This course will function as a true seminar: that is, its purpose will be to pose questions, and its method will be the active and critical reading and discussion of a variety of texts. In this case, the questions we ask will have to do with our presuppositions about literature, reading, and writing; and about the function and place of literature, the study of literature, and even the concept "literature" in our culture. The texts we look at will not for the most part be works of imaginative literature. In some cases they are not even clearly about an identifiable work of literature, though all are centrally important to the way discourse about literature is currently being conducted. They demand, and repay, careful reading and rereading; and so do I. Your presence, fully prepared and alert, is assumed; your active participation in the discussions is required.

TEXTS:

Course Pack (CP)  
Davis, Robert Con, and Ronald Schleifer, eds. *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, 4th ed. (CLC)  
Freud, Sigmund, *Five Lectures*  
Shakespeare, William, *Hamlet*, ed. Susanne L. Wofford (Ham)  
Shakespeare, William, *The Tempest*, Gerald Graff and James Phelan, eds. (Tem)

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report (including paper)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS (tentative):

Aug. 23 Th Introduction to course  
Arnold, "Dover Beach" (CP)

28 Tu *The Victorian Crisis*  
Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (CP)

30 Th *Mimesis and Evaluation: The New Criticism*  
Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy" in *The Verbal Icon* (CP)  
Plato, *The Republic* (Book X), Ion (CP)
Sept.  4  Tu  **The New Criticism Applied**  
   Brooks, "The Language of Paradox" in *The Well-Wrought Urn* (CP)  
   Donne, "The Canonization" (CP)

6  Th  **The New Criticism Applied: The Case of Hamlet**  
   Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (including Introduction, pp. 3-26, and Critical Background, pp. 181-207)  
   *Eliot, "Hamlet and His Problems" (CP)  
   *Mack, "The World of Hamlet" (CP)

11  Tu  **The Critic and the Canon: The New Criticism and Beyond**  

13  Th  **Beyond the New Criticism: Structuralism**  
   de Saussure, selections, CLC pp. 265-79

18  Tu  *Barthes, “The Structuralist Activity” (CP) and  
   *Barthes, “What Is Criticism?” CLC pp. 280-83  
   Marin, “Disneyland: A Degenerate Utopia” CLC pp. 284-95

20  Th  **Beyond the New Criticism: Reader-Response**  
   *Fish, “Interpreting the *Variorum*,” CLC pp. 181-96


27  Th  **Reader-Response Criticism Applied:**  
   *HD pp. 115-47

Oct.  2  Tu  **Midterm Exam**

4  Th  **Beyond the New Criticism: Psychoanalytic Criticisms**  
   *Freud, *Five Lectures*

9  Tu  **Psychoanalytic Criticism Applied:**  
   *Ham pp. 241-82  
   Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (CP)  
   *Crews, "Escapism" (CP)

11  Th  **Psychoanalytic Criticism Applied II:**  
   “Dover Beach” (CP)  
   Aristotle, *Poetics* (on *catharsis*) (CP)  
   *Norman Holland, "Form as Defense" (CP)
16 Tu Fall Break

18 Th Versions of Poststructuralism: Deconstruction

23 Tu Deconstruction Applied:
   * Belsey, “Constructing the Subject: Deconstructing the Text,” CLC pp. 377-92
   * Ham pp. 283-331
   * HD pp. 185-220

25 Th Deconstruction Meets Psychoanalysis:

30 Tu Some Versions of Feminist Criticism
   * Schweickart, “Reading Ourselves . . . ,” CLC pp. 197-219
   * Fuss, “Reading Like a Feminist,” CLC pp. 580-91

Nov. 1 Th Feminist Criticism Applied:
   * Ham pp. 208-40
   * HD pp. 148-84

6 Tu Marxism and the New Historicism
   Marx, "Consciousness Derived from Material Conditions" and "On Greek Art in its Time" (CP)
   * Bakhtin, “Discourse in Life and Discourse in Art,” CLC pp. 470-88
   * Williams, “Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory,” CLC pp. 489-501

8 Th The New Historicism Applied, II:
   * Foucault, “What Is an Author?” CLC pp. 364-76
   * Ham, pp. 332-67

13 Tu The New Historicism Applied:
   * Howard, “The New Historicism in Renaissance Studies” (CP)
   * Ham pp. 368-402
   * HD pp. 221-57

15 Th Cultural Studies
   Hebdige, “From Culture to Hegemony,” CLC pp. 655-62
   Hall, “Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms,” CLC pp. 663-78

20 Tu HD, pp. 258-98
22 Th Thanksgiving

27 Tu Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (including Life and Work, pp. 3-9, and Sources and Contexts, pp. 116-72)


Dec. 4 Tu "The Postcolonial Challenge," and "Responding to the Challenge," Tem pp. 203-322

26 Th Some Conclusions

**Term Paper Due**

**FINAL EXAM:**

*Denotes possible report topic. All students will read the selection; one student will be responsible for presenting the selection and leading the discussion. A 5-8 page paper on the report is due one week after the oral presentation.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

1) Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned unless other arrangements are made ahead of time. A penalty of 10% per day will be assessed on all late papers. Papers more than one week late will not be accepted.

2) Reports may not be deferred or made up.

3) Habitual tardiness or absence will be penalized.

4) All work in this course will be fully pledged under the Honor System.