ENGL 251A
Criticism I
TTh 2:30-3:50pm
RCH 106
Professor Rebecca Tierney-Hynes
Phone: (519) 888-4567 x 35667
Email: rtierney@uwaterloo.ca
Office: HH 254
Office hours: TTh 4-5pm
Course website: http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rtierney/

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to critical methods of reading literature. We will explore genre, form, and the social context of literature. Our aim will be to uncover the ways in which meaning is created in the interactions among authors, texts, readers, and contexts, and to develop a critical vocabulary to express that meaning.

Course Texts:

- Austen, Emma, ed. Pinch (Oxford)
- Woolf, Mrs Dalloway, ed. Bradshaw (Oxford)
- Baldwin, Go Tell it on the Mountain (Dell)
- Course website – http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rtierney/

All course texts are available at the UW Bookstore (SCH). The website is required reading. You are responsible for all information posted on the course website.

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm test: 15% (Oct 10)
Essay #1: 15% (due Oct 31)
Essay #2: 30% (due Nov 28)
Final Exam: 25%
Participation: 15%

Midterm test (15%) – Week 5 (Oct 10)

- Rubric:
  - Part A: Terminology (10 marks)
    - You will be asked to define five of eight critical terms we have discussed in the course.
  - Part B: Passage analysis (20 marks)
You will be asked to identify the author and title of two of four passages, and then to describe the significance of the passage to the themes of the text as a whole.

- This test is optional. If you choose to sit the mid-term, your final mark on the course will be calculated according to the percentages on the syllabus (i.e. midterm: 15%; final exam: 25%) unless your mid-term mark is lower than your exam mark, in which case your mid-term mark will be dropped and your exam will be worth 40%. If you do not choose to sit the mid-term, or you are not able to be there, your exam mark will account for 40% of your final mark.
- It is strongly recommended that you write the mid-term.
- No make-up mid-terms will be given for any reason, including illness.

1000-word paper (15%) – **Week 8 (Oct 31)**

1500-word paper (30%) – **Week 12 (Nov 28)**

- All essays must be typed, double-spaced, have 1 ¼ inch margins, use 12pt Times New Roman font, include citations in MLA format, and meet the minimum word counts outlined above.
- Creative topics are exempt from the standard minimum page count, but they must match the specifications outlined in the essay question.
- You are welcome and encouraged to come and speak to me about your paper topics in advance. In addition to my office hours, I am always available by appointment. You can make an appointment by phone, email, or in person after class. While I do my best to see students at times that are convenient for them, I cannot always make time at the last minute for appointments. If you want to be guaranteed a meeting outside my office hours, you must contact me at least one week in advance. Otherwise, I will do my utmost to fit you in, but I cannot guarantee you an appointment.
- Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 2% per working day.
- Late essays should be submitted to the English Department office. The essays must be date-stamped by a department staff member in your presence. Essays submitted after the office closes will be stamped with the next day’s date. If your essay is lost because you did not ensure that either I or a department staff member received it personally, you will be held responsible for that loss.
- Please keep a copy of your work. In the case of a lost essay, I will require another copy.
- I do not accept emailed or other electronic submissions.
- A doctor’s note or a note from your registrar is required to avoid a late penalty. The note must document a serious illness or other serious crisis during the period immediately before and on the due date of the essay.
- You are permitted one extension of two business days on one essay, no questions asked. **No other extensions will be given for any reason.**

Exam (25%)

- Part A: Terminology (20% - 20min)
You will be asked to define five of eight critical terms we have discussed in the course.

- Part B: Passage analysis (45% - 60min)
  - You will be asked to identify the author and title of three of five passages, and then to describe the significance of the passage to the themes of the text as a whole.

- Part C: Essay (35% - 40min)
  - You will be asked to write a short formal essay on one of two questions.

**Participation (15%)**

- Active, informed participation is essential to your individual success in this course, as well as to the success of the course as a whole.
- I do not give marks for attendance; while a small component of your participation mark is for attentive and respectful listening, you will not do well on participation if you do not speak in class.
- Short assignments may be given throughout the term; preparing these assignments thoroughly for presentation to your peers is likely to result in a good participation mark.
- You cannot make up participation points. There is no substitute for your presence in the class.

**Course Policies:**

**Appointments:**

- You are welcome and encouraged to come and speak to me about the course material, difficulties with the course, tests and papers, plans for the future, or any other academic topic. In addition to my office hours, I am available by appointment. You can make an appointment by phone, email, or after class (rtierney@uwaterloo.ca).

**Late Penalties:**

- Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 2% per working day.
- Late essays should be submitted to the English Department office. The essays must be date-stamped by a department staff member in your presence. Essays submitted after the office closes will be stamped with the next day’s date. If your essay is lost because you did not ensure that either I or a department staff member received it personally, you will be held responsible for that loss.
- Please keep a copy of your work. In the case of a lost essay, I will require another copy.
- I do not accept emailed or other electronic submissions.
- A doctor’s note is required to avoid a late penalty. The note must document a serious illness during the period immediately before and on the due date of the essay.
- You are permitted one extension of two business days on one essay, no questions asked. No other extensions will be given for any reason.
Participation:

- I do not give marks for attendance.
- A small component of your participation mark is for attentive and respectful listening, but you will not do well on participation if you do not speak in class.
- I am always available to discuss strategies for effective participation, ways to overcome shyness, and topics you wish to raise in class but feel you’d like to run by me first.
- I may give short assignments directed both toward preparing you for your essays and tests, and providing direction for class discussion. Preparing these assignments thoroughly and attentively for presentation in class is an easy way to ensure a good participation mark.

About email:

- Questions that require lengthy or complex responses cannot always be taken up over email. I am always happy to read these emails, but I will respond to emails that require exceptionally long responses by asking you to come to my office hours or make an appointment to see me.
- Email is not a substitute for in-person appointments, email participation is not a substitute for in-class participation, and I will not answer questions over email that have been canvassed in the lectures. If you miss a lecture, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate.
- I check my email very regularly, and can generally be counted on to respond relatively quickly. Do not, however, expect instant responses. 24 hours is the minimum amount of time you need to wait before sending the same query again.
- I never give out marks on email. I want you to see the context for your mark at the same time that you see the mark itself.

Writing and Learning Resources on Campus:

- Professor Acheson’s Research Skills Page: [http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rses/RSEShome.html](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rses/RSEShome.html)
- ELPP’s Writing Centre: (519) 888-4567 x 32837 [http://elpp.uwaterloo.ca/writingcentre.html](http://elpp.uwaterloo.ca/writingcentre.html)
- The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.
- see the course website for a more extensive list of writing resources

The Faculty of Arts requires that I draw your attention to the following:

**Academic Integrity:**

*Academic Integrity:* In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity,
members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). In addition, consult [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes) for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**
[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.
GLT = Abrams and Harpham, *Glossary of Literary Terms*

**Week 1**

Sept 10
- Introduction

Sept 12
**Beginning analysis**
- OED exercise

**Week 2**

Sept 17
**Poetic genre**
- GLT: “genres,” “epic,” “lyric,” “sonnet,” “dramatic monologue”
- NAP: Wyatt, “Whoso List to Hunt”
- **Handout**: Millay, sonnet IV from “Four Sonnets” (“I shall forget you presently, my dear”)
- NAP: Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”

Sept 19
**Figurative language I**
- GLT: “figurative language” (esp. “simile,” “metaphor”)
- NAP: Donne, “Valediction Forbidding Mourning”
- NAP: Dickinson, 314 (254) “‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers -”
- NAP: Byron, “She Walks in Beauty”

**Week 3**

Sept 24
**Figurative language II**
- GLT: “allegory,” “figurative language” (esp. “metonymy,” “synecdoche”)
- NAP: Spenser, stanzas 1-5, 14-15, 20-26 of Book I, Canto I from *The Faerie Queene*
- NAP: Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
- NAP: Thomas, “The Hand that Signed the Paper”

Sept 26
**Poetic form I**
- GLT: “alliteration,” “rhetorical figures” (esp. “apostrophe,” “chiasmus”), “antithesis”
- **Handout**: “The Wife’s Lament”
- NAP: Shakespeare, sonnet 129 (“Th’ expense of spirit in a waste of shame”)
- NAP: Bradstreet, “The Author to her Book”

*Sept 27: Drop deadline – no penalty*
Week 4
Oct 1
Poetic form II
- NAP: Versification
- NAP: Shakespeare, sonnet 116 (“Let me not to the marriage of true minds”)
- NAP: Hopkins, “Pied Beauty”
- NAP: Bishop, “Sestina”

Oct 3
Seeing and hearing poetic form
- GLT: “free verse,” “concrete poetry,” “performance poetry” (esp. “rap,” “hip-hop”)
- NAP: Herbert, “The Altar”
- Handout: Addison, Spectator No. 63
- NAP: Brooks, “We Real Cool”
- Handout: Kanye West, “Gone”
- Handout: Lady Sovereign, “My England”

Week 5
Oct 8
Undoing poetic form
- NAP: Keats, “On the Sonnet”
- NAP: e.e. cummings, “since feeling is first”
- NAP: Stevens, “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”
- NAP: Ashbery, “Paradoxes and Oxymorons”

Oct 10
- Midterm test (15%)

Week 6
Oct 15
Authors and Readers
- Handout: Foucault, “The Death of the Author”
- Handout: Fuss, “Reading Like a Feminist”

Oct 17
- GLT: “novel,” “narrative,” “narration” (esp. “free indirect discourse”)
- Austen, Emma

Week 7
Oct 22
- Austen, Emma
Oct 24

- Austen, *Emma*

**Oct 25: Drop deadline – 50% tuition refund**

**Week 8**

Oct 29

- **GLT:** “plot” (esp. “protagonist,” “catastrophe,” “dénouement,” “peripety,” “anagnorisis”)
- Austen, *Emma*

Oct 31

- **GLT:** “point of view” (“omniscient point of view,” “first-person points of view,” “unreliable narrator”)
- Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

**1000-word paper due (15%)**

**Week 9**

Nov 5

- Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Nov 7

- Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

**Week 10**

Nov 12

- Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Nov 14

- Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

**Nov 15: Drop deadline – penalty 1 period ends – WD grade assigned**

**Week 11**

Nov 19

- **GLT:** “persona, tone, and voice”
- Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Nov 21

- Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

**Week 12**

Nov 26

- Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*
Nov 28

- Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*
- 1500-word paper due (30%)

*Dec 4: Drop deadline – penalty 2 period ends – WF grade assigned – last day to drop without a petition*

EXAM (25%) – Exam Period: Dec 5-20