Junior Seminar FAQs

Junior Seminars (EN399) are new in 2013-14; here are some answers to your FAQs.

What are Junior Seminars?
Junior seminars are small, upper-level English courses that focus on a particular historical period (like most 300-level classes in English), as well as on methodological skills that prepare majors for more advanced work in English and for reading, writing, and research work beyond Colorado College.

How do Junior Seminars compare to other 300-level English courses?
They are similar in literary and historical content, but emphasize research, reading, and writing skills more strongly. Junior Seminars are special versions of regular 300-level course offerings (e.g. “British Romantic Poetry”), and most of the literary and historical course content will be the same as in a non-Junior Seminar version of the course. The difference is that Junior Seminars focus, more than do most 300-level English courses, on research skills, including the reading of secondary sources and the incorporation of such sources into your own work. Junior Seminars also have a lower course limit (16 students) than regular 300-level courses (25 students), and are limited to a select group of students (more on this below).

Should I take a Junior Seminar?
Absolutely! Why? You’ll share a special, smaller classroom experience with other English majors who are at a similar level in their studies. You’ll have the chance to develop camaraderie and collaboration with other English majors. You’ll prepare to do strong work in your senior year, especially on your senior thesis or senior seminar paper; you’ll also be developing skills that will serve you beyond CC.

Can I take a Junior Seminar?
Yes, if you: 1) Have successfully completed EN221 Introduction to Poetry AND EN250 Introduction to Literary Theory, or will have done so by the time of the Junior Seminar; AND 2) Have declared an English major; AND 3) Are a junior or senior.

Can I take more than one Junior Seminar?
Yes, you can take as many as you want.

Am I required to take a Junior Seminar?
Maybe. If you are completing the new English requirements on the Literature track (this includes all Lit track majors in the class of 2016, as well as those Lit track majors in the class of 2015 who have chosen to do so), you are required to take a Junior Seminar during your junior year. If you are completing the old English requirements (an option only available to the classes of 2015 and 2014), and/or are on the Creative Writing or Film track, you are not required to take one, but you are encouraged to.

Do Junior Seminars fulfill other major requirements?
Yes. Every junior seminar also fulfills a Historical Period or Foundations & Transformations requirement.

What Junior Seminars are offered in 2013-14?
There are three:
- Modern American Fiction, Block 3, Barry Sarchett (fulfills the 20th/21st-century period requirement)
- Chaucer and His Circle, Block 4, Re Evitt (fulfills the Medieval/Renaissance period requirement)
- British Romantic Poetry, Block 8, Jared Richman (fulfills the 18th-century period requirement)

How do I enroll in a Junior Seminar?
Fill out a Junior Seminar Eligibility Form and submit it to Paula Pyne in the English Department Office. If you meet the requirements for the course, she will give you a Consent of Department code, and then you can add the course at the Registrar’s Office. The yellow Eligibility Forms are available on the bulletin board outside the English Department and can be printed from the department website.

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