

2350 (003) : INTRO TO TEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Instructor: Dr. P. Ingram

Semester: Spring 2010

Office: 410 Carlisle

Class Time & Room: TR 9:30-10:50 PH 302

Office Hours: T/R 1-2 and by appointment

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DESCRIPTION:

What do we do when we read? How do we arrive at an interpretation of a text's "meaning"? Can a text have more than one "meaning"? Why does interpretation matter? How do you translate an interpretive reading into a piece of analytic writing? In this course we will examine these questions and issues related to them through an introduction to some of the key concepts in English studies. We will learn a range of theoretical approaches to interpretation, including New Criticism, Deconstruction, Postcolonial Criticism, Cultural Studies, and Feminist Criticism. We will undertake 4 writing assignments, including a 2 page poetry explication using a New Critical approach, a 1-2 page essay on critical approaches to a play, a 3 page literature review and bibliography, and a 6-7 page research paper on one of the texts read in class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to introduce English majors, potential English majors, and those seeking secondary certification in English for what is required of them as majors in the English Dept. The course will teach students to (1) identify characteristics of genres (2) recognize and understand critical and literary terms (3) develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting texts and (4) demonstrate a command of these methods and strategies in written work. This course is a prerequisite for all upper-level English courses. Students who are not preparing for academic endeavors related to English studies will be expected to adapt to the specific academic requirements and strategies for reading, thinking, and writing generally followed in the field of English studies.

TEXTS:

Please purchase the **exact editions** listed below. They are available at the University bookstore. If the bookstore has sold out, you should try another store or purchase the books online. There are a number of good secondhand bookstores online, such as abebooks.com. **Everybody MUST have their books by week 2 of class.**

You are required to bring the required textbooks to every class period. Failure to do so may result in your being assigned an absence.

Lynn, Steven. *Texts and Contexts: Writing About Literature with Critical Theory*.

Pearson Longman. Sixth Edition, 2011

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. Ed. Ross C. Murfin. Bedford/St. Martin's. 1996.

George, Terry. *Hotel Rwanda*, 2004. {This is a film; no need to buy it.}

Shaw, George Bernard. *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Broadview Press. 2005

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. Plume. 1994

Murfin, Ross. C and Ray, Supryia. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. Bedford/St. Martin's.

The following websites are also required reading.

- [The Owl at Purdue](#) website provides important information about analyzing texts and writing papers.
- The library links below will take you to the major research tools in English studies. You will need them for your critical approaches assignment, your literature review and bibliography, and your final research paper:
<http://libguides.uta.edu/english> and
<http://libguides.uta.edu/content.php?pid=3630&sid=221372>

We will schedule time to meet with the English resources librarian, Rafia Mirza, but you should familiarize yourself with these tools as early as possible.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students should be able to demonstrate an informed understanding of the many different approaches to analyzing and interpreting texts and films. Students should be able to explain the similarities and differences of those approaches as well as their benefits and limitations.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate an informed understanding of the different modes of inquiry and research within English studies.
3. Students should be able to analyze and interpret texts and films employing close reading skills as well as a variety of other theories and methods that were included in the class.
4. Students should be able to perform independent research, using the MLA bibliography and other methods.
5. Students should be able to express their ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways, in both written and oral forms.
6. Students should be able to define many terms within English studies and explain the significance of those terms.
7. Students should be able to respond critically to all course material, using synthesis, analysis, comparison, contrast, critique and evaluation.
8. Students should be able to use web-based scholarly sources in an effective manner.

MY POLICIES:

Assignments policy:

ENGL 2350 is a discussion course. Your attendance and participation are essential to your success in it. Papers are due at the beginning of class. They should be typed, double spaced, stapled, and have your name and the course number in the top left hand corner of the first page. **Late papers will be penalized by 3 points each day they are late. A doctor's note will not excuse a late paper. Midterm and Final exams cannot be made up** except in extreme circumstances. I expect you to have done the reading/writing assignment on the day scheduled on the syllabus.

Attendance:

I will take roll every day. During the semester you are permitted **FOUR** absences. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, so use your time wisely.

Doctor's visits, surgeries, meetings with advisors, sports trips, etc all will be taken from your absence total. You do not need to provide me with documentation for your absence.

Each absence after the fourth one will result in a 2 point penalty off your final grade. Only in exceptional cases will I accept documentation excusing you after the fourth absence. If you are absent from class you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, completing the work you have missed, and for being on schedule when you return.

Tardiness:

You must arrive to class on time. Tardiness to class may result in your being counted as absent.

Classroom/email etiquette:

I expect each member of the class to behave respectfully towards each other and towards me. Some of you may find the material we will discuss in class to be controversial, but not everyone will share your opinion. Please be mindful of this fact during discussions and in email correspondence.

Critical Theory survival tips:

It is quite likely that some of the material will be difficult and unfamiliar at first. Don't panic! This is to be expected initially. You should find yourself becoming more familiar with the terms and ideas we are discussing by the third or fourth week into the semester.

Remember, there is a direct correlation between class discussion and your success on assignments and exams. You will learn a lot from class discussion if you have prepared the assignment. A good way to prepare is to take notes on the readings and ask lots of questions of the text, of yourself, of me, of your classmates. Start making connections between the things we are reading and formulate your own positions in relation to the texts. Use the Bedford Glossary to look up words you don't understand and bring them up in class if you need further clarification. The following websites provide useful overviews of many of the theories we will be studying.

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2718>

<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/theory/index.html>

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/%7Ejlynch/Lit/theory.html>

PLAGIARISM

In both oral and written communication, the following guidelines for avoiding plagiarism must be followed:

1. Any words quoted directly from a source must be in quotation marks (for a written assignment) and cited.
2. Any paraphrasing or rephrasing of the words and/or ideas of a source must be cited.
3. Any ideas or examples derived from a source that are not in the public domain or of a general knowledge must be cited.

4. All papers and presentations must be the student's own work.

Students who are confused about what constitutes plagiarism should meet with me, the instructor.

Academic Honesty is expected of all students. Cheating and plagiarism are violations of academic honesty. Any student caught violating the academic honesty code will be failed for the entire semester and the matter will be reported, with documentation, to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or earlier if accommodations are needed immediately. Please bring a copy of all relevant paperwork to the meeting. If you do not have a notification for accommodations but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Students with Disabilities, 102 University Hall, 2-3364.

Assignments and grade percentages:

Assignment One: Close Reading and New Critical Analysis of Poem 15%

Assignment Two: Critical Approaches Exercise 10%

Assignment Three: Midterm Exam 15%

Assignment Four: Literature Review and Bibliography 15%

Assignment Five: Research Paper 30%

Assignment Six: Final Exam 15%

Grading Scale:

A= 90-100 D= 60-69

B= 80-89 F= 59 and below

C= 70-79

THE WRITING CENTER: The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, will assist you with your writing assignments for this course. During Fall 2010, the Writing Center's hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday; and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at www.uta.edu/owl/appointments, by calling 817 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center.

DATE	ASSIGNMENT DUE/CLASS ACTIVITIES
Week 1 T 1/18	Introduction to the Syllabus
R 1/20	Texts and Contexts (T&C) chs. 1&2
Week 2 T 1/25	T&C ch. 3. Answer questions on pp. 57-60. Bring answers to class for discussion. Read Owl page on imagery in poetry and overview of Formalism. Image in Poetry Formalism and New Criticism
R 1/27	Poetry workshop. Bring 2 or 3 different poems to class.
Week 3 T 2/1	First Draft of poetry paper due for peer review. Bring two copies of paper to class. Read following Owl pages on writing about poetry and crafting a thesis statement to get you started. Writing about Poetry Creating a Thesis Statement
R 2/3	Poetry Paper Due Introduction to Structuralism and Deconstruction
Week 4 T 2/8	T&C ch. 5. Do questions pp. 129-134 and bring answers to class
R 2/10	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> pp. 17-46
Week 5 T 2/15	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> pp. 46-95
R 2/17	Decon and H of D: “ <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Revisited” pp. 206-220 in Murfin
Week 6 T 2/22	T &C ch. 6
R 2/24	Postcolonial Crit and H of D: “H of D: Anti-Imperialism, Racism, or Impressionism?” Murfin pp. 277-296
Week 7 T 3/1	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i>
R 3/3	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i> discussion continued
Week 8 T 3/8	Midterm Review
R 3/10	Midterm Exam
Week 9 T 3/15	Spring Break

R 3/17	Spring Break
Week 10 T 3/22	<i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i>
R 3/24	Critical approach exercise due (Come up with 2 or 3 critical approaches to reading <i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i>)
Week 11 T 3/29	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> pp. 1-93
R 3/31	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> pp. 93-end
F 4/1	Last Day to Drop
Week 12 T 4/5	Library session on research methods
R4/7	Anne Cheng "Wounded Beauty: An Exploratory Essay on Race, Feminism, and the Aesthetic Question." <i>Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature</i> . Vol 19, no. 2 (Autumn 2000). Pp. 191-217. You must find this essay in the UTA library or databases and photocopy it, read it and bring it to class. Ask a librarian for help if you cannot find it. In class viewing of "A Girl Like Me" Discuss lit review assignment and research paper assignment today.
Week 13 T 4/12	T & C ch. 7. Answer questions on 221-223
R 4/14	T & C ch. 8 Answer questions on 255-261
Week 14 T 4/19	Bring first draft of lit review. Access these sites for tips http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/literature_review.html http://www.library.ncat.edu/ref/guides/literaturereview03.htm
R 4/21	Literature review and bibliography due
Week 15 T 4/26	Paper workshop. Bring thesis statement and sources to class
R 4/28	Writing and Research Day. No Class.
Week 16 T 5/3	Research Paper Due
R 5/5	Final Exam Review
5/12 8-10:30	Final Exam