Fall 8-15-2004

ENG 5000-001: Introduction to Issues and Methods in English Studies

Dana Ringuette
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2004
Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2004/144

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2004 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2004 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
English 5000
Introduction to Issues and Methods in English Studies

Fall 2004

Course Information:

This course is required of graduate students in their first year of enrollment in the English MA program. Broadly speaking, it's an introduction to critical approaches, research methods, and current issues in literary and composition studies. English study and all that comprises it—for example, literary study and criticism, writing and composition studies, language studies, textual studies, creative writing, pedagogy and curriculum—finds itself facing all sorts of complex but fundamental concerns. Everywhere we look nowadays in newspapers, journals, and magazines, we're confronted by the question of the place of the humanities—for us, the study of literature, language, and writing—within rapidly changing priorities for college and university systems, within high school and community college curricula. How can or should we answer this question? It's important because the issues are complex and the stakes high. More specifically speaking, exploring the concerns and questions will be our errand, and risking some answers will be our goal. We'll read a wide variety of writers, critics, and theorists who have had something to say about the study of literature, language, and writing, and our discussion will in turn motivate our scrutiny of selected works.

Required Texts:

Gibaldi, ed., Introduction to Scholarship in Modern Languages and Literatures, 2nd ed.
Halmi, Magnuson, & Modiano, eds., Coleridge's Poetry and Prose
Richter, Falling into Theory: Conflicting Views on Reading Literature, 2nd ed.
Tate, Rupiper, & Schick, eds., A Guide to Composition Pedagogies

A Course Packet of Readings (available at Copy Express)

Recommended:

- A notebook, earmarked for this class, for use in research and writing. I also strongly encourage you to keep a reading journal throughout the semester.

Our errand is ambitious, but we'll work through it with specific objectives to anchor our work: 1) to get a feel for the requirements of graduate coursework in English; 2) to explore critical and theoretical issues in literary, composition, and textual studies; 3) to use research methods at the graduate level; 4) to learn about and respond to controversies—professional and academic—in English studies; and 5) to engage some fascinating thinkers and writers.

Course Requirements:

1. Oral presentations: Throughout the semester, each seminar member will be assigned a critical article or essay (maybe two!) and then be responsible for presenting it to the class and for facilitating discussion of it. It may be possible for people to work collaboratively on an article (we'll talk more about this later). For each article, you will write a one-page, single-spaced, response/review of the article. The response/review will then function as the script for a presentation to the rest of us and will motivate our discussion of the piece. These presentations will begin during week 4. (15%)

2. Bibliography exercises: You will complete three bibliographic exercises, the first, an enumerative bibliography; the second, an annotated bibliography, and the third, a library research exercise focusing on Coleridge. For all three, you will make enough copies for the rest of us and report on your findings in class. These are due in Weeks 4, 6, & 8. (25%)
3. **Annotated bibliography:** On—your choice—the work of Coleridge, or an issue in composition and rhetoric, or a professional/academic issue in English studies. You will use this bibliography in writing a paper proposal and in pursuit of the next requirement. (25%)

4. **Research essay:** Prepared according to MLA format focusing on the issues pursued in the annotated bibliography above. This paper will be presented during our seminar’s Class Symposium. (All students will be responding to each other’s work in writing.) (35%)

5. **Sustained, engaged, thoughtful and thorough, reading, participation, and contribution throughout the semester.** Because we can proceed in a seminar format, we will rely on each other’s active involvement.

---

**Schedule of Meetings**

[ALL CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introductions, using the library, library research, research assignment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
week 6
Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere” (1798) and “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (1834).
- Modiano, “Sameness or Difference? Historicist Readings of ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’”
- Morrison, “Black Matters” (FT)
Bibliographic project #2 due.
Bibliographic project #3 assigned.

week 7
- Abrams, from “Structure and Style in the Greater Romantic Lyric” (Norton)
- Fish, “How to Recognize a Poem When You See One” (FT)
- Dasenbrock, “Do We Write the Text We Read?” (FT)
Selected criticism and oral presentations.

week 8
Coleridge, “Christabel” and “Kubla Khan.”
- Swann, from “‘Christabel’: the Wandering Mother and the Enigma of Form” (Norton)
- Jackson, “Editing and Auditing Marginalia”
- Kolodny, “Dancing through the Minefield” (FT)
Bibliographic project #3 due.
Selected criticism and oral presentations.

week 9
Coleridge, Biographia Literaria (1817) and “Essays on the Principles of Method” from The Friend (1818)
Selected criticism and oral presentations.

week 10
Textual studies & professional issues
- Greetham, “Textual Scholarship” (IC)
- Searle, “Emerging Questions: Text and Theory in Contemporary Criticism”
- Shillingsburg, “Hagiolatry, Cultural Engineering, Monument Building, and Other Functions of Scholarly Editing”
- Review The Rossetti Archive: [http://www.iath.virginia.edu/rossetti/]

Week 11
Careers and Professional Issues
- Richter, “How We Read: Interpretive Communities and Literary Meaning”
- Ohmann, “The Function of English at the Present Time” (FT)
- Menand, “The Demise of Disciplinary Authority” (FT)
Professional organizations, conferences, and writing: proposals, abstracts, critical essays, reviews, grant applications, conference papers. Non-teaching career options.

week 12
Annotated bibliography due on the work of Coleridge or a composition and rhetoric issue or a professional issue in English Studies of your choice.
- Guillory, “The Canon as Cultural Capital” (FT)
- Levine, “Reclaiming the Aesthetic” (FT)
- Bérubé, “Aesthetics and the Literal Imagination” (FT)
Week 13
Paper proposal due on topic explored in annotated bibliography.

Week 14
To be determined; possibly the beginning of the Class Symposium

Week 15
Class Symposium

Finals Week
Class Symposium