

Critical Theory and Methodology

Professor: Jason Richards
 Office and Mailbox: 311 Palmer Hall
 Office Hours: 8:30-11:30am W (and by appointment)
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Course: ENGL 385.01
 Time: 2:00-3:15 TR
 Room: 325 Buckman
 Semester: Fall 2014

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 (6-8 pages)	25%
Exam 2 (6-8 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. If you miss or perform poorly on a quiz, you can compensate for it by participating more in class.** 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 two absences during the semester. After two 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. **No extensions are granted.** If you will not be in class when an exam/paper is due, it must be in my mailbox before the deadline. A late exam/paper will lose **two percentage points** for each day it is late.

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. Clear evidence of plagiarism (failure to

use quotation marks around verbatim or copied language, failure to adequately paraphrase, and failure to cite the source of quoted, paraphrased, or borrowed text and ideas), regardless of the Council hearing outcome, may likewise result in failure of the course. 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 28: Introduction

Week 2

Sept 2: Plato, *Republic*, Books VII and X (TC)

Sept 4: Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (TC)

Week 3

Sept 9: Emerson, from “American Scholar” (TC) and “Self-Reliance” (handout)

Sept 11: Arnold, Headnote (TC); Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” (TC)

Week 4

Sept 16: Ransom, “Criticism, Inc.” (TC)

Sept 18: Marx and Engels, from *German Ideology* and from *Communist Manifesto* (TC)

Week 5

Sept 23: Althusser, from “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses” (TC)

Sept 25: Melville, “Bartleby” (SF)

Week 6

Sept 30: Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics* (TC)

Oct 2: Derrida, from *Of Grammatology* (TC); Barthes, “Death of the Author” (TC)

Week 7

Oct 7: Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* (TC); Kafka, “Hunger Artist” (SF)

Oct 9: **Exam 1 Due**; Presentations

Week 8

Oct 14: Freud, from *Interpretation of Dreams* (TC); Faulkner, “Rose for Emily” (SF)

Oct 16: Freud, from “Uncanny” (TC); Poe, “House of Usher” (SF)

Week 9

Oct 21: **Fall Recess**

Oct 23: Lacan, “Mirror Stage” (TC); Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” (SF)

Week 10

Oct 28: Cixous, “Laugh of the Medusa” (TC); Chopin, “Story of an Hour” (SF)

Oct 30: Gilbert/Gubar, from *Madwoman in the Attic* (TC); Gilman, “Yellow Wallpaper” (SF)

Week 11

Nov 4: Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (TC); Clips/Discussion: *Rear Window*

Nov 6: Butler, from *Gender Trouble* (TC); Kincaid, "Girl" (SF)

Week 12

Nov 11: Hughes, "Negro Artist" (TC); Gates, "Talking Black" (TC)

Nov 13: **Exam 2 Due**; Presentations

Week 13

Nov 18: hooks, "Postmodern Blackness" (TC)

Nov 20: Lecture: Blackface Minstrelsy; Clips/Discussion: *Anchorman 2*

Week 14

Nov 25: Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (SF)

Nov 27: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15

Dec 2: Said, from *Orientalism* (TC); Clips/Discussion: *Not without My Daughter*

Dec 4: "Colonial Desire" and "Mimicry" (handout); Hosain, "First Party" (handout)

Week 16

Dec 9: "Exotic/Exoticism" and "Hybridity" (handout); Divakaruni, "Clothes" (handout)

Dec 11: **Research Paper Due by Noon (leave in my office mailbox: 311 Palmer)**