

SYLLABUS
ENGLISH 5300-001
THEORY AND PRACTICE IN ENGLISH STUDIES
SPRING 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Erin Murrah-Mandril
OFFICE: Carlisle 612

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CLASS MEETING: Tues 6-8:50 Carlisle 212
OFFICE HOURS: T/R 11:00-12:30

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

This course introduces graduate students to the field of English studies, including its methods, institutional structure, and theorization of language and literature. Approximately half of the class will focus on the history and institution of English studies, research methods, and bibliographical and textual studies. The other half will provide a survey of literary theory.

TEXTBOOKS

You are responsible for purchasing books in time to read them before the assigned reading date and for bringing the appropriate book to class on the days we discuss it. This is true regardless of whether or not the bookstore has our book in stock. If the bookstore is out of stock, check local books stores, Amazon.com, other online stores, etc. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Leitch, Vincent B. Ed. *The Norton Anthology: Theory and Criticism*. 1st ed. New York: Norton 2001. (Abbreviated NATC in class schedule.)
ISBN: 9780393974294

Williams, William Proctor and Craig S. Abbott. *An Intorduction to Bibliographical and Textual Studies*. 4th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009.
ISBN: 9781603290395

MLA Handbook. 8th ed. New York: Modern Language Association 2016.
ISBN: 9781603292627

Recommended:

Semenza, Gregory Colón. *Graduate Study for the 21st Century: How to Build an Academic Career in the Humanities*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will demonstrate strong analytical skills and an understanding of key concepts in English studies.
- Students will demonstrate critical reading skills.
- Students will be able to write analytical essays, developing effective thesis statements and using appropriate evidence to support arguments.
- Students will develop strong oral communication skills, learning how to present analytical arguments in a professional manner.

PARTICIPATION

Your careful preparation for and active participation in each class is integral to the course. The participation grade involves more than mere attendance. You are expected to carefully read the assigned primary and secondary texts before class having taken notes and/or underlined key passages with annotation. Bring thoughts and questions to each class period, and consider each text relation to the cumulative literary and critical context we build throughout the course.

EXAMS

You will have a midterm and a final in this course that will require you to identify key terms, apply knowledge, and demonstrate research and writing skills. Your final will be held during finals week, but will not be cumulative. It will have a take-home component due at the beginning of the exam. The midterm will be conducted entirely in-class.

FINAL PAPER

Your final paper will examine a specific work of literature that we will select as a class. You will apply the literary theory we cover in the second half of the course in your analysis. This paper will be 3500-5000 words including the works cited. It must be submitted in MLA format. The final paper is due **May 1st**.

REPORT ON A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

You will select a scholarly journal from the MLA Directory of Periodicals and examine its scope, style, and selection process and structure. In other words, you are going to examine the culture of the journal. You will read at least two articles published in the journal and include analyses of them in your report. The report should be approximately 1500-2000 words. It must include the title and editor of the journal, submission guidelines, circulation, and acceptance rate along with other information you deem significant.

PROFESSIONAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY/PERSONAL NARRATIVE

You will write a personal narrative about what has led you to English studies. Explain why you are here, what you want from an advanced degree in English and why. What relevant life experiences led you to this path? This essay will be in the genre of creative non-fiction, and you will navigate the line between the personal and the professional. This essay will be approximately 1000 words.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

You will create a bibliography of a text of your choosing. There will be two sections to the bibliography. The first will reveal the textual history of the book by citing all editions of the book in chronological order. The second section will be an annotated bibliography of important secondary sources about the book. The annotations should be a brief 1-2 sentences. The complete bibliography should be at least 3 pages.

RESPONSE PAPER/LEAD DISCUSSION

You will write two response papers during our theory section in the second half of the semester. You will also lead two corresponding class discussions. Students will sign up for days to lead a discussion corresponding with each of the literary theorists. For the discussion, identify 2 or 3 key terms that are important to the reading, describe and explain the main argument, and relate it to other critical texts we have read.

Your response paper should use clear, concise, professional style, but it may be more personal than an academic essay. I.e. you should use first person to explain your viewpoint and learning experience in relation to the theory text. While your response paper should be well organized with a unifying main point, it does not have to have a tight thesis where each piece of the essay provides supporting evidence. Response papers should be 750-1000 words.

All written assignments must use MLA formatting

GRADING

Final Paper	20
Midterm	15
Final Exam	15
Response papers/discussion (5 pts. each)	10
Journal Report	10
Bibliography	10
Professional Autobiography	10
Participation	10
Total	100

ATTENDANCE:

See "Participation." If you miss more than two classes without accompanying medical or legal documentation, you will receive a 0 for your participation grade.

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://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

TITLE IX POLICY

The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be

tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>. You can send e-mail to your instructor's and to classmate's MavMail account through the Blackboard e-mail link in Blackboard. However, you will need to go to your own MavMail account to check messages and responses you have received.

CAMPUS CARRY

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK

For semester-long courses, 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.

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, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

CAMPUS COURTESY ESCORT

UTA offers a free service to escort you to your car, dorm, or another class room on campus after 7 pm to help students feel safe walking on campus after dark. The number to request and escort is 817-272-5252. Please consider using this service because our course ends quite late.

SCHEDULE

Jan 16 The institution and history of English Studies: Terry Eagleton and Matthew Arnold

Jan 23 Discussion: *The MLA Handbook* and the UTA English Department
“Graduate Handbook” (available on the department’s website).
Exploring MLA research resources: Please bring laptop or tablet

Jan 30 NTAC Eliot “Tradition and the Individual Talent” 1092-98; Barthes “The Death of the Author,” 1466-69; Bloom from *The Anxiety of Influence*, 1794-1805.
(Optional reading Foucault “What is an Author?,” 1622-35)
Select literary text for class; sign-up for theory discussion days.
Scholarly Journal Report Due

Feb 6 Discussion: *Introduction to Bibliographic and Textual Studies*

Feb 13 Discussion: Strangers in the ivory tower, essays posted on Blackboard
Professional identities and genres, samples available via Blackboard
Bibliography Due

Feb 20 NATC Baudrillard “The Procession of Simulacra” 1729-40; Benjamin “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” 1163-85.
Digital Humanities: essays posted on Blackboard
Professional Autobiography Due

Feb 27 NATC Plato from *Republic* and *Phaedrus* pgs. 67-85, Derrida from
Dissemination pgs. 1830-62.

Mar 6 **Midterm Exam**

Mar 13 Spring Break! Read literary text over break.

Mar 20 Formalism/Structuralism/Post-structuralism: NATC Brooks, “Heresy of Paraphrase” 1353-71; Saussure from *Course in General Linguistics* 960-76; Lyotard “Defining the Postmodern” 1612-1615

Mar 27 NATC Marx 764-87; Althusser from *Ideology and the Ideological State Apparatus* 1483-1509; Jameson “Postmodernism and Consumer Society” 1960-75

Apr 3 NATC Freud 919-26, 929-55; Lacan 1285-1302; Kristeva 2169-79

Apr 10 NATC Mikhail Bakhtin 1201-1220, Foucault 1636-66
Workshop papers

Apr 17 NATC Feminism and Gender Simone de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex* 1406-14; Witting, “One is not Born a Woman” 2014-21; Cixous, “The Laugh of Medusa” 2039-56; Butler, from *Gender Trouble* 2488-2501

Apr 24 Discussion: Postcolonial and decolonial studies; Frantz Fanon 1578-93; Edward Said 1991-2012; Walter Mignolo reading on Blackboard

May 1 Course recap, share papers, and prepare for final.
Final Paper Due

May 8 **Final Exam**