

## Critical Theory and Methodology

Professor: Jason Richards  
 Office and Mailbox: 302 Palmer Hall  
 Office Hours: 12-12:55 (and by appointment)  
 Office Phone: 843-3517  
 Email: richardsj@rhodes.edu (**see email policy**)

Course: ENGL 385.01  
 Time: MWF 11-11:50  
 Room: 207 Kennedy  
 Semester: Fall 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**

Aug 24: Introduction

Aug 26: Plato, *Republic*, Book VII (TC)

#### **Week 2**

Aug 29: Plato, *Republic*, Book X (TC)

Aug 31: Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (TC 556-66)

Sept 2: Wordsworth (TC 566-79)

#### **Week 3**

Sept 5: Labor Day: No Classes

Sept 7: Emerson, from "American Scholar" (TC) and "Self-Reliance" (handout)

Sept 9: Poe, "Philosophy of Composition" (TC)

#### **Week 4**

Sept 12: Arnold, Headnote (TC); Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (TC)

Sept 14: Ransom, "Criticism, Inc." (TC)

Sept 16: Marx and Engels, from *German Ideology* and from *Communist Manifesto* (TC)

#### **Week 5**

Sept 19: Althusser, from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (TC 1332-55)

Sept 21: Althusser, from "Ideology" (TC 1355-61); Melville, "Bartleby" (SF 529-37)

Sept 23: Melville, "Bartleby" (SF 537-55)

#### **Week 6**

Sept 26: Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics* (TC)

Sept 28: Derrida, from *Of Grammatology* (TC)

Sept 30: Barthes, "Death of the Author" (TC)

#### **Week 7**

Oct 3: Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* (TC)

Oct 5: Kafka, "Hunger Artist" (SF)

Oct 7: **Exam 1 Due**; Presentations

#### **Week 8**

Oct 10: Freud, from *Interpretation of Dreams* (TC)

Oct 12: Freud, from "Uncanny" (TC)

Oct 14: Faulkner, "Rose for Emily" (SF)

**Week 9**

Oct 17: Fall Recess: No Classes

Oct 19: Poe, "House of Usher" (SF)

Oct 21: Lacan, "Mirror Stage" (TC)

**Week 10**

Oct 24: Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (SF)

Oct 26: Cixous, "Laugh of the Medusa" (TC)

Oct 28: Chopin, "Story of an Hour" (SF)

**Week 11**

Oct 31: Gilbert/Gubar, from *Madwoman in the Attic* (TC)

Nov 2: Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper" (SF)

Nov 4: Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (TC)

**Week 12**

Nov 7: Clips/Discussion: *Rear Window*

Nov 9: Butler, from *Gender Trouble* (TC)

Nov 11: Kincaid, "Girl" (SF); Behr, "Boy" (handout)

**Week 13**

Nov 14: **Exam 2 Due**; Presentations

Nov 16: Hughes, "Negro Artist" (TC); Lecture: Blackface Minstrelsy

Nov 18: Clips/Discussion: *Bamboozled*

**Week 14**

Nov 21: Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (SF)

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Recess

Nov 25: Thanksgiving Recess

**Week 15**

Nov 28: Said, from *Orientalism* (TC); Clip/Discussion: *Not without My Daughter*

Nov 30: "Colonial Desire" and "Mimicry" (handout); Hosain, "First Party" (handout)

Dec 2: "Exotic/Exoticism" and "Hybridity" (handout); Divakaruni, "Clothes" (handout)

**Week 16**

Dec 5: "Miscegenation" (handout); Rhys, "Day They Burnt the Books" (handout)

Dec 7: No Class: Optional Conferences

Dec 9: **Research Paper Due**