English 251A: Criticism I

Fall 2010 T 7-9:50                      Jacqui Smyth; SJU P6, ext 28207
Office Hours: T 5-7

Texts


A Glossary of Literary Terms, Abrams and Harpham (Wadsworth)

Course Description

As defined by the undergraduate calendar, 251A is "an introduction to strategies of reading, interpretation, and analysis of literary and non-literary texts, focusing on narrative, poetics, discourse, and rhetoric, and the acquisition of critical vocabulary." The ultimate goal is to develop your ability to describe, analyze, and understand literary texts while using a particular set of critical tools.

Assignments

Group Analysis: (best 6 X 5%) 30%
Mid-term Exam I: October 19. 25%
Mid-term Exam II: November 23 25%
Per: Oct 26 or Nov 30 20%

Group Analysis: In the final third of each class you will be put in groups of 4 or 5 students to apply a critical term to a literary text. You will have class time to analyze the text at hand before you present the results to the class.

Peer Evaluation: After each group analysis you will be responsible for evaluating the other members of your group. You will assign a numerical grade out of 5 and take into consideration preparation, participation, and sophistication of comments. You might also include a brief comment. This grade will be taken into consideration when the instructor prepares the individual grades for the group analysis.

Paper: 1000-1250 words (typed, double-spaced). Due: October 26 or November 30

Class Schedule

September 14  Introduction, Fiction
September 21  Plot, Theme and Symbol

GLT: plot, symbol, motif and theme, allegory. Norton, "Writing About Literature"

Group Analysis

September 28
Narration and Point of View

GLT: point of view, Narration, grammar of, Narrative and Narratology

Readings: Carver, "Cathedral," Hemmingway, "Hills like White Elephants," Tan, "A Pair of Tickets"

Group Analysis

October 5
Character and Setting

GLT: character and characterization, setting, epiphany; Norton: "Writing About Literature"


Group Analysis

October 12
The Whole Text, Strategies for Critical Readings


Group Analysis

October 19
Mid-Term Exam I, Poetry

October 26
Tone and Speaker

GLT: persona, decorum, dramatic monologue, lyric

Readings: Snodgrass, "Leaving the Motel," 417; Gunn, "In Time of Plague," 419; Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays," 427; Atwood, "Death of a Young Son by Drowning, 433; Brooks, "We Real Cool," 444, Whitman, "I celebrate myself," 444; Browning, "My Last Duchess," 574

Group Analysis

Paper Due (Fiction option)

November 2
Internal Structure and External Form

GLT: Blank verse, free verse, sonnet, stanza, Meter

Readings: Larkin, "Church Going" 525; Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow" 472, "This Is Just to Say" 472, "The Dance" 533;
Auden, "In Memory of W.B. Yeats" 537, "Musee des Beaux Arts" 565; Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" 555; Bishop, "Sestina" 557

Group Analysis

November 9

Language and Sounds of Poetry

GLT: ambiguity, poetic diction, figurative language,

Conceit, metaphor, simile, alliteration, assonance

Readings: Heaney, "Mid-Term Break" 406, "Digging" 590; Arnold, "Dover Beach" 454; Rich, "Diving into the Wreck" 497, "History" 612; Lowell, "Skunk Hour" 599; Hopkins, "God's Grandeur" 591

Group Analysis

November 16

The Whole Text, Strategies for Critical Reading

Norton: Review "The Writing Process" and poetic terms

Readings: W.B. Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" 632, "The Second Coming" 632, "Leda and the Swan" 633, "Sailing to Byzantium" 634

Group Analysis

December 23

Mid-Term Exam II

November 30

Paper Due (Poetry option)
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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

**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 (UW):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

**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.

Tests and examinations:

Look closely at [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/inforeg/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/inforeg/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) for the official regulations governing examinations. Especially important to remember:

The period (typically 2-3 days) between the end of classes and the start of exams is sacrosanct: lectures, tests, and other course activities may not be scheduled during this period.

A final exam is any test worth more than 25%, and that covers all or most of a term’s course content. As such, it may not be scheduled in the last 5 lecture days of the formal lecture period for the term.

Courses with final exams may not have other course assignments due during the final examination period.
Courses without final exams may have an assignment equivalent in scope and value to a final exam due during the final examination period.

Accommodations for deferred final exams are made only under specific conditions and time restrictions. **Requests for accommodation based on religious holidays must be submitted to the Associate Dean** as soon as the conflict becomes apparent; in any case, no later than one week following the publication of the final exam schedule. It is the student’s responsibility to make him/herself available for the entire examination period, and **travel plans are not a sufficient reason to have a final exam deferred**. Course instructors need to be careful: the understandable wish to accommodate one legitimate request can quickly snowball into an impossible situation of multiple requests and questionable motivations. Please see the examination regulations, and refer any request with which you are not comfortable to the Associate Dean.

Any student may review their final exam under supervised access, without initiating a formal appeal procedure.