ENG 2205-003: Introduction to Literary Studies

Richard Sylvia  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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English 2205: Introduction to Literary Studies
TR 2:00 – 3:15pm; CH 3691
Fall 2006
Professor Richard Sylvia
Office: 3775 CH
Office Hours: TWR 9:30 – 10:30 am; and by appt.
Phone: 581-6292
email: rasylvia@eiu.edu

Course Description, Design, and Goals: This course introduces you to the discipline of literary studies, focusing on close reading of several works, critical responses to them, and the theories and methodologies informing those responses. Our general goal is to sophisticate our understanding of what it means to “read” a work of literature. Throughout the semester we will work on identifying and developing a discrete set of skills that professional readers depend on, including writing and research skills, but will also work on becoming more critically self-aware of three major questions underlying literary study: why we read, what we read, and how we read.

Texts: Barry, P. English in Practice (handouts)
        Beaty, J. The Norton Introduction to Literature, 8th ed.
        Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights
        Doyle, A. C. Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories
        Foster, T. How to Read Like a Professor (handouts)
        Richter, D. Falling into Theory
        Shakespeare. The Tempest

Requirements and Grading:
1) preparation of the assigned readings
2) two brief papers – 10% each
3) one research paper – 20%
4) in-class writing – 20%
5) two exams – 30%
6) class participation – 10%

You must complete successfully all the work listed above to pass the course.

Course Policies:
I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, speak to me before it is due. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

In-class writing assignments cannot be made up.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, but not required.
This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit an essay from this class for your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: http://www.eiu.edu/~assess.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

I enforce the English Department Statement on 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 own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

**Tentative Schedule:**

Aug. 22: introduction to course; in-class writing

Aug. 24: Vendler, "What We Have Loved, Others Will Love"; Graff, “Disliking Books at an Early Age” (*Falling Into Theory*)

Aug. 29: Barry, “Reading the Lines”; Foster, “If It’s Square, It’s a Sonnet” (handouts)


Sept. 5: sonnets

Sept. 7: sonnets

Sept. 12: Foster, “Introduction”; “Every Trip is a Quest” (handouts); **paper #1 due**


Sept. 21: Foster, “Nice to Eat You” (handout); James, “The Jolly Corner” (Norton)

Sept. 26: James, “The Jolly Corner”

Sept. 28: Shakespeare, “The Tempest” Acts 1, 2; “The Life and Work of . . .”

Oct. 5: "Literary Study, Politics, and Shakespeare: A Debate"; paper #2 due

Oct. 10: **mid-term exam**

Oct. 12: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* Chapters 1-10

Oct. 17: *Wuthering Heights* 11-20

Oct. 19: *Wuthering Heights* 21-34


Oct. 26: “Psychoanalytic Criticism and Wuthering Heights”

Oct. 31: “Marxist Criticism and Wuthering Heights”

Nov. 2: “Cultural Criticism and Wuthering Heights”

Nov. 7: “Feminist Criticism and Wuthering Heights”

Nov. 9: Doyle, “The Man with the Twisted Lip”

Nov. 14: Jaffe, “Detecting the Beggar: Arthur Conan Doyle, Henry Mayhew, and “The Man with the Twisted Lip”

Nov. 16: Radway, “Introduction to *A Feeling for Books* (Falling Into Theory)

Nov. 21, 23: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 28: Doyle, “The Speckled Band”

Nov. 30: Hennessy, “'The Speckled Band': The Construction of Woman in a Popular Text”

Dec. 5: research project reports

Dec. 7: research project reports; research paper due

**Final Exam:** Monday December 11, 2006, 2:45 – 4:45pm