

## **Being an English Teacher**

**ENGL 4701/6701**

**TR 9:40–11:05 am**

**Dr. Joseph Jones**

This course is intended for those interested in exploring the nature and intellectual work of high school English teaching. We will focus on literature and writing by exploring critical approaches to literary texts and the ways writers compose meaningful discourse. We will consider historical issues related to the emergence of English as an academic discipline as well as contemporary considerations related to the teaching of English. Listed below are some of the questions that will guide our work together:

- What *is* English and why study it?
- What counts as literature—and who decides?
- How do people really learn to write?
- What might effective English teaching look like?
- Can English teachers save the world?

To explore these and related questions, students will compile a portfolio that includes the following four major assignments:

***English Teachers in the Popular Imagination*** – How might depictions of high school English teachers in film inform our (mis)perceptions about high school teaching?

***English As a Controversial Subject*** – What’s at stake in teaching literature and writing?

***English Teachers Are Scholars*** – What do good English teachers know about the history, dimensions, and possibilities of their subject matter?

***Imagining English Teaching*** – What principles can help teachers plan effective instruction?

Note: This course does not contribute toward teacher licensure.