ENGLISH 251A -- LITERARY CRITICISM: PRACTICE

FALL 1995

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Office: HH 267
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Office Hours:
Tues. and Thurs. 1:00-2:30 p.m.
or by appointment

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
This course is designed to enable students to perform close and detailed readings of literary texts, with a concentration on short narratives and poetry. The course aims to encourage students to think about the nature of literary texts as well as the different reading practices we use to come to terms with them. Critical terminology and critical concepts will be introduced to help students practice literary analysis on their own. In this way, the course hopes to stimulate students to become engaged, energetic readers -- thoughtful about the strategies and assumptions involved in the interpretative process.

NB: This is not primarily a lecture course: we will have a group seminar presentation each week on some aspect of that week's topic, with a one-page written summary handed in one week later; all students are expected to come to class regularly, to have read the material assigned, and to be fully prepared to discuss and debate points. While no mark is assigned for attendance and participation, a student may well earn bonus marks for their regular attendance and engaged participation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


REQUIREMENTS:
Assignment 1  Thurs. Sept.26  750 words  10%
Assignment 2  Thurs. Oct. 26  1000 words  15%
Assignment 3  Thurs. Nov. 23  1250 words  20%
Seminar Presentation & report  t.b.a.  25%
Final Examination  30%

ASSIGNMENTS AND LATE POLICY:
Assignment topics will be handed out several weeks in advance of the due date. Papers are due in class on the due date. Extensions must be arranged with me in advance of the due date. If you hand in your paper at any other time, ask a department secretary to initial it with the date. Then deposit the paper in my English department mailbox. Never slip a paper under my office door, and always keep a copy of any paper you submit.

Essays must follow the format laid out in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

LATE POLICY:
Papers handed in late without prior permission will be returned with a grade but no written comments and will be deducted at the rate of 2% per day late. Papers handed in more than two weeks late without prior permission may not be accepted.
PERSONAL CONSULTATION:
My regular office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus: Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 -2:30 pm. However, if these times are inconvenient because of a conflict with your own class schedules, I am available at other times and days — providing you let me know. If you have to get in touch with me and I am not in my office, leave a message on my voice-mail. I check these frequently and will get back to you. I am also reachable by E-mail address: bcantar@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:
Students are advised to read the summary of the Student Academic Discipline Policy in the Undergraduate Calendar which states in part:

A University is a community of people—faculty, students and staff who are committed to scholarship, i.e. the generation of sharing knowledge through research and teaching. All members of this community are expected to conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, fairness, and a concern for others. Any such action which violates these principles is viewed as a serious offence because it undermines the trust on which such a community is built. Together with cheating, theft and falsification, academic offences include plagiarism, the act of taking ideas of writings from another person and presenting them as one's own. While it is completely acceptable to use ideas, and even quote passages from other scholars, their work must be completely and unambiguously acknowledged and referenced. If you are unsure about what is considered acceptable practice in this regard, you should seek guidance from the professor teaching the course.
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Tentative Schedule of Readings

TB - Text Book  
SM - The Story-Makers

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings/topics/assignments</th>
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<td>Tues. Sept. 12</td>
<td>Preliminaries (Texts, Requirements, Expectations)</td>
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| Thurs. Sept. 14 | NARRATIVE: Introduction  
                    Wiebe, "Story Making" (SM xi-xxxvi) |
| Tues. Sept. 19 | "Telling Stories" - Pratt (TB 2-12); Williams (TB 15-18) |
| Thurs. Sept. 21 | Hemingway (SM 304); Birdsell (SM 96) (seminar) |
| Tues. Sept. 26 | Character & Setting: Oates (SM 1-23); O'Connor (SM 408-435) |
| Thurs. Sept. 28 | Atwood (SM 367-380) (seminar)  
                    **FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE** |
| Tues. Oct. 3  | COMPLETING TEXTS (TB 160); Joyce (TB 163-168); Parker (TB 168-171) |
| Thurs. Oct. 5 | Updike (SM 143) (seminar) |
| Tues. Oct. 10 | IDENTIFYING WITH TEXTS (TB 186-187); Banks (TB 187-194) |
| Thurs. Oct. 12 | Ray (TB 200-205) (seminar) |
| Tues. Oct. 17 | INTERPRETING TEXTS: (TB 172-174) Grimm (TB 142-147); Zipes, Bettelheim (TB 175-184) |
| Thurs. Oct. 19 | Oates (SM 1-23); Ferron (SM 266-270);  
                    **SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE** |
| Thurs. Oct. 26 | Freud (TB 60-62); Lakoff & Johnson (TB 76-78) (seminar) |
| Tues. Oct. 31 | Poetry -- selections in TB  
                    Poetry -- " " (seminar) |
| Thurs. Nov. 2 | PROSODY: Introduction  
                    Poetry -- handout (seminar) |
| Tues. Nov. 7  | SOUND EFFECTS: Poetry -- handout  
                    Poetry -- handout (seminar) |
| Thurs. Nov. 9 | FIXED FORMS/FLEXIBLE FORMS  
                    Stanzaic patterns -- poetry handout  
                    **THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE** |
| Tues. Nov. 14 | INTERTEXTUALITY: Poetry, Prose  
                    Review & Conclusions |
| Thurs. Nov. 16 | |
| Tues. Nov. 21 | |
| Thurs. Nov. 23 | |
| Tues. Nov. 28 | |
| Thurs. Nov. 30 | |