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# ENG 5000-001: Intro To Methods And Issues In English

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**INTRO TO METHODS AND ISSUES  
IN ENGLISH STUDIES**

**ENG 5000 sect. 001, CRN 90844**

**Dr. Jeannie Ludlow**

**Fall, 2011**

**7:00-9:30 pm**

**in Coleman 3159**

**Office:** 3139 Coleman Hall

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**Mailbox:** 3351 Coleman Hall

**Office Hours:** T 3:30-4:30; W 3:30-6; R 1-1:50

**Course Description from the Graduate Catalog:**

"An introduction to critical approaches, research methods, and current issues in English studies. Required in first year of enrollment."

ENG 5000 is a work-intensive course, intended to help you take the skills you already have to a higher level, so you can have richer, more rewarding graduate course experiences. You should expect, realistically, to spend an average of six to eight hours per week preparing for this course.

**Course Format:** This is a skills-focused course, which means that we may not always interact in typical seminar style. You will find that I do a lot of meta-teaching (teaching you about how I am teaching); this is intended to help demystify graduate education in English Studies for you. You may also find that I suddenly require something unexpected of you in class (e.g., show me your reading notes; read part of your paper aloud to the class; go to the computer and look something up in the Oxford; etc.). These activities are intended not to put you on the spot but to introduce a new skill or resource to the class as a whole.

**Course Expectations:** Because this is a graduate seminar, certain expectations apply: seminar participants will arrive on time and fully prepared to engage with all the readings and ideas scheduled for that week (if you get behind, please contact me to discuss what is going on with you—don't flounder); seminar participants will have primary responsibility for determining and communicating which aspects of any given topic need further explanation or contextualization; seminar participants will treat ourselves, one another and any guests who come to our meetings in a manner that is respectful and professional.

**Course Objectives—ENG 5000 will:**

- a. further students' preparation for graduate coursework in English.
- b. introduce students to research methods and bibliographic skills at the graduate level.
- c. challenge students to enhance their ability to apply critical and theoretical approaches in literary studies.
- d. engage students in further developing their critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills.

**Special circumstances:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact EIU's Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. If you require assistance with any other circumstance that arises, please contact me immediately, so we can work out a good plan of action together.

**Required texts:**

You are required to do all assigned reading for this course. Five required texts for this course are available from Textbook Rental. Some required readings will also be available only on-line via WebCT or on the internet.

TRS TEXTS (in order of use)

Lentricchia and McLaughlin, eds. *Critical Terms for Literary Study*. 2nd ed.

Mikics, David. *A New Handbook of Literary Terms*.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. 1892 edition.

Dickinson, Emily. *The Complete Poems*. Ed. Johnson.

Hurston, Zora Neal. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

**Other Requirements:**

You will also need regular access to a computer and e-mail and the ability to use WebCT. If you need help with this, let me know right away.

**Literary Studies Podcast:** You should subscribe to The Close Reading Cooperative, the free podcast in literary studies produced here at Eastern. Being an English scholar requires you to call upon the tools of our field—tools that include particular habits of observing not only what texts say but also how they say it—and this podcast is intended to issue a set of weekly reminders (mini-lessons, really) to keep you in practice and on your feet as a close reader. Keeping up with it will help you keep your old literary knowledge fresh and nimble as you add new skills and vocabulary to your repertoire. Instructions for subscribing to the Close Reading Cooperative appear on the English Department's website: <http://www.eiu.edu/~english/>

IN ORDER TO PASS THIS COURSE, YOU MUST  
SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNED WRITTEN WORK  
FOR GRADING.  
EXCESSIVE ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN  
AUTOMATIC FAILURE.

**GRADES** will be earned through the following components, each of which will be assigned a letter grade:

- 25% Participation (includes attendance, in-class activities, discussion based on successful completion of all reading, and in-class writing)
- 5% Week 1 in-class assessment activities (grade can be replaced by Week 16 grade)
- 30% Literary skills and methods assignment (5% per week, weeks 2-7)
- 5% Symposium/conference paper proposal
- 15% Symposium paper presentation
- 20% Final draft, seminar paper (same topic as symposium paper)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Graduate students are expected to be present for all seminar meetings; a one-session absence is the equivalent of one full week of absence in an undergraduate course. In-class use of a cell phone is the equivalent of an absence for that seminar meeting.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** In this course, we will comply fully with EIU's academic integrity policy (see your catalog). Violation of this policy includes (but is not limited to):

1. quoting from a source without fully and correctly citing that source and/or without using quotation marks;
2. paraphrasing from a source without fully and correctly citing that source;
3. turning in a paper with an incorrect or incomplete works cited list;
4. falsifying data;
5. turning in someone else's work as your own;
6. turning in your own work that was written for another course, without prior permission from both professors.

Violations of EIU's academic integrity policy will result in an automatic failing grade in this course and notification of the Office of Student Standards. For more information, see [www.eiu.edu/~judicial](http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial).

**About written work:** Please note that all written work—formal and informal—for this seminar must be well-constructed, well-reasoned, and grammatically correct. If you need help with your writing, let me know right away and plan to meet with me before assignments are due. All written work for this course must meet academic standards for accurate citation/documentation. Any written work that does not correctly utilize MLA citation conventions is automatically failing; two assignments that fail to cite appropriately will lead to an automatic failure in the course. If you need help with citation and documentation, contact me. I am happy to help (before the assignment's due date, of course). The Writing Center can also help you. **Late work is strongly discouraged**; late work submitted without advance warning will earn a reduced grade.

**Incompletes in this course:** A grade of "incomplete" will only be given in this course in cases of documented medical or personal emergency. According to this policy, "documented" means that you are able to provide documentation that you were under the care of a health care provider or working with some other professional (e.g., a lawyer, your child's pediatrician); "emergency" means that there is no way you could have foreseen this situation and/or planned around it so that you could have completed the course work in a timely manner. Although I am sympathetic about the intensity of graduate work (particularly for this course), I will not consider being overwhelmed or having trouble balancing the workload for this course with your other obligations (work, education, social, family) to be good reasons for a grade of "I." If you feel like you are getting behind in the course, please meet with me as soon as possible to discuss your situation and how I might help you to get back on track.

**ASSIGNMENT FOR WEEK ONE (8/24)**  
INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE; GRADED  
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Before class, read "Introduction" and "Representation" in Lentricchia (to p. 22).