ENG 2205-003: Introduction to Literary Studies

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English 2205-003
Introduction to Literary Studies
Fall 2012

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3355 Coleman Hall
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Office Hours: M/W/F 9-10:50/11-11:50 and by appointment.

About the Course

Introduction to Literary Studies will help you learn the specialized methods of reading, noticing, and thinking that English majors employ. You'll learn to read carefully, analytically, and with close attention to not only what texts mean but how they create those meanings; You’ll learn to recognize and articulate substantive questions about the texts; You’ll gain a specialized vocabulary with which explore those questions; And you’ll begin to establish your own identity as a literary critic.

This course is taught in conjunction with the two other sections of English 2205 taught by Professors Vietto and Caldwell at the same time as this section. Numerous times throughout the semester, all three sections will meet together at Plenary sessions during which we address issues central to developing your skills as an English major.

Required Texts:

Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland (1865)
Katherine Dunn, Geek Love (1989)
Henry James, The Turn of the Screw (1898)
William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (ca. 1590)

MLA Handbook for Writer’s of Research Papers, 7th/ed

Subscription to The Close Reading Cooperative (we’ll discuss in class how to sign up)
Course Requirements/ Evaluation

1) Participation/short assignments  
2) Poetry Explication  
3) Scene Performance  
4) Turn of the Screw Essay  
5) Geek Love Essay  
6) Short Fiction Essay  
7) Ringuette Cup  
8) Mid-Term Exam  
9) Final Exam  

Policies

1) The reading/writing/research load for this course is heavy, so make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete assignments. Much of what you will learn in this course will come from collaborative work in class so your presence in (and engagement with) the class are essential. Missing more than three classes will lower your final grade.

2) Assignments must be handed in on the day they are due unless we have worked out a prior arrangement. I do not accept classwork after the due date. If you must miss a class, you are still responsible for preparing all work required for the next meeting.

3) Major papers will lose half a letter grade for each calendar day they are late. No major papers will be accepted a week after the deadline.

4) You must complete Course Requirements 2-9 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.
ENG 2205 Syllabus

Week 1:
- M Aug 20: Introductions
- W Aug 22: *Alice in Wonderland* pp. 1-61
- F Aug 24: **Introductory Plenary Session**, Doudna Lecture Hall (1210 DFAC)
  *Alice in Wonderland* pp. 62-99

Week 2:
- M Aug 27: *Through the Looking Glass* pp. 103-119
- W Aug 29: *Through the Looking Glass* pp. 120-168
- F Aug 31: *Through the Looking Glass* 169-209; **Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC**

Week 3:
- M Sept 3: No class – Labor Day
- W Sept 5: Poetry (readings TBA)
- F Sept 7: **Plenary Session, 1210** (poetry continued; introduce Ringuette Cup)

Week 4:
- M Sept 10: Poetry (readings TBA)
- W Sept 12: Poetry (readings TBA)
- F Sept 14: **Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC**

Week 5:
- M Sept 17: Poetry (readings TBA)
- W Sept 19: Poetry (reading TBA)
- F Sept 21: **Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC** (poetry continued)

Week 6:
- M Sept 24: **Poetry Explications due; Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC** (intro to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and performance assignment)
- W Sept 26: *MND* Act I
- F Sept 28: *MND* Act II

Week 7:
- M Oct 1: *MND* Act III
- W Oct 3: *MND* Act IV
- F Oct 5: No class – Fall Break

Week 8:
- M Oct 8: *MND* Act V
- W Oct 10: *MND* performance work
- F Oct 12: **Mid-term Exam**
Week 9:
M Oct 15: Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC MND performances
W Oct 17: Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC MND performances
F Oct 19: Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC (intro to The Turn of the Screw and historicist essay assignment); The Turn of the Screw pp. 22-29

Week 10:
M Oct 22: The Turn of the Screw pp. 29-78
W Oct 24: The Turn of the Screw pp. 78-120; essay topics discussed in class
F Oct 26: The Turn of the Screw pp. 121-186

Week 11:
M Oct 29: Essay drafts due
W Oct 31: **Turn of the Screw Essay due; Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC (intro to Geek Love and essay assignment)
F Nov 2: Geek Love pp. 30-63

Week 12:
M Nov 5: Geek Love pp. 64-145
W Nov 7: Geek Love pp. 146-220
F Nov 9: Geek Love pp. 221-279

Week 13:
M Nov 12: Geek Love pp. 280-348
W Nov 14: Essay drafts are due
F Nov 16: **Geek Love essay due; short fiction to read over break assigned

Week 14: (Nov 19-23)
No Classes – Thanksgiving Break

Week 15:
M Nov 26: Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC
W Nov 28: Short fiction (reading TBA)
F Nov 30: Short Fiction (reading TBA)

**Ringuette Cup submissions due

Week 16:
M Dec 3: Short fiction/poetry
W Dec 5: Plenary Session, 1210 DFAC; Ringuette cup winners announced
F Dec 7: **Short Fiction essay due

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11, 10:15-12:15