012)
- ENGL 102-08 MWF 1:10 – 2:00 (CRN: 40059)
- ENGL 102-09 MWF 2:10 – 3:00 (CRN: 40070)
- ENGL 102-15 TR 11:00 – 12:15 (CRN: 40287)
- ENGL 102-17 TR 12:25 – 1:40 (CRN: 40368)

English 102: Writing about Pop Music (Stevens)

In this course, we will research, analyze, and write about pop music. We will write album reviews and narratives about our experience with music, complete rhetorical analyses that consider how the media talks about pop stars, and create well-researched group digital media projects that make arguments about a pop artist of your choosing.

- ENGL 102-11 TR 8:10 – 9:25 (CRN: 40122)
- ENGL 102-16 TR 11:00 – 12:15 (CRN: 40367)
- ENGL 102-18 TR 1:50 – 3:05 (CRN: 40723)
- ENGL 102-20 TR 3:15 – 4:40 (CRN: 40725)

English 102: Adaptation (Vaclav)

Our media landscape is built on telling and retelling stories. When and how stories are retold depends on their imagined audience, the genre of the adaptation, and the integration of popular cultural elements. In these sections of ENGL 102, we will examine and investigate several adapted stories, both in their historical context and their immediate reception. We will practice close reading, research, and argumentation to understand more fully what makes adaptations successful across different contexts.

- ENGL 102-13 TR 9:35 – 10:50 (CRN: 40235)
- ENGL 102-19 TR 1:50 – 3:05 (CRN: 40724)