

Being an English Teacher
ENGL 4701/6701

T & R 1:00 – 2:25

This course addresses an apparently simple, innocent question: What does it mean to "teach English"? By the end of the course, however, it is hoped that you realize that teaching English is a terrifically complicated, fascinating undertaking. We will begin with an overview of English studies and English teaching before focusing more closely on the nature of writing and literature. While this course does not contribute toward teacher licensure, it aims to provide you with an awareness of what's possible, and what's at stake, in being an English teacher.

- We'll consider English teachers in the popular imagination and how depictions of high school English teachers in film inform our (mis)perceptions about high school teaching. Can English teachers *really* save the world?
- We'll acknowledge English as a controversial subject and determine what's at stake in teaching literature and writing. What is it about English curricula that gets outside "stakeholders" so worked up?
- We will emphasize throughout that English teachers should be scholars, knowledgeable about the history, dimensions, and curricula of their subject matter, so we'll read and discuss professional literature related to the teaching and learning of writing and reading.
- We will imagine what creative English teaching might look like by practicing design principles for an effective lesson plan and teaching unit.