

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 5000-001: Introduction to Issues & Methods in English Studies

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**English 5000 ~ Introduction to Issues & Methods
in English Studies
~ Fall 2005 ~**

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Office Hours:
M ~ 9:30-11; W ~ 11-12
Thurs ~ 10-11
& by appointment

**COURSE
DESCRIPTION &
GOALS:**

This course is required of graduate students in their first year of enrollment in the English MA program. Broadly speaking, it's an introduction to critical approaches, research methods, and current issues in literary and composition studies. The course is designed to introduce new students to the critical methodologies and practices that have shaped English literary study in the past and to orient them to the burning questions in literary and cultural studies today. Readings in a range of materials will provide a springboard for discussion of this profession as a whole and the how to's and what if's of becoming "professionalized" through graduate studies. Some of our specific course goals include: 1) to get a feel for the requirements of graduate coursework in English; 2) to explore critical and theoretical issues in literary, composition, and textual studies; 3) to use research methods at the graduate level; 4) to learn about and respond to controversies—professional and academic—in English studies; and 5) to engage some fascinating thinkers and writers.

TEXTS:

- A. S. Byatt, *Possession*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818 & 1831 editions)
- A course packet of readings

REQUIREMENTS:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. A bibliographic review essay | 15% |
| 2. Literary Puzzle | 15% |
| 3. Book Review / Presentation | 10% |
| 4. Critical Edition | 20% |
| 5. Annotated Bibliography | 15% |
| 6. Research Essay / Presentation | 25% |
| 7. Careful preparation for and lively discussion
at each class session | |

Note: You will receive a detailed assignment sheet for each project.

Overview of Course Meetings & Topics

Week 1:

Course Introduction

Week 2: The Institution & Value of Literary Study

- Holland, “The Power of (?) of Literature” (handout)
- Fleming, “What is the Value of Literary Studies?” (handout)
- Byatt, *Possession*

Week 3: The Problem of Reading

- Searle, “The Conscience of the King: Oedipus, Hamlet, and the Problem of Reading” (handout)
- Byatt, *Possession*

Weeks 4 & 5: The Problem of Writing

- TBA

Week 6: Frankenstein: The Editions & Contexts

Week 7: Frankenstein: Frankenstein’s Circle ~ Questions about Biography

Week 8: Frankenstein: The Influence & Reception of Frankenstein

Week 9: Creating Texts

Week 10: Literary Studies & the Problem of Theory, Part 1

Week 11: Literary Studies & the Problem of Theory, Part 2

Week 12: How to Write a Great! Graduate Paper

Weeks 13 & 14: Preparation for Seminar Conference