

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Fall 2023

Fall 8-15-2023

ENG 5000-600 Introduction to Methods and Issues in English Studies

Marjorie Worthington
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2023

Recommended Citation

Worthington, Marjorie, "ENG 5000-600 Introduction to Methods and Issues in English Studies" (2023). *Fall 2023*. 67.

https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2023/67

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2023 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

ENG5000.600:
INTRODUCTION TO METHODS AND ISSUES IN ENGLISH STUDIES

Section 600: Online

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington

Office: Coleman Hall 3321

Office Hours: MWF 12:00pm-2:00pm or by appt.

Phone: 217-722-8953 (text only, please. We can schedule calls or Zoom meetings that way)

email: mgworthington@eiu.edu

TEXTBOOKS – We only have two textbooks, but most of your readings can be found in D2L. Each week has a labeled folder that contains that week's reading.

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

Toni Morrison, *Playing in the Dark*

All other readings can be found, organized by week, in D2L

Description.

This seminar provides a foundation for the M.A. in English, serving as an introduction to the methods and issues of advanced-level research and scholarship in English studies. Through our reading and discussions, we will examine the field of English Studies, discuss assumptions and challenges in the field, and develop a strong understanding of what professionals do. This will involve becoming aware of discourse practices, methods of research, and the writing genres that we use in various settings of English.

Course Objectives include (but are not limited to):

- understand expectations of graduate-level work;
- explore critical and theoretical issues in English studies;
- get extensive practice in completing graduate-level research;
- become familiar with professional conversations in English studies, including controversies, current trends, and career preparation

EIU ONLINE ETIQUETTE – These are the official standards we will use in our online interactions:

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) is committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue in all of its courses. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought, opinion, and values. We encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, the instructor will intervene, removing inappropriate content. The instructor may also recommend university disciplinary action. Learners as well as faculty should be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. The following are good guidelines to follow:

- Never post, transmit, promote, or distribute content that is known to be illegal.
- Never post harassing, threatening, or embarrassing comments. If you disagree with someone, respond to the subject, not the person. Conflicts of ideas are encouraged, while conflicts of feelings are discouraged.

•Never post content that is harmful, abusive; racially or culturally insensitive, or religiously offensive, vulgar; sexually explicit, or otherwise potentially offensive.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as de-fined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-ported to the Office of Student Standards.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – Because our course moves so quickly, it is VITAL that you turn in assignments on time.

Graduate Portfolio Materials: You likely have heard that the Graduate Program requires you to compile a portfolio of specific materials in order to graduate with your MA. You will begin the compilation process as part of this course. I have uploaded the information you will need, and by the end of the semester, you'll have to upload your resume/vita and statement of purpose, as well as a researched essay, to the English Department's Graduate D2L site. If this all sounds complicated and daunting, it's not – it will become clearer as we move through the course.

Weekly Short Essays: In most weeks, you will turn in a 1-2-page *single-spaced* essay that addresses one or more points from that week's reading. You can do a broad analysis of several (or all) of the course readings for that week, or you can provide a focused discussion of a single reading or even a single issue within a reading. **NOTE:** These essays are NOT "responses" in that I do not care how you "felt" about what you read, whether or not you "liked" it, or even if you understood it (if you did not understand the reading, read it again more slowly). Instead, these essays should be *thesis-driven*: the introduction should contain a strong thesis statement that is supported by the body of the essay. These essays are due each Monday, should be posted in the designated Discussion Board, and are meant to facilitate discussion. For that reason, late essays are vastly less relevant to our purposes and will not be accepted.

CFP Abstract: A "CFP" or "Call for Papers" is an announcement of a planned conference panel or collection of articles. The CFP describes what the panel or book will be about and invites people to submit their ideas for an essay that could be included in that panel or book. The submission is called an "abstract," which is a several-paragraph description of the essay the sender would like to submit to the panel or book. I will be giving you a CFP and you will need to write craft an abstract as though you were planning to submit an essay in response. You won't have to write the actual essay, just the several-paragraph abstract. If you're confused, don't worry, I will give a more in-depth assignment and there will always be opportunities for you to ask questions.

Professional Ethics Quiz: This is a fairly simple assignment: a self-directed quiz about a couple of short readings that discuss academic and professional ethics.

Literary Studies Essay: For this assignment, you will choose one of the literary-analytical approaches we will be reading about and write an essay that analyzes *Beloved*.

Statement of Purpose/Resume: All graduate students need a resume or “curriculum vitae” or “vita” (what you call it depends on the job you are applying for). Based on your eventual career goals, you will craft a document that suits your purposes; if you already have a resume, you can update it in response to this assignment. You will also write a statement of purpose that outlines your goals for the MA degree and beyond. In addition to being assignments for this course, these will be included as part of your MA Professional Portfolio.

Final Essay or Project: This will be a project of your own choosing (likely a 10-page essay, but it could be another kind of project, like a lesson or unit plan), based on the work we have done in our course combined with your personal interests and/or career goals AND research you do independently. There is a lot of leeway here for you to design and project that suits your needs. If you like this project could be an expansion of one of your short essays. Ultimately, I want this project to be of professional use to you, in whatever form that might take. I will serve as a guide in whatever way you require.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 6 Weekly short essays (300-500 words) | 30% (5% each) |
| Call for Papers (CFP) Abstract | 10% |
| Professional Ethics Quiz | 5% |
| Literary Studies Essay | 20% |
| Statement of Purpose (including peer review of classmates' statements) | 10% |
| Resume/CV (including peer review of classmates' CV's) | 5% |
| Final Essay or Project | 20% |

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE 1: All readings except *Beloved* and *Playing in the Dark* can be found in the “Content” section of D2L.

NOTE 2: All assignments are due on FRIDAYS at midnight in the designated Discussion Board (in “Communications” section) or Dropbox (in the “Assessment” section).

WEEK 1: JUNE 12-JUNE 16

READINGS: Humanities in the 21st Century & Public Humanities

WRITING

SHORT ESSAY 1 DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD

WEEK 2: JUNE 19-JUNE 23

READING: *Beloved* and *Playing in the Dark*

WRITING:

- SHORT ESSAY 2 DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD
- CFP ABSTRACT DUE to DROPBOX

WEEK 3: JUNE 26-JUNE 30

READINGS: Literary Studies: 3 Tyson Chapters: Marxism; Feminism; African-American Criticism

WRITING:

- SHORT ESSAY 3 DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD
- PROJECT ABSTRACT DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD

WEEK 4: JULY 3-JULY 7

READING: Literary Studies: 3 Tyson Chapters: New Historicism & Cultural Crit; LGBTQ Criticism; Ecocriticism

WRITING:

- SHORT ESSAY 4 DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD
- ETHICS QUIZ DUE to DROPBOX
- DRAFT OF CV AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE DUE TO DISCUSSION BOARD

WEEK 5: JULY 10-JULY 14

READING: Critical Media Literacy

WRITING:

- DRAFT OF FINAL PROJECT DUE TO DISCUSSION BOARD
- SHORT ESSAY 5 DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD
- PEER REVIEW OF CV AND STATEMENTS DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD

WEEK 6: JULY 17-JULY 21

READINGS: Digital Humanities/Distant Reading

WRITING:

- SHORT ESSAY 6 DUE to DISCUSSION BOARD
- PEER REVIEW OF FINAL PROJECT/ESSAY ONLINE WORKSHOP DUE
- LITERARY ESSAY DUE to DROPBOX

JULY 23rd by MIDNIGHT

WRITING:

- RESUME & PROFESSIONAL STATEMENTS DUE to DROPBOX
- FINAL PROJECTS DUE TO DROPBOX

