

Critical Theory and Methodology

Professor: Jason Richards
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Course: ENGL 385 Sections 1 & 2
 Time: MWF 10-10:50 & 12-12:50
 Room: Clough 302
 Semester: Spring 2011

This course examines selected developments in critical theory and their impact on the teaching and study of literature.

Required Texts

Leitch, ed., *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (2nd ed.) = (TC)
 Bausch and Cassill, eds., *Norton Anthology of Short Fiction* (7th ed.) = (SF)

Grade Breakdown

Participation/Professionalism	15%
Exam 1 (5-7 pages)	25%
Exam 2 (5-7 pages)	25%
Research Paper (10-12 pages)	35%

A = 100-94; **A-** = 93-90; **B+** = 89-87; **B** = 86-84; **B-** = 83-80; **C+** = 79-77; **C** = 76-74;
C- = 73-70; **D+** = 69-67; **D** = 66-64; **D-** = 63-60; **F** < 60

Participation/Professionalism: While I will often begin class with a lecture, this course relies heavily on discussion. You are expected to have all the readings done for the day they are assigned and come prepared to discuss them, and you must always bring the text(s) we are discussing to class. Participation will be evaluated in terms of quantity and quality. Part of your participation grade includes quizzes, which are **unannounced** and given at the beginning of class. **If you are late or absent on a quiz day, you cannot make up the quiz.** I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Quizzes must be done on paper with clean edges. Finally, a lack of professionalism (e.g., not following course policies, rude behavior, and so on) will negatively affect this portion of your grade.

Email Policy: The best way to address questions about our class is by meeting in person. I am always happy to talk with you during my office hours, by appointment, or after class. That said, I am available by email for **simple and succinct** queries. I typically respond to email once a day between 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. If you do need to email, here are some rules to follow:

- Email is not the place to seek feedback on your writing or ideas; that must be done in person
- Email is not the place to discuss grade concerns or negotiate any kind of special request
- Do not email at the last minute (e.g., the night before an assignment is due) asking for help
- Do not email if you plan to visit during office hours; I'll be there, unless otherwise stated
- Do not email about your absences, unless you are missing two or more classes in a row

Electronic Devices: No laptops, cell phones, etc. allowed. **Texting is expressly forbidden.**

Appointments: If you cannot meet with me during my office hours or after class, we can set up an appointment at a time that is mutually convenient. If you need to make an appointment, please plan to do so **at least 24 hours in advance.**

Attendance: While I expect you to attend every class, you are allowed three absences during the semester. After three absences, every additional absence will lower your final grade by one percentage point (e.g., 80% becomes 79%, and so on). If you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course. **Note: If you miss class, please don't contact me to ask what you missed. Instead, you should exchange contact information with other classmates and ask them what we covered in class.**

Tardiness: Please do not come late to class. Tardiness disrupts the flow of class and distracts other students. If you have a scheduling conflict, you are advised to drop the class. Tardiness will lower your participation/professionalism grade.

Written Work: You are required to write two out-of-class essay examinations and one research paper for this course. You will receive handouts with instructions for each of these assignments.

Mode of Submission: Papers are due at the beginning of class. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with 1-inch margins on the top and bottom and **1.25-inch margins on the sides.** Please use printer ink that produces a copy dark enough to be easily legible. Place your name, instructor's name, course number, and date in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. Your last name and page number should appear in the upper right-hand corner of all pages. Do not include a title page. Place your title above the text on page one and double space above and beneath it. Your title should not be underlined. Be sure to staple your paper. You may lose points for not following these guidelines. **Note: I do not accept papers by email.**

Late Work: All work must be turned in on time. If you will not be in class when a paper is due, it must be in my mailbox before the deadline. A late paper will lose one percentage point for each weekday it is late and two percentage points over the weekend.

Submission of All Work: All major assignments are integral to the goals of the course. Failure to complete any major assignment will result in a grade of F for the course.

Intellectual Honesty: All work is assumed to be the student's own and produced exclusively for the course in which it is submitted. Papers written for one course, even if revised, are not to be submitted in another without the instructor's prior approval. Borrowing of ideas or language from other sources (including published material, other student papers, the internet or other electronic resources, etc.) must be carefully documented. Students are advised against posting their work on the internet since doing so may lead to suspicion of plagiarism. Students are advised to maintain drafts of their work to verify its originality. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Honor Council, and the student if convicted will receive a grade of F in the course in addition to sanctions assigned by the Council. Carelessness in documenting sources, even if not technically

plagiarism, will be penalized as the instructor deems appropriate. If you are uncertain about how or whether to document sources, consult me.

Disability Issues: Students with documented disabilities should meet with me at the beginning of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations. Please contact the office of Student Disability Services for more information. In all cases, it is your responsibility to provide me with an official letter from SDS.

Schedule (subject to change)

Note: Read the headnote for each author

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1

Jan 12: Introduction

Jan 14: Plato, *Republic*, Book VII (TC)

Week 2

Jan 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No Classes

Jan 19: Plato, *Republic*, Book X (TC)

Jan 21: Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (TC 556-66)

Week 3

Jan 24: Wordsworth (TC 566-79)

Jan 26: Emerson, from "American Scholar" (TC) and "Self-Reliance" (handout)

Jan 28: Poe, "Philosophy of Composition" (TC) and "Raven" (handout)

Week 4

Jan 31: Arnold, Headnote (TC); Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (TC)

Feb 2: Ransom, "Criticism, Inc." (TC)

Feb 4: Hegel, Headnote (TC); Marx and Engels, from *German Ideology* and from *Communist Manifesto* (TC)

Week 5

Feb 7: Althusser, from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (TC 1332-55)

Feb 9: Althusser, from "Ideology" (TC 1355-61); Melville, "Bartleby" (SF 529-37)

Feb 11: Melville, "Bartleby" (SF 537-55)

Week 6

Feb 14: Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics* (TC)

Feb 16: Derrida, from *Of Grammatology* (TC)

Feb 18: Barthes, "Death of the Author" (TC)

Week 7

Feb 21: Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* (TC)

Feb 23: Kafka, "Hunger Artist" (SF)

Feb 25: **Exam 1 Due**; Presentations

Week 8

Feb 28: Freud, from *Interpretation of Dreams* (TC)

Mar 2: Faulkner, "Rose for Emily" (SF)

Mar 4: Freud, from "Uncanny" (TC)

Week 9

Mar 7: Poe, "House of Usher" (SF)

Mar 9: Lacan, "Mirror Stage" (TC)

Mar 11: Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (SF)

Week 10

Mar 14: Spring Recess

Mar 16: Spring Recess

Mar 18: Spring Recess

Week 11

Mar 21: Cixous, "Laugh of the Medusa" (TC)

Mar 23: Chopin, "Story of an Hour" (SF)

Mar 25: Gilbert/Gubar, from *Madwoman in the Attic* (TC)

Week 12

Mar 28: Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper" (SF)

Mar 30: Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (TC)

Apr 1: Clips/Discussion: *Rear Window*

Week 13

Apr 4: Butler, from *Gender Trouble* (TC)

Apr 6: Kincaid, "Girl" (SF); Behr, "Boy" (handout)

Apr 8: **Exam 2 Due**; Presentations

Week 14

Apr 11: Du Bois, "Criteria of Negro Art" (TC); Hughes, "Negro Artist" (TC)

Apr 13: Lecture: Blackface Minstrelsy; Clips/Discussion: *Bamboozled*

Apr 15: Gilroy, from *Black Atlantic* (TC)

Week 15

Apr 18: Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (SF)

Apr 20: Said, from *Orientalism* (TC); Clips/Discussion: *Not without My Daughter*

Apr 22: Easter Recess

Week 16

Apr 25: "Exotic/Exoticism" and "Hybridity" (handout); Divakaruni, "Clothes" (handout)

Apr 27: "Agency" and "Mimicry" (handout); Thiong'o, "Minutes of Glory" (handout)

Apr 29: Optional Conferences

Week 17

May 2: **Research Paper Due**