English 375

Love Songs:
Intimacy, Partnership, Family, Sexuality in a Rhetorical Age

Advanced Composition is a four-unit exploration of writing for “advanced purposes”: The writing students themselves want to do as creators, professionals, and citizens in the world. All writing interests are welcome: fiction, poetry, essay, professional / organizational, academic, journalistic. The class’s focus and purpose is developing a rhetorical eye and teaching skills that enable students to continue to develop as writers in college and far beyond.

The class has a theme: Love and relationships in the modern age. Intended to be broad, invitational, and universally applicable (everyone needs to be in relationship, and most people want love), the theme allows for class conversations about the meanings and purposes of relationships in all configurations at this challenging moment in history. Beginning from the assumption that ours is a relatively difficult moment in which to “find love,” we explore many facets of love relationships, through all the permutations and problematics of human longing and desire:

* Transformations of the family through economic and cultural revolution
* Growing presence and awareness of the full diversity of human desire and identity: LGBTQ, aro, ace, hetero, poly
* Growing awareness of the impacts of trauma, mental illness, and neurodiversity on expressions of love
* Expression of sexuality in a world in which public / private boundaries are shifting
* The changing relevance of marriage

This class serves as a Writing Intensive Curriculum course and is open to upper-division students from all majors. 375 is also a core requirement for students in the rhetoric strand of the English Education Concentration. For Spring 2023, this course may count as a Creative Writing track course.

Spring 2023 - T/Th 10 - 11:50 AM