**English 2350-001: Introduction to Textual Analysis and Interpretation  
Summer II 2012, MTWTh 8:00-10 AM**

Room: PH 100  
Instructor: Dr. Chris Kilgore  
Office: 201F Social Work A  
Office Hours: MTW 1:30-3:30PM  
Email (Preferred): chriskilgore@uta.edu English Dept. Phone: (817) 272-2692

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Parker, Robert Dale. *How to Interpret Literature*. Second Edition.  
James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw*. Bedford Case Studies Edition.  
Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. Norton Critical Edition.  
**Recommended:** *The MLA Handbook, 7th Edition*.  
**NOTE:** Additional required reading materials will be posted to Blackboard as PDF documents. Please be prepared to print these and bring them to class for discussion.

**Course Description**

The course is designed to introduce students to what is required of them as UTA English majors, and it’s a prerequisite for all upper-level English courses.

**Course Objectives**

This course will teach current and potential English majors 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. What does this mean for you? By the end of the semester, you should be able to…

* …demonstrate an informed understanding of the many different approaches to analyzing and interpreting texts and films, and explain the similarities and differences of those approaches as well as their benefits and limitations.
* …demonstrate an informed understanding of the different modes of inquiry and research within English studies.
* …express your ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways.
* …define many terms within English studies and explain the significance of those terms.
* …respond critically to all course material, using synthesis, analysis, comparison, contrast, critique and evaluation.
* …perform independent research, using the MLA bibliography and other methods.
* …write an original, cohesive, organized, research paper that draws upon at least one mode of theory and several works of literary criticism.
* …find new insights into not only stories, poems, and plays, but also into your own experience, at UTA and beyond!

*“Would I had phrases that are not known, utterances that are strange, in new language that has not been used, free from repetition, not an utterance that has grown stale, which men of old have spoken.” (attributed to Khakheperresenb, c. 2000 BCE)*

**Attendance and Participation**

Our daily class activities will use a discussion format, rather than a lecture. I will prepare study guides to help you take notes on the readings, and we will be doing some in-class writing to help us keep track of our discussions, but there will be no slides or lectures. So it will be your responsibility to come to class having completed the assigned reading, and prepared to take notes on our discussions.

**Attendance:**  Because of this discussion format, your attendance is very important! I allow **2 absences for any reason**, and I do not differentiate between “excused” and “unexcused,” so please do not miss class unless it is an ***emergency***. After the second absence, ***your Overall Grade will drop 10% for each subsequent absence***. If you know there’s a chance you’ll miss class, **contact me immediately**.

**Participation:** There will be in-class writing assignments and activities, amounting to 10% of your overall grade. In the course schedule, reading assignments appear on the dates when we’ll be discussing them in class, so please read them **before that date**. ***PLEASE NOTE:*** Because this is an accelerated Summer course, **the reading load will be very heavy**. You may still drop the class as late as July 30.

**Major Assignments**

In addition to your Attendance and Participation, I will be expecting you to complete four major assignments, whose due dates you will find on the Course Schedule:

Paper 1: Explication (2-3 pages on poetry)  
Paper 2: Critical Method (3-5 pages on narrative)  
Paper 3: Researched Paper (8-10 pages on a subject of your choice)   
Midterm Exam

**Please Note:** You must complete all Major Assignments in order to pass the class. If you know you will miss class on a due-date, please plan ahead, and contact me **well before the due date**.

**Grade Breakdown**

Participation: 10%  
Attendance: 10%  
Paper 1: 15%  
Paper 2: 15%  
Paper 3: 30%  
Midterm Exam: 20%

*"The goal of all inanimate objects is to resist man and ultimately to defeat him."*—Russel Baker

**Digital Communication Policy**

Email and our Blackboard site will constitute my primary means of communication with you throughout the semester. Please be prepared to check your UTA email **every day**, and to access Blackboard for reading assignments, paper assignments, grade information, and announcements. Also, texting and cell-phone communication are a distraction in class, so I expect all digital communication devices to be **turned off**, and **put away** during class, unless I instruct otherwise.

**Academic Dishonesty**

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, part One, Chapter VI, Sec. 3, Subsec. 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

For writing assignments, plagiarism includes submitting as your own any work that was written or corrected, in whole or in part, by another person. For research papers, plagiarism includes using any source, whether in direct quotation or summary or paraphrase, without citing the source. A student who plagiarizes will automatically fail the course and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Disability Services**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112--The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of the need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. For more information, visit the Office for Students with Disabilities at University Hall 102 or call (817) 272-3364.

**Student Support Services**

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs, including learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring academic, personal, or social assistance should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Course Schedule**

*"You never know what is enough unless you know what is more than enough."*—William Blake

This schedule is subject to revision. All revisions will be announced, and the revised schedule will be posted, on our Blackboard site. **NOTE:** The code “EoW” means “End of Week,” and we’ll define it in class.

***Key to Readings:***

**BB** = Online, see Blackboard or Email  
**P** = Parker, *How to Interpret Literature*, Second Edition  
**J** = James, *The Turn of the Screw*, Bedford Case Studies, Third Edition

**C** = Chopin, *The Awakening*, Norton Critical Edition

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| **Week 1: Formalisms**  T 7/10: **What Is Literature?**  P: Introduction (1-10)  Introduction to the course  Read selected poems in class  W 7/11: **New Criticism**  P: Chapter 2 (11-23, 30-43)  BB: Selected Poems  Th 7/12: **Structuralism**  P: Chapter 3 (44-63), (skim 66-78, if you have time—we’ll cover the material in class)  BB: Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart”  EoW: ***TURN IN:*** PAPER 1, via Blackboard Dropbox (11:55pm)  **Week 2: Beyond Form**  M 7/16: **Deconstruction**  P: Chapter 4 (86-99, 102-110)  J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Prologue- Part 4 (22-45)  T 7/17: **Psychoanalysis**  P: Chapter 5 (112-118, 123-138)  J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 5-8 (45-64)  W 7/18: **Feminism**  P: Chapter 6 (148-159, 163-176)  J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 9- 14 (64-86)  Th 7/19: **Queer Studies**  P: Chapter 7 (179-189, 199-208)  J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 15- 19 (86-101) | **Week 3: Toward Context**  M 7/23: **Marxism**  P: Chapter 8 (211-226, 235-242)  J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 20- 24 (101-120)  T 7/24: ***MIDTERM EXAM***  W 7/25: Review and Prepare for Paper 2  *NOTE:*  *If you tend to prefer to write on a computer, you may want to bring one to class today.*  Th 7/26: BB: Drama (TBA)  ***PEER REVIEW:*** Bring 3 copies of your Paper 2 Draft to Class  EoW: ***TURN IN:*** PAPER 2, via Blackboard Dropbox (11:55pm)  **Week 4: Contexts and the Reader**  M 7/30: **New Historicism / Cultural Studies**  P: Chapter 9 (244-255, 260-267)  C: *The Awakening* (Chapters 1-11)  C: Critical Essay (TBA)  ***Last Day to Drop***  T 7/31: **Postcolonial Studies**  P: Chapter 10 (270-274, 278-280, 285-295)  C: *The Awakening* (Chapters 12-  22)  C: Critical Essay (TBA)  W 8/1: **Race Studies**  P: Chapter 10 (295-311)  C: *The Awakening* (Chapters 23-  33) |
| Th 8/2: **Reader Response**  P: Chapter 11 (314-332)  C: *The Awakening* (Chapters 33-  39)  Review and Prepare for Paper 3  *NOTE:*  *If you tend to prefer to write on a computer, you may want to bring one to class today.*  ~~F 8/3:~~ ***~~TURN IN:~~*** ~~PAPER 3 Proposal, via~~  ~~Blackboard Dropbox (11:55pm)~~ | **Week 5: Film Criticism**  M 8/6: **Film**  View *Boys Don’t Cry* by today.  Discuss Mise en Scène,  Cinematography  T 8/7: **Film**  In-Class Viewings (TBA)  Discuss Editing, Sound  W 8/8: ***PEER REVIEW:*** Bring 3 copies of your Paper 3 Draft to Class  Th 8/9: ***ORAL PRESENTATIONS***  Su 8/12: ***TURN IN:*** PAPER 3, via Blackboard  Dropbox (11:55pm) |

**Jack London’s Credo**

As the term moves on, and you find that you have a great deal to read and to write for this class, I invite everyone to remember Jack London’s Credo, and especially the last line…

*I would rather be ashes than dust!*

*I would rather that my spark should burn out*

*in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot.*

*I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom*

*of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet.*

*The function of man is to live, not to exist.*

*I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them.*

*I shall use my time.*

For further discussion, please see the excellent commentary by Clarice Stasz ([click here](http://london.sonoma.edu/credo.html)).