

English 4356.001  
Literary Criticism II  
Dr. Timothy Richardson

**Texts:** The Critical Tradition  
Handouts & PDFs

**Materials:** Standard-sized spiral notebook (for reading journal)

**Overview:** The study of literature is a tradition because literature begs to be talked about. This course will consider various recent approaches to what literature does with an ear toward critique as we consider their efficacy here and now. Class sessions will include lecture, discussion, workshops, peer groups.

**Essays:** Essay #1 will explore a single theme present in the texts we have read with an interest in how it might be reclaimed for the contemporary discussion. Essay #2 will be a discussion of a 20th-21st Century single book of poetry in terms of some of the traditional criticism we have read. The book of poetry must be by a living poet and must be approved by me, so think early on this.

**The “Go-To”:** Each student will sign up to be the “go-to” person for a theorist/critic we will be discussing. The students should prepare a brief biographical statement on the theorist/critic as well as at least three questions through which s/he may lead discussion.

**Class Presentation:** Before finishing the final paper on a book of poetry, each student will present the book and early thoughts on the critical apparatus/technique(s) that may be useful for discussing the work to the class. Hand outs are usually useful for examples of the poets work. The presentation should be a thoughtful and thorough as possible, but will also give each student a chance to ask the class for responses, suggestions, etc. A summary paper of the presentation (2-3 pages) is due at the same time.

**Reading Notes:** Students are required to maintain a notebook in which brief (about a page) summaries and/or responses to the assigned readings (as well as any specific questions) are kept. These must be in complete sentences. With exception of periodic checks, I will not read your notebook closely until the end of the semester. Primarily, it is intended as a learning tool in which you may respond to the reading and/or class at any time. Keeping up with the reading journal is advised, as it is part of your grade and will benefit your class participation.

**Outcomes:** Identify rhetorical and literary elements in reading materials; develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting texts; recognize and synthesize multiple interpretations of a single text; explain the differences among different types of critical analytical approaches.

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on the following:

30 points	“Go-To”
50 points	Essay #1
30 points	Presentation
50 points	Essay #2
30 points	Reading journal
60 points	Attendance (0-3 absences receives 60 points, 4 gets 40 points, 5 gets 20 points, 6 gets 0, etc.)

250 points total, so:

225-250 points total: A

200-224 points total: B

175-199 points total: C

150-175 points total: D

149 and below: F

**Policies:** Class attendance is required.

I will not accept late papers or assignments unless you have made arrangements with me in advance. In case of illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

All essays must be typed and double-spaced. Use basic fonts, no larger than 12 pt. Margins should be one inch all around. Titles are mandatory and fun. Be original and inventive. Do not use plastic binders or notebooks to enclose your essays. Staples are best. No late papers will be accepted. Always, always keep an extra hard copy of your work.

Student e-mails will be addressed only during office hours.

Plagiarism will result in immediate failure of the course.

Americans With Disabilities Act: 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 their 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](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: 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, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at [www.uta.edu/email](http://www.uta.edu/email). New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

NOTE: This is a general plan for our classroom discussions and assignments.  
Due dates and assignments are subject to change with notice from the instructor.

DATE	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
Jan 19, 21	MLK	Course Introduction
Jan 26, 28	Eliot Burke	Bakhtin
Feb 2, 4	Frye Sontag	Booth
Feb 9, 11	Saussure	Levi-Strauss
Feb 16, 18	Eco	Derrida
Feb 23, 25	Foucault (Author?) Barthe	de Man
March 2, 4	Holland Fish	Lacan <a href="#">Gallop</a>
March 9, 11	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
March 16, 18	Zizek Kristeva <b>Essay #1 Due</b>	<b>Final topic approval</b> Benjamin
March 23, 25	Williams Jameson (Political Unconscious)	Said Bhabha
March 30, April 1	Showalter/Eagleton <a href="#">Irigaray</a>	Foucault (Sexuality) Butler
April 6, 8	Guillory Jameson (Postmodernism and)	<a href="#">Lyotard</a>
April 13, 15	Haraway	hooks West
April 20, 23	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATIONS
April 27, 29	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATIONS

May 4, 6	PRESENTATIONS <b>Reading Journal Due</b>	<b>Essay #2 due</b>