

English 3301: Introduction to Literary Studies
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To study literature is to be occupied: it engages our minds, fills our time, creates spaces for us to dwell. But it is also an occupation—a vocation—that has been continually rethought in relation to historical, political, and economic changes.

This section of English 3301 will explore two aspects of literary occupation: the work of doing literary studies and the way literature represents issues of work and labor. We will begin by using structuralist/poststructuralist and Marxist theory to analyze fiction, photography, and film centered on migrant farm workers in the United States. We will then use Mark Nowak's hybrid work *Coal Mountain Elementary* to investigate questions related to globalization and environmentalism. We'll end the course by exploring literature and critical theory emerging out of the recent Occupy movements. Assignments will be focused on developing literary/visual analysis and research/writing skills. Throughout the semester, we will experiment with a range of methods and formats, including archival research and digital media.