

# BIL Classes

ENG 4033 and ENG 4713—Black Women’s Travel Literature

Examines geographical journeys made by women of African descent. Our goals will include gaining greater insight into Black women’s sense of place and space, into spaces Black women have occupied both voluntarily and involuntarily, and African American women’s auto/biographical accounts of their journeys. To achieve these goals, we will read several long travel narratives, most of them winners of distinguished literary prizes, as well as other shorter works and excerpts in which Black women travelers describe their experiences at the intersections—“borders”—of race, gender, culture, nationality, law, religion, sexuality, and history.

English 4613—Topics in Mexican American Literature

Engage, excite, and teach about the struggles and triumphs of people of Mexican descent, primarily in the U.S. Southwest, over the last one hundred years. This varied body of work will include classic studies of the Mexican corrido, a volume of Chicano poetry, a small number of short stories, and three novels that explore immigration, gender, and the ongoing human and environmental effects of an actual nuclear reactor disaster in California.

ENG 4393 / ENG 4593—Feminist Theory of Literature, cross listed with Special Topics in Race, Gender, and Global Literature

An introduction to foundational and cutting edge works in intersectional and transnational feminist theory as it applies to contemporary fiction from Africa, India, and the US/Mexico borderlands. Starting with a survey of works foundational to intersectional women of color feminisms, we’ll also explore two more recent directions in feminist theory/praxis: transfeminism and critical ecofeminism. These theoretical foundations then give us a lens for reading ambitious contemporary works of Global South eco-fiction whose poetics interrogate and foreground gender as it intersects with race, environment, empire, and corporate globalization as they shape the everyday lives of women and other gender/sexual minorities.

ENG 2523—Postcolonial/Decolonial Literature

An overview of postcolonial and decolonial approaches to literature and culture, highlighting perspectives that understand domination of more-than-human worlds as central to colonial processes both globally and locally. We use the climate crisis to understand the global histories of colonial violence that have produced it, and we explore how artists and thinkers have challenged the ongoing legacy of these histories. More specifically, we read a variety of speculative fiction by Black, Indigenous, and Latinx writers wrestling with the coloniality of environmental collapse. In a world that increasingly feels like the end of the world, how can the decolonial imagination of BIPOC sci-fi, fantasy, and horror instruct us in how to live—now and in the future, with each other and with nature—inspiring us to build “altermundos”?

ENG 2773—Borders, Race, and Literature

Introduces English majors at UTSA to the literature, history, and culture of the US-Mexico borderlands, concentrating on contemporary literatures of South Texas, especially those that comment on the region’s colonial histories of bordermaking and racialization. We take a highly intersectional approach to borderlands literature, looking not only at Chicana and Mexicana histories of the region but also their intersection with Black and Indigenous histories and geographies.

ENG 2253—Literatures of the Americas

Through the theme and theory of Aja Y. Martinez’s counterstory, we consider how narrative (in)(re)form our personal and political identities. Examining both past and contemporary written works, cinema, and cultural productions, we analyze the ideologies therein and how they influence our social imagination. Units cover Stories that Make Us/U.S., Indigenous Stories, POC Stories, and Gothic Stories.

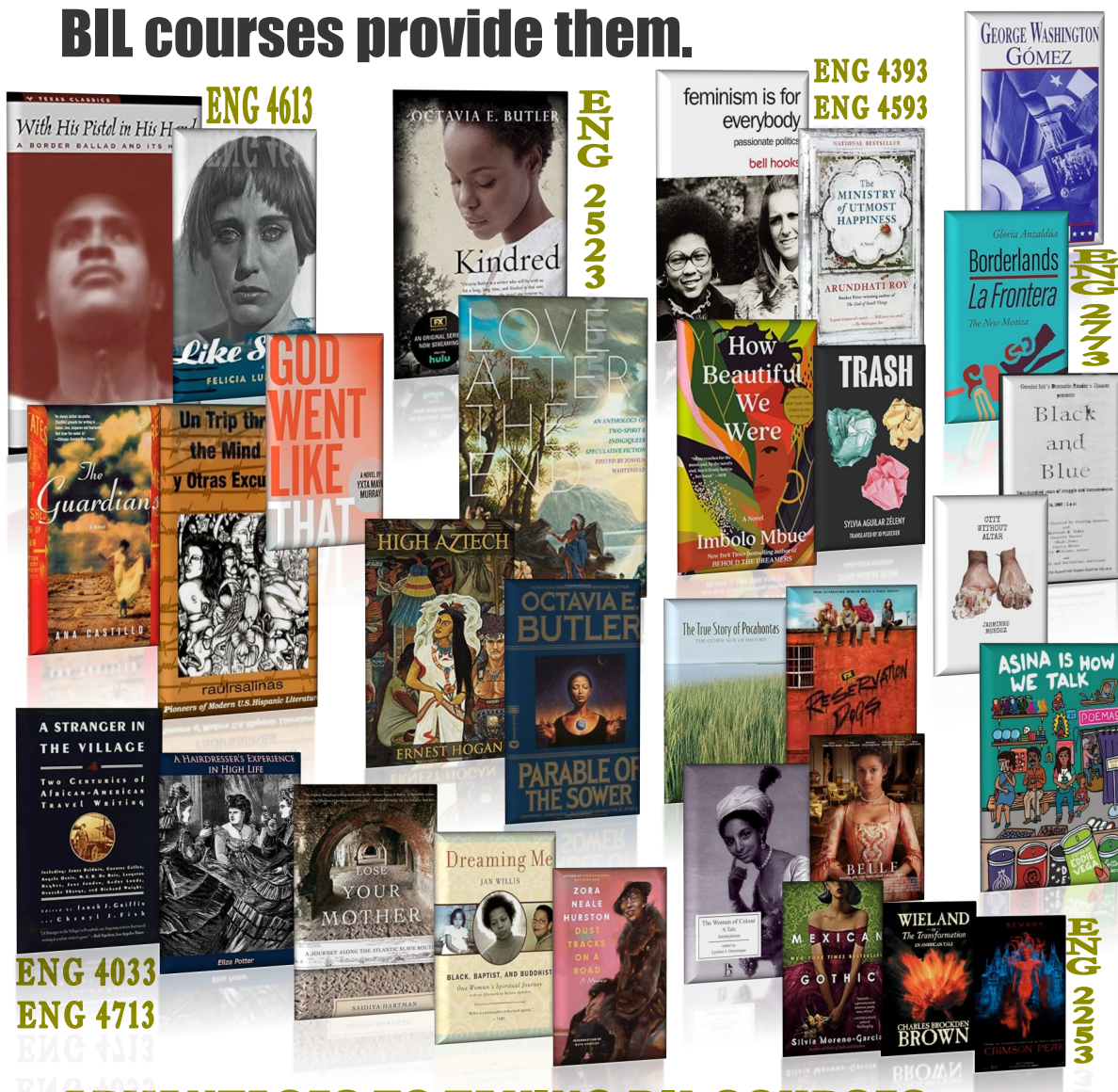
# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT BLACK, INDIGENOUS, LATINX SPRING 2024 CLASSES



Preparing to navigate a global market?

You’ll need intersectional knowledge and professional rhetorical skills to do that.

BIL courses provide them.



## ADVANTAGES TO TAKING BIL COURSES

Acquire a competitive edge in careers that require collaboration, problem-solving, critical and ethical reasoning, interpersonal skills, leadership, and adaptability as well as culturally-informed oral and written expertise, i.e. cultural intelligence.

“Acquiring additional knowledge and tools for engagement improves one’s ability to engage with people across similarities and acclimate to differences.”

—UTSA’s Office of Inclusive Excellence

BIL is for you if you wish to prepare for meaningful and effectual engagement across disciplines and in a variety of careers, including, not just liberal and fine arts, but also business and industry, sciences, education, health and public policy, and data analytics and digital management.