**2350 (003&004): INTRO TO TEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

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**Instructor:** Dr. P. Ingram **Semester:** Fall 2014

**Office:** 410 Carlisle **Class Time & Room:** 9:30am (003) & 11am(004) in PH 100

**Office Hours:** T, R—1:00-2:00pm

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.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Like other disciplines, English Studies has its own vocabulary and methodology, which have to be learned in order to undertake literary analysis at the college level (and beyond). It is the purpose of this course to teach you these methods by introducing you to various schools of interpretation, including Psychoanalytic Poststructuralist, Feminist, Postcolonial, and Eco Criticism and to show you how to use these methods to interpret different forms of literature from poetry to film.

Specifically, the course will teach you 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.

**Assignments and grade percentages:**

**Questions for Analysis papers (6):** 15%

**Application Papers (3):** 20%

**Midterm Exam**: 20%

**Research Paper:** 25%

**Final Exam:** 20%

**Grading Scale:**

Grading: The grades I assign indicate how well you meet the expectations of an assignment.

90-100=A, for work that exceeds expectations.

80-89= B, for work that meets expectations well.

70-79=C, for average work, work that meets the expectations of an assignment competently.

60-69=D, for work that fails to meet the minimum requirements of an assignment.

59 and below=F, for work that is either not completed or has flouted the requirements.

## A grade of C at the end of the semester indicates that a student has demonstrated a thorough command of the reading and writing skills the course is designed to impart. A C, in other words, is a grade that indicates that you have succeeded. An A indicates that your performance is well above average, exceeding that of the majority of your peers. Since C is the average grade, by definition, only a very few students will receive As.

**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. 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.

* Charles E Bressler, *LITERARY CRITICISM: AN INTRODUCTION TO THEORY*

*AND PRACTICE*. Longman, 5th Edition (2011)

* Henry James, *TURN OF THE SCREW*. Dover thrift Edition
* Nella Larsen, *PASSING.* Modern Library Classics, (2002)
* Caryl Churchill, *CLOUD NINE*. Theatre Communications Group (1994)
* Manjula Padmanabhan, *HARVEST*. Aurora Metro Press (2003)
* Rupert Wyatt, dir. *RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES* (2011) \*\*Rent or stream

film. No need to purchase\*\*

**Blackboard**

Other course materials for this class can be found on Blackboard. You should check it regularly for updates to the syllabus, assignments, and other announcements.

The following websites are also required reading.

* [The Owl at Purdue](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/713/01/) 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 final research paper: <http://libguides.uta.edu/english>

We will schedule time to meet with the English resources librarian, 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 introduced.

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:**

**Participation**

ENGL 2350 is a discussion course. Your attendance and participation are essential to your success in it. Participation is not simply talking; it involves contributing to the discussion in **relevant** and meaningful ways. Effective participation stems from thoughtful reading and preparation outside of class.

**Papers**

All papers (including Questions for Analysis) will be **submitted via Blackboard**. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper is correctly submitted. I will make no allowances for papers that are not properly uploaded. Blackboard will not accept submissions after the class begins on the due date. If your paper is late, you will need to make arrangements with me to submit it. I will not accept late papers via email unless by arrangement. **Late papers will be penalized by 5 points each day they are late. A doctor’s note will not excuse a late paper.** If you know you cannot submit the paper by the due date, you should contact me about an extension. An extension is not automatic, however; under no circumstances will an extension be granted the day before the paper is due.

All papers must double spaced and typed, in 12pt Times New Roman font, and have your name and the course number in the top left hand corner of the first page. **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. **Any changes to these due dates will be announced in person and/or by email ahead of the change.**

**Attendance:**

I will take attendance every day. During the semester you are permitted **two** absences. Doctor’s visits, surgeries, meetings with advisors, friends’ weddings, etc. will be taken from your absence total.

I will only excuse university related absences (sports trips if you are on the team and military duty) that are fully documented. Other absences do not require documentation. **Each absence after the second one will result in a 2 point penalty per absence off your final grade.** If you miss more than five class periods, you will have effectively missed two and a half weeks of class. This is unacceptable and will adversely affect your grade.

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. I will not provide my lecture notes to you if you miss class.

**Tardiness:**

You must arrive to class on time. Not only do you disrupt the class, but you can miss important information which will not be repeated. Repeated tardiness may be counted as an absence.

**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. Please be conscious of the following policies.

1. Turn off your cell phones when you come into class and put them away. This means **no texting in class**. If a student persists in sending text messages during class, he or she will be dismissed from class for the day. Attention to discussion and showing respect for your instructor and classmates is part of being present.

2. Unless you have discussed doing so ahead of time with me, please **do not use your laptop in class.**

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**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.

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.

**Writing Center.** **:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f" \t "_blank) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is directly to your left after exiting. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

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| **DATE** | **ASSIGNMENT DUE/CLASS ACTIVITIES**  **Subject to change when necessary** |
| Week 1  R 8/21 | Introduction to the Syllabus |
| Week 2  T 8/26 | Bressler, chs. 1&2 |
| R 8/28 | **New Criticism and Formalism**  Bressler, ch.3  Read “Young Goodman Brown” p.239-244 and  Questions for Analysis p.63 (turn in for grade) |

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| Week 3  T 9/2 | **Structuralism/Poststructuralism**  Bressler ch.5 and  Derrida, ‘Structure, Sign and Play” pp.252-267 |
| R 9/4 | Questions for Analysis 119 &120 (turn in for grade) |
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| Week 4  T 9/9 | **Psychoanalytic Criticism**  Bressler, ch.6  Freud, “The Uncanny” on BB |
| R 9/11 | James, *Turn of the Screw*  First Application Paper due |
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| Week 5  T 9/16 | **Feminist Criticism & Gender Studies**  Bressler, ch.7  Questions for analysis p. 161 (turn in for grade) |
| R 9/18 | Butler, excerpt from Gender Trouble |
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| Week 6  T 9/23 | *Killing Us Softly* video. Watch in class. |
| R 9/25 | **Marxist Criticism**  Bressler, ch. 8  Questions for analysis p. 179 (turn in for grade) |
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| Week 7  T 9/30 | Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses” on BB |
| R 10/2 | **Postcolonial Criticism**  Bressler, ch.10 |
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| Week 8  T 10/7 | Padmanabhan, *Harvest*  Questions for Analysis, p. 208. **Apply the questions to your reading of *Harvest* *not YGB*** |
| R 10/9 | Larson, “Heroic Ethnocentrism” pp.268-280 |
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| Week 9  T 10/14 | In-Class review for Midterm Exam (bring questions) |
| R 10/16 | **Midterm Exam 20%** |
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| Week 10  T 10/21 | **Race Studies**  Bressler, ch.11 |
| R 10/23 | Guillaumin, “Specific Characteristics of Racist Ideology” on BB |
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| Week 11  T 10/28 | Larsen, *Passing* Part I |
| R 10/30 | Larsen, *Passing* Part II&III  Second Application Paper Due |
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| Week 12  T 11/4 | **Queer Theory**  Bressler, ch.12  Questions for Analysis 228 (turn in for grade) |
| R 11/6 | Churchill, *Cloud Nine*  Jagose, “Queer Theory” pp.280-283 |
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| Week 13  T 11/11 | **Ecocriticism**  Bressler, ch.13  “John Keats and Nature, an Ecocritical Inquiry”pp. 284-295 |
| R 11/13 | **Animal Studies**  “Early Twenty-First Century Animal Studies” on BB  Williams, “The Animal People” on BB |
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| Week 14  T 11/18 | *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (watch outside of class)  Third Application Paper Due |
| R 11/20 | Greene, “Planet of the Apes” on BB |
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| Week 15  T 11/25 | Catch up Day |
| R 11/27 | **Thanksgiving Break—No Class** |
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| Week 16  T 12/2 | Final Exam Review  **Research Paper Due 25%** |
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| FINAL EXAM (20%) | Section 003--12/11 @ 8-10:30am  Section 004—12/09@11-1:30pm |

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.