Instructor: Dr. Alicia L. Kerfoot
Email:
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 PM (or by appointment)
Office:

Course Objectives:
This course is designed to build your literary vocabulary and to give you the tools to learn how to read critically. This means paying attention to details in poetry, novels, drama, and film in order to apply a reading of those details to a theory about the literary work as a whole, and to other works that you will read in the future. In many ways this course is about finding your own critical voice, and learning how to use literary terms and ideas to express your understanding of English language and literature. We will study how language, form, and imagery work in a number of genres in order to learn how to read these texts closely, as well as how to find links and interactions between texts. We will also supplement our readings of these texts with critical essays or commentaries that demonstrate the possibilities for critical analysis.

Course Texts:
M.H. Abrams – *A Glossary of Literary Terms, 9th Edition*
John Keats – *John Keats: Major Works*
Jane Austen – *Pride and Prejudice*
William Shakespeare – *Hamlet*
Edgar Allan Poe – *Selected Tales*
Readings online, available for photocopy, or on reserve at Dana Porter include: Woolf, Hazlitt, Eliot, Baudelaire, Benjamin, and Pope.

Assignments and Evaluations:
Attendance (journal entries): 5%
Participation (in-class assignments and discussion): 10%
Close-reading assignment: 10%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Essay (2,000-2,500 words): 30%
Final exam: 25%

Late Assignment Policy: Unless you obtain permission for an extension *before* the due date of an assignment, you will be docked 2% per day. For example: if an assignment with a grade of 70% is three days late, the final grade will be 64%.
Schedule of Readings:

Mon. Sept. 13
Topics: Introduction – key objectives of course

Reading Poetry
Wed. Sept. 15
Topics: scansion, meter, verse, and rhyme
Texts: John Keats: “Incipit altera Sonnetta,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “To Autumn”

Mon. Sept. 20
Topics: imagery and metaphor; metonymy and synecdoche, ekphrasis
Texts: Keats: “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles,” “This living hand, now warm and capable”

Wed. Sept. 22
Topics: allusion, the sonnet, intertextuality
Texts: Keats: “Bright Star,” and “On Sitting Down to Read King Lear Once Again,” “Sleep and Poetry”

Mon. Sept. 27
Topics: concrete/open meaning, writing and reading poetry, allegory, letter-writing

Wed. Sept. 29 – CLOSE READING DUE
Topics: critical theories about poetry, reading essays on poetry

Reading the Novel
Mon. Oct. 4
Topics: realism and the novelistic form, grammar, syntax, and language
Text: Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice, Volume I, Chapters 1-14

Wed. Oct. 6
Topics: landscape, time, space, and setting
Text: Austen: Pride and Prejudice Volume I, Chapters 15-23

Mon. Oct. 11 – HOLIDAY

Wed. Oct. 13
Topics: narrative voice and narratology, point of view, free indirect discourse
Text: Austen: Pride and Prejudice Volume II

Mon. Oct. 18
Topics: character, dialogue, epistolary form
Text: Austen: Pride and Prejudice Volume III, Chapters 1-12

Wed. Oct. 20
Topics: irony, satire, comedy, and humour
Text: Austen: Pride and Prejudice Volume III, Chapters 13-19

Mon. Oct. 25
Topics: critical theories about narrative and comedy, reading essays on novels
Text: Patricia Meyer Spacks, “Austen’s Laughter” in Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. 15.1-3 (1988): 71-85 (available through the library website – link to be provided)

Wed. Oct. 27 – MID-TERM EXAM
Reading Drama

Mon. Nov. 1
Topics: tragedy, poetic and dramatic form, landscape, time, space, and setting

Wed. Nov. 3
Topics: dramatic irony, soliloquy and dramatic monologue, plot and character development
Text: Shakespeare: Hamlet, Acts 3-4

Mon. Nov. 8
Topics: atmosphere, imagery and metaphor
Text: Shakespeare: Hamlet, Act 5

Wed. Nov. 10
Topics: critical theories about drama and character, reading essays on plays, feminist criticism

Reading Short Fiction

Mon. Nov. 15
Topics: landscape, time, setting, and space; imagery and metaphor (metonym and synecdoche)
Text: Edgar Allan Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher”

Wed. Nov. 17
Topics: detection, character, and allegory

Mon. Nov. 22 – ESSAY DUE
Topics: narrative voice and narratology, point of view
Text: George Eliot: “The Lifted Veil”
(online: http://www.princeton.edu/~batke/eliot/veil/veil-1.html)

Wed. Nov. 24
Topics: character, setting and space; critical theories about translation, language, and artistic influence
Charles Baudelaire: selection from Baudelaire as a Literary Critic (on reserve at Dana Porter Library) and “To a Passer-By” from Fleurs du Mal (online: http://fleursdumal.org/poem/224)
Walter Benjamin: “The Flâneur” from Charles Baudelaire. A Lyric Poet in the era of High Capitalism (available to photocopy)

Reading Film and Literature

Mon. Nov. 29
Topics: poetic form and voice; echo, memory, and authorship
Text: Alexander Pope: Eloisa to Abelard (available to photocopy)

Wed. Dec. 1
Topics: allusion in film, imagery and metaphor as functions of memory and imagination
Text: Charlie Kaufman (Writer) and Michael Gondry (Director): Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Dec. 6 – REVIEW – EXAMS BEGIN DEC. 9
NOTICES:

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://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPoliciespolicy71.htm

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://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPoliciespolicy70.htm

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://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPoliciespolicy72.htm

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://artsuwaterloocagraadacademic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): http://uwaterloocaacademicintegrity/

Note for students with disabilities: 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.