Guidelines for Satisfying
The Race Requirement (“R”) for English Majors

All English majors are required to take one course that directly addresses race, the construction of race, and racial theories in order to inform their capacity to speak and think critically about race relations in America.

Appropriate courses will do one or more of the following:

1. Focus on texts that directly address race relations in the United States, specifically the color caste system.
2. Focus on texts that directly address the construction of race and theories of race and are part of the specific literary and cultural lineage of the works studied in #1.
3. Focus on texts that address race, among other cultural, historical, and political questions, in a variety of non-U.S. and nonwestern contexts that, while different, may still inform thinking on race relations and the color caste system in the United States.

*Current Courses meeting #1
ENGL 517: Intro to African American Literature and Culture
ENGL 540: Intro to Native American Studies
ENGL 609: Ethnicity in America: The African American Experience
ENGL 690: Introduction to African American Literature in America
ENGL 738: Topics in Asian American Studies
ENGL 739: American Indian Literature
ENGL 740: Indigenous New England
Black New England (taught under ENGL 787)
*We currently teach no Latino/Latina literature courses, but such a course would satisfy the requirement.
*Courses in journalism or linguistics could potentially satisfy the requirement, but no such courses are currently being taught.

*Current Courses meeting #2
While many of our courses include some racial theory in Early American and British Literature, there are currently no courses whose focus on race and racial theories of the literature in these early periods that would satisfy the requirement. It is our hope that, given the areas of our faculty expertise, faculty will develop courses of this sort. Some examples might be a course on literature of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 18th century, and the construction of race in Early Modern literature.

*Current Courses meeting #3
ENGL 581: Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures in English
ENGL 681: Introduction to African Literatures in English
ENGL 777: Postcolonial Novel [*Note: not applicable in Fall 2013]*
*Courses not currently taught might include studies of Caribbean literature or Black British poetry.*
Additional Notes on the Race Requirement:
*Courses in Irish American literature, Jewish American literature (including special studies on the Holocaust), and ESL studies will not fulfill the Race Requirement because they do not address enduring issues of race as part of the color caste system into the present day; they do not tackle the difficult issues of the inability for raced subjects to assimilate, and do not discuss their continued scrutiny by the majority.

*Only ENGL courses, or those crosslisted with ENGL, will be approved for the “R” requirement.

*Guidelines approved by the English Department Diversity Committee, November, 2013