

Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 2205-001: Introduction to Literary Studies

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English 2205: Introduction to Literary Studies
Spring 1997
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Office Hours: M, W 9 - 10

W 1 - 2

& by appointment

Texts

- *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*. Ed. Michael Meyer. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford Books, 1996. [B]
- Baker et al. *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*. 4th ed. New York: MLA, 1996
- *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends*. Ed. David H. Richter. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989. [CT]
- *Falling into Theory: Conflicting Views on Reading Literature*. Ed. David H. Richter. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994. [FT]
- *Holman Handbook to Literature*. 6th ed. [HH]
- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus*. Ed. Johanna M. Smith. Boston: Bedford Books, 1994.
- Wharton, Edith. *The House of Mirth*. Ed. Shari Benstock. Boston: Bedford Books, 1994.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to the major questions, critical practices, and theoretical schools underlying literary studies. The rationale behind such a mission is a simple one: to make you more critically self-aware about how and why you read and write. Ideally, this self-awareness should help you in your other courses as you become more informed about the discipline of literary studies--its backgrounds, methods, materials, controversies and future directions.

Requirements

OED Assignment	50 points
Literary Puzzle	50 points
Bibliographic Essay	100 points
Response Papers (1-2 pp.)	100 (5 @ 20 points)
Critique #1	150 points
Critique #2	150 points
Final Exam	150 points
Participation	150 points

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Discussion Group

100 points

To pass the course, you must satisfactorily complete all the major assignments and final exam. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the semester.

Conferences

The reading for this course will be challenging at times. Therefore, it is important for you to come to my office and talk to me if you feel you need some extra help or if we didn't get a chance to discuss your particular concerns during class time. Also, feel free to talk with me about your writing projects. I will be happy to look over your work or help you brainstorm. No question is too small.

Attendance Policy

You need to attend every class session. Problems do arise, however; so I generally allow three absences—no questions asked. On the fourth absence—and for every absence thereafter—I will deduct one letter grade from your final grade. For example, if your final grade computes to a “B” and you have five absences, then you will receive a “D” for the course. Seven or more absences equates to an automatic “F” for the course.

For any day that you are not in class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered, new assignments given, changes in the syllabus, or any homework due for the next meeting.

Submitting Papers

Minor assignments and homework are due in class without exception. Major writing projects, however, may be turned in to me (or in my mailbox) by 5:00 p.m. on the day they are due. I do this so you won't miss class because you are frantically typing up your paper. I expect your work to be finished on time but I also expect you to be in class.

Late Papers

A late assignment must be accompanied by a persuasive cover letter that explains why it is late—otherwise, I will return it ungraded. The work on the cover letter will be considered part of the assignment—thus part of the grade. I will not grade the assignment if the cover letter is missing, and you will receive an "F" for the assignment. Unless the cover letter is incredibly persuasive, I usually deduct one letter grade for each calendar day that the paper is late. (Note: this policy only applies to major writing assignments; I will not accept late homework or brief writing assignments that weren't turned in the day they were due, unless you have made prior arrangements with me.)

There are, of course, exceptions to this policy. However, you need to discuss your particular case with me in advance.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

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Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Unless I indicate otherwise, you need to have completed—and be prepared to discuss—the readings on the date listed.

- Jan. 13: Introduction to course, to each other
15: Response paper; OED assignment (due 1/24)
17: FT, 1-26; Bibliographical Essay assignment (due 1/31)

20: ** No Class **
22: FT, Vendler (27-36), Graff (36-43); Response paper
24: FT, Searle (80-88), Menand (88-99); OED assignment due; discuss Bib. Essay

27: Meet in Library
29: Discuss format, documentation, bibliographies; Baker
31: Bib. Essay due; Literary Puzzle assignment (collaborative)
- Feb. 3: Approaches to reading literature; B, 2001-20; CT, 1-14
5: CT, Wimsatt and Beardsley (1383-91); Juhl (1411-24)
7: FT, Richter (205-17); Fish (226-37)

10: B, Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (949-50); Puzzle due (discuss)
12: Continue discussion; Response paper
14: ** No Class **

17: B, O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (358-68); B, Section on Fiction (selectively 9-232); Group Work
19: Continue discussion of Group Work
21: Begin Frankenstein (read Preface and opening letters); handout assignment sheet for Critique #1

24: Frankenstein
26: Frankenstein
28: Frankenstein; discuss sample paper
- March 3: Continue discussion on critical responses
5: Critique #1 due
7: CT, Strauss (869-77)

10: CT, Culler (917-29)
12: FT, Barthes (222-26)
14: Continue discussion

*** Spring Break ***

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- 24: CT, Derrida (959-71); Response paper
26: Continue discussion
28: CT, de Man (1011-21)
- 31: Discuss Mailloux essay "Interpretation" (handout)
- April 2: Discuss Meltzer essay "Unconscious" (handout)
4: Continue discussion
- 7: B, Yeats, "Leda and the Swan" (1017-18); Group Work
9: FT, Dasenbrock (238-48)
11: CT, Benjamin (571-88)
- 14: Continue discussion; Response paper
16: Begin House of Mirth; handout assignment sheet for Critique #2
18: House of Mirth
- 21: House of Mirth; discussion of critical responses
23: Continue discussion
25: Critique #2 due
- 28: FT, Will (286-88); Greenblatt (289-90)
29: Scott essay (handout); Review
- May 2: Review