Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 2205-003: Introduction to Literary Studies

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English 2205  
Introduction to Literary Studies  
Spring 1997

Dana Ringuette  
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Office hours:  
T&TH: 9:30-10:30 am  
W: 9:00-10:30 am

Course Information:

Why do we read literature, and what happens when we read it?  How do we read it, and what questions can or should arise when we think about what we read?  This course focuses on the questions that we might ask about literature--and, by extension, literary study--and on why these questions are worth asking.  Our inquiries will be a start toward figuring out the value of literature and why we involve ourselves in this activity called "literary study."

Required Texts:

Richter,  *The Critical Tradition*  
Richter,  *Falling into Theory*  
Conarroe,  *Six American Poets*  
Shelley,  *Frankenstein*  
Wharton,  *The House of Mirth*  
Doyle,  *Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories*  

Recommended: a notebook, earmarked for this class, for use both in class and as a reading journal. I strongly encourage you to keep a reading journal throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:

1. Seven one-page, typed, single-spaced "Response" papers focusing on your reading.  In each Response you will write about, explore, what you see as key in the readings up to that point.  Your purpose here is not to generalize, but to abstract one or two specific ideas found in the critical reading that particularly interest you, and then to reflect on the importance of these ideas.  Due dates are listed on the Schedule of Meetings.

2. A longer essay, due at the end of the semester, focusing upon your studies this semester and your critical inquiries.

3. A collaborative research and interpretive project and presentation, focusing on selected Sherlock Holmes stories by Doyle.

4. Midterm and final exams

5. Sustained, engaged participation throughout the semester.  This means more than simply being here: you must have the reading finished on time, turn in assignments on time, and contribute thoughtfully and often to class discussion.

Grades, Evaluation, and Attendance:

1. The following percentages make up the total of the final grade: Responses=25%;  Final essay=20%;  Collaborative project=20%;  Midterm exam=15%;  Final exam=20%.
2. You are expected to complete all, not just part, of the semester's study and work.
3. If you have more than two unexcused absences, your final grade for the course will drop by one (1) full grade point.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, then 1) please inform me as soon as possible. and 2) contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
(all changes will be announced in class)

CT = The Critical Tradition
FT = Falling into Theory
HL = A Handbook to Literature
SAP = Six American Poets

Week 1
- 1/14: Introductions: read Richter. "Introduction" (FT 1-11)
- 1/16: Arnold. "Dover Beach"; Williams. from Spring and All ("The Red Wheel Barrow") (SAP 165); Graff. "Disliking Books at an Early Age" (FT 36-43)

Week 2
- 1/21: Plato. Ion (CT 29-37); Dickinson. #435 (SAP 84-85)
- 1/23: Aristotle. Poetics (CT 42-48); Frost. "Mending Wall" (SAP 197-99)
  - Response #1 due.

Week 3
- 1/28: Richter. "Why We Read" (FT 13-26); Stevens. "Anecdote of the Jar" (SAP 122) and "The Reader" (SAP 132)
- 1/30: Searle. "The Storm Over the University" (FT 79-88); Menand. "What Are Universities For?" (FT 88-99)

Week 4
- 2/4: Richter. "What We Read" (FT 107-18); Gates. "Canon Formation. Literary History, and the Afro-American Tradition" (FT 172-80)
- 2/6: Hughes. "Mother to Son" (SAP 247), "The Weary Blues" (SAP 233-34), "Harlem" (SAP 257), and "Juke Box Love Song" (SAP 255)
  - Response #2 due.

Week 5
- 2/11: Shelley. Frankenstein (3-82) (through Chapter VIII)
- 2/13: Visit from EIU Career Services
  - Response #3 due

Week 6
- 2/18: Robinson. "Treason Our Text" (FT 152-63)
- 2/20: Frankenstein (83-124) (Chapters IX-XVI)

Week 7
- 2/25: Fish. "Is There a Text in This Class?" (FT 226-37)
- 2/27: Frankenstein (124-85) (Chapters XVII-XXIV)
  - Response #4 due.

Week 8
- 3/4: Dasenbrock. "Do We Write the Text We Read?" (FT 237-48)
- 3/6: midterm exam

Week 9
- 3/11: Richter. "How We Read" (FT 205-17); Eliot. "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (CT 466-471)
- 3/13: Wimsatt and Beardsley. "The Intentional Fallacy" (CT 1382-91); Barthes. "The Death of the Author" (FT 221-26)
  - Response #5 due.

3/17-3/21 → Spring Break
Week 10
  - Response #6 due.

Week 11
- 4/1: *The House of Mirth*; Derrida, excerpt from "Structure, Sign, and Play ..." (*CT* 959-63)
  - Response #7 due.

Week 12
- 4/8: Doyle, selected Holmes stories; Preparation for student research and presentations: bring Baker’s *Research Guide for Undergraduate Students* to class
- 4/10: continued preparation for research and presentations

Week 13
- 4/15 & 17: Student research and presentations

Week 14
- 4/22 & 24: Student research and presentations

Week 15
- 5/1: continued discussion and review
  - ESSAY DUE

Final Exam: