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ENG 2205-001: Introduction to Literary Studies

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English 2205 Introduction to Literary Studies

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Office Hours: MW 12:15-2:15; F 10-11; and by appointment

About the Course

In this course we'll consider some of the questions most fundamental to studying literature: What is literature, and why do we consider it worth reading? What questions do we ask as we read, and in what ways do those questions effect *how* we read? What, in short, is literary criticism, and where does our practice of it place us in relation to the texts we study? As we pursue these questions, we'll also be compiling a working vocabulary with which to discuss literature and exploring several of the most influential theoretical approaches informing contemporary literary criticism. The goals of the course are to introduce you to some of the practices fundamental to literary study while providing a forum in which you can experiment with, reflect on, and further develop your own critical perspectives.

Required Texts:

Baker and Huling, *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*. 4th/e
Angela Carter, *Wise Children* (WCh)
Richter, *The Critical Tradition* 2nd/e (CT)
Richter, *Falling Into Theory* 2nd/e (FT)
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (HM)

You should also have access to a grammar book and college level dictionary

Course Requirements/ Evaluation

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1) midterm and final exam | 30% |
| 2) group presentation | 10% |
| 3) short paper (4-5 pages) | 15% |
| 4) Numerous in and out of class writings. Roughly once a week during the first eight weeks, I'll ask you to respond in writing to the material we're reading. You'll write some of these responses during the first ten minutes of class, and some I'll ask you to prepare beforehand. | 15% |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 5) A final paper (6-8 pages). | 20% |
| 6) Class participation | 10% |

Policies

- 1) The reading load for this course is heavy and the material challenging, so make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete the assigned reading. Keep in mind that if you come to class unprepared, you'll lose participation credit. On the less punitive side, class is simply a lot more fun and interesting when you know what everyone else is talking about and have ideas of your own to contribute.
- 2) Much of what you will learn in this course will come from ideas generated in class discussion and so your presence in, and engagement with, the class are essential.
- 3) Assignments must be handed in within the first five minutes of class on the day they are due unless we have worked out a prior arrangement. Work handed in after that time will lose half a letter grade for each calendar day it is late. No work will be accepted a week after the deadline.
- 4) You must successfully complete all work for the course in order to receive a passing grade.

Plagiarism Policy

The following is the English department's statement concerning plagiarism:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of 'F' for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

While I assume I'll have no need to impose penalties for plagiarism, the ones I consider appropriate are that the student fail the course and be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office. If at any point in your writing for this course (or for another, if you like) you're uncertain about whether you're using sources appropriately, please come and talk to me.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know and please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Syllabus

(I'll notify you in advance of any changes)

*You will also be assigned additional short reading (usually poetry) and definitions for literary terms.

Week 1: (Jan 7-11)

Course introduction

Richter, "Introduction" (*FT* 1-11)

Week 2: (Jan 14-18)

Richter, "Why We Read" (*FT* 15-30)

Brooks, "Irony as a Principle of Structure" (*CT* 757-65)

Wimsatt and Monroe, "The Intentional Fallacy" (*CT* 748-57)

Week 3: (Jan 21-25)

Mon 21st: King's Birthday – no class

Richter "What We Read" (*FT* 121-136)

Week 4: (Jan 28-Feb 1)

Robinson, "Treason Our Text" (*FT* 153-66)

Guillory, "The Canon as Cultural Capital" (*FT* 218-24)

Week 5: (Feb 4-8)

Richter, "How We Read" (*FT* 235-52)

Wharton, *The House of Mirth*

Fri 8th: Lincoln's birthday – no class

Week 6: (Feb 11-15)

Wharton, *The House of Mirth*

Benstock, "What is Feminist Criticism?" (*HM* 391-98)

Restuccia, "The Name of the Lily" (*HM* 404-18)

Week 7: (Feb 18-22)

Benstock, "What is Deconstruction?" (*HM* 419-28)

Norris, "Death by Speculation" (*HM* 431-46)

Week 8: (Feb 25- March 1)

Benstock, "Introduction" (*HM* 3-23); Review

Benstock, "What is Cultural Criticism?" (*HM* 326-37)

Robinson "The Traffic in Women" (*HM* 340-58)

Week 9: (March 4-8)

Research methods

Using Sources

Midterm Exam

Week 10:(March 11-15)
Spring Break – no classes

Week 11: (March 18-22)
Angela Carter, *Wise Children*

Week 12: (March 25-29)
Carter, *Wise Children*
Presentation preparation

Week 13:(April 1-5)
Presentations
First paper is due

Week 14:
Research Methods
Consultation on Final Papers

Week 15:
Readings TBA

Week 16:
Informal presentations of final papers
Review
Final paper is due

You will have a final exam during exam week.