English 150 Introduction to Literary Study
The descriptions of the readings and topics for the fall 2006 sections of English 150 are given below. Because 150 is both writing-intensive and a proseminar, those who enroll can expect to write at least four essays, to revise at least one, and to participate vigorously in class discussions. Some sections may also require formal oral presentations, oral examinations, out-of class small group meetings, and/or participation in an electronic discussion group. Instruction in basic on-line and library research will be available where needed.

English 150-1  Tina Hall
Monsters and the Monstrous
Over the semester we will examine monsters and the monstrous in literature through a critical framework informed by anthropologist Mary Douglas’s concept of the taboo and Freud’s essay on the uncanny. We will scrutinize the function of the literary monster for our culture and its intersections with race, class, gender, and sexuality. Readings will include a selection of poetry, Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, tales from Edgar Allen Poe, *Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn, and the film *Aliens*.

English 150-2  Nathaniel Strout
Self, Family, Society: examination of a variety of poems, novels, and plays from different historical periods that address issues of the self in relation to society and to the family. Readings include Jane Austen's novel in letters, *Lady Susan*; the autobiography of Frederick Douglass; Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Sharer*; Kamila Shamsie's recent novel about Pakistan, *Kartography*; and two plays: August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*.

English 150-3  John O'Neill
Pride in English Literature: This section examines the evolution of the idea of pride through selected works of English literature of six centuries. Readings in such works as Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*; Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, Book I; Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*; John Milton's *Paradise Lost*; Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock*; Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*; Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*; and sonnets and other lyrics by a number of poets.

English 150-4  Vincent Odamtten
Days of a Future Past: Reading a variety of works that may be described as fantastic or speculative and written by authors from different cultures, we shall discuss and write about these texts in order to develop and improve students’ critical reading, thinking, discursive and writing skills.

English 150-5  Katherine Terrell
Reading Romance: This course examines permutations of sexual desire and romantic love in English literature from the Renaissance through the twentieth century. Readings include a selection of poetry, along with longer works by Jane Austen, Tony Kushner, Vladimir Nabokov, William Shakespeare, and Virginia Woolf. While developing the skills of literary analysis, close reading, and critical writing, students will consider how literary depictions of romantic love raise issues of gender, class, sexual identity, morality, and politics. Expect daily short writing assignments, four longer (4-7 page) essays, oral presentations, and revision work.
Interpretation and Self-Knowledge: "Till this moment I never knew myself"

In this section, we will look at examples of texts in which characters work to interpret the world in which they live and to come to some self-understanding in the process. Reading their stories, we too will face questions of interpretation as we try to make sense of the fictional worlds before us. Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horseman*, and Marilynne Robinson’s *Housekeeping*, selected short stories and poems, and some recent work chosen by the group.