

English 2350-001: Introduction to Textual Studies
Fall 2011, MWF 8:00-8:50

Room: PH 300
Instructor: Dr. Chris Kilgore
Office: 605 Carlisle Hall / 201F Social Work A
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-3:00PM (@ Social Work A201F, unless otherwise announced)
Email (Preferred): chriskilgore@uta.edu
English Dept. Phone: (817) 272-2692

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Parker, Robert Dale. *How to Interpret Literature*.
Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*.
James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw*.

Recommended: *The MLA Handbook, 7th Edition*.

NOTE: Required texts will also be posted on Blackboard as electronic documents.

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.
- ...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.
- ...express your ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways, in both written and oral forms.
- ...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

Attendance: Because we will be discussing readings and assignments in detail in class, your attendance is very important! I allow **4 absences for any reason**, and I do not differentiate between "excused" and "unexcused," so there is no need to collect doctor's notes or other documentation. After the fourth absence, **your Overall Grade will drop 10% for each subsequent absence.**

Participation: I will be re-re-reading, taking notes, and preparing discussion comments on all materials for the course, so I expect everyone to do the same. 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**.

There will also be a number of **Participation Assignments** throughout the semester, and a **Reading Quiz** on Friday of each week. These quizzes count for your Attendance, and also accrue Attendance and Participation points. We'll take them at the beginning of class, so please be sure to get here on time, so you can receive credit for being present. **NOTE: I will drop your lowest 3 quiz scores.**

Major Assignments

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

Paper 1: Explication (3 pages Max.)

Paper 2: Critical Method (5 pages Max.)

Paper 3: Research Paper (10 pages Max.)

Final 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**. I do allow for extensions in the case of illness or emergency, but **only if you contact me before the due date**.

Grade Breakdown

Participation:	10%
Paper 1:	15%
Paper 2:	20%
Paper 3:	30%
Final Exam:	25%

"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. On the other hand, 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.

Key to Readings:

BB = Online, see Blackboard or Email

P = Parker, *How to Interpret Literature*

C = Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*

J = James, *The Turn of the Screw*, Bedford Case Studies, Third Edition

Week 1: What Is Literature?

F 8/25 **TURN IN:** Introductory Email

M 8/28 **TURN IN:** Week 1 Writing Assignment

W 8/31

BB: Atwood, "Happy Endings" ([click here](#))

BB: Bukowski, "How to Be a Great Writer" ([click here](#))

F 9/2

P: Chapter 1, "Introduction" (1-8)

C: Chapter 1, "What Is Literature?" (19-42)

M 9/5

(Labor Day: No Class)

Week 2: Close Reading and Interpretation (New Criticism, Formalism)

W 9/7

P: Chapter 2: "New Criticism" (read 9-20 carefully, skim 20-28)

BB: Blake, "The Clod & the Pebble" ([click here](#)), "The Garden of Love" ([click here](#)), "The Tyger" ([click here](#))

F 9/9 **QUIZ 1**

C: Chapter 5: "Rhetoric, Poetics, and Poetry" (70-82)

BB: Bishop (Selected Poems)

Week 3: Close Reading and Interpretation (New Criticism, Formalism)

M 9/12

P: Chapter 2 (28-39)

BB: Eliot (Selected Poems)

W 9/14

C: Chapter 4: "Language, Meaning, and Interpretation" (56-69)

BB: Yeats (Selected Poems)

F 9/16 **QUIZ 2**

C: Chapter 6: "Narrative"

BB: Langston Hughes (Selected Poems)

Week 4: Structuralism and Narratology

M 9/19

P: Chapter 3 "Structuralism" (40-47)

BB: Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

W 9/21

P: Chapter 3 (47-61)

BB: Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart"

F 9/23 **QUIZ 3**

P: Chapter 3 (73-6)

BB: Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery"

TURN IN: PAPER 1 – Explication of Poem

Week 5: Deconstruction

M 9/26

P: Chapter 4, "Deconstruction" (77-89)

BB: Borges, "Pierre Menard, Author of the *Quixote*," "The Library of Babel"

W 9/28

P: Chapter 4 (89-98)

J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Prologue-Part 4 (22-43)

F 9/30 **QUIZ 4**

P: Chapter 4 (98-100)

J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 5-9 (45-68)

Week 6: Psychoanalysis

M 10/3

P: Chapter 5, "Psychoanalysis" (101-116)

J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 10-14 (68-86)

W 10/5

P: Chapter 5 (116-126)

J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 15-19 (86-101)

F 10/7 **QUIZ 5**

P: Chapter 5 (126-135)

J: *The Turn of the Screw*, Part 19-24 (101-120)

J: Zacharias, "A Psychoanalytic Perspective (320-332)

Week 7: Feminism

M 10/10

P: Chapter 6, "Feminism" (136-145)

BB: Review Bishop, "The Gentleman of Shallott"; Tennyson, "The Lady of Shallott," and 2 additional poems (TBA)

W 10/12

P: Chapter 6 (145-152)

BB: Chopin, *The Awakening* (Chapters 1-11)

F 10/14 **QUIZ 6**

P: Chapter 6 (152-161)

BB: Chopin, *The Awakening* (Chapters 12-22)

Week 8: Queer and Gender Studies

M 10/17

- P: Chapter 7, "Queer Studies" (162-171)
- BB: Chopin, *The Awakening* (Chapters 23-33)
- J: Walton, "A Gender Studies Perspective" (348-359)

W 10/19

- P: Chapter 7 (171-178)
- BB: Chopin, *The Awakening* (Chapters 34-39)

F 10/21 **QUIZ 7**

- P: Chapter 7 (178-186)
- BB: Ginsberg (Selected Poems), Rich (Selected Poems)

Su 10/23: **TURN IN PAPER 2 PREP ASSIGNMENT** (by 11:55pm)

Week 9: Marxism

M 10/24

- C: Chapter 8, "Identity, Identification, and the Subject" (109-120)
- J: Robbins, "The Unfinished History of *The Turn of the Screw*" (376-389)
- Registration Begins for Spring 2012

W 10/26

- P: Chapter 8, "Marxism" (187-197)
- Continue to discuss Robbins
- ~~BB: Joyce, "The Dead"~~
- BB: Naipaul, "One out of Many" (read at least half)

F 10/28 **NO IN-CLASS MEETING** (See Blackboard for Discussion Board)

TURN IN: QUIZ 8 (See Blackboard; due via dropbox by 11:55pm)

- P: Chapter 8 (197-212)
- BB: Naipaul, "One out of Many"

Week 10: Historicism / Cultural Studies

M 10/31

- P: Chapter 9, "Historicism and Cultural Studies" (218-231)
- BB: Angela Carter, "The Company of Wolves" (BC 142-53)
- ~~BB: Popular Culture (TBA)~~

W 11/2

- P: Chapter 9 (231-239)
- TURN IN: PAPER 2 PRESENTATIONS**

F 11/4 **(NO QUIZ!)**

TURN IN: PAPER 2 PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

Last Day to Drop a Class

Su 11/6: **TURN IN PAPER 2 – Critical Method and Narrative** (by 11:55pm)

Week 11: Historicism / Postcolonial / Race Studies

M 11/7

- P: Chapter 10, "Postcolonial and Race Studies" (240-247)
- BB: Lovecraft, *The Shadow over Innsmouth*
- Discuss Naipaul

W 11/9

P: Chapter 10 (247-262)

BB: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, Act I

BB: Barton, Introduction to *Measure for Measure* (Riverside 579-583)

F 11/11 **QUIZ 9**

P: Chapter 10 (262-273, Optional Reading: 273-277)

BB: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, Act II

Week 12: Reader Response

M 11/14

P: Chapter 9, "Reader Response," and "Afterword" (278-288)

BB: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, Act III

—— J: Booth, "Are We Blessed or Cursed by Our Life with *The Turn of the Screw*" (287-301)

—— ~~**Note:** We'll discuss this essay on Wednesday, but it's long, so start it early!~~

TURN IN: PAPER 3 PREP ASSIGNMENT

W 11/16

BB: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, Act IV

—— ~~Discuss Booth (see above)~~

F 11/18 **QUIZ 10**

C: Chapter 9, "Ethics and Aesthetics" (121-133)

Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, Act V

Week 13: NeoFormalism / Film: Cinematic Style I

M 11/21

View *Citizen Kane* before today

Discuss Mise en Scène and *Citizen Kane*

W 11/23

NO In-Class Meeting (See Blackboard for Take-Home Assignment)

F 11/25

(Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class; No Quiz!)

Week 14: NeoFormalism / Film: Cinematic Style II

M 11/28

View *Boys Don't Cry* before today

Discuss Cinematography and *Boys Don't Cry*

TURN IN: PAPER 3 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

W 11/30

Discuss Editing and *Boys Don't Cry*

F 12/1 **QUIZ 11**

Short Animated Films (TBA)

Discuss Sound

Week 15: Literary Research

M 12/4 Peer Review

W 12/6 Peer Review

F 12/8 Last Day of Class

TURN IN: PAPER 3 – Research Paper

Final Exams: F, 12/16 8-10:30 a.m.

As the semester 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...

Jack London's Credo

*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](#)).