

Course Description: English 102 – Inquiry into the Unreal

Instructor: Christopher Kilgore, Graduate Teaching Associate

Fantasy and speculation have been a part of our culture, a part of our definition of the real, since our nation's earliest days. In this course we will explore the ways in which expressions of the unreal represent, alter, and also create our conceptions of the real. We will examine overtly unreal works like the film *The Matrix*, and also works that question the idea of the real, such as Yann Martel's novel *Life of Pi*, looking for ways in which the creators depart from the "real," and for the ways in which those departures also try to tell us what the "real" really is. In addition, we will continue the process begun in English 101 by using focused research techniques to conduct our inquiry, and integrate the information we find into our writing. Course requirements will include three papers, a group-based oral presentation, and an in-class final essay.