## Course Schedule

Important! **ALL TIMES EASTERN** – Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Syllabus for details.

**Readings:** In each module, you will find course readings that are relevant to the lecture topics and discussions. The readings have been provided for you through Course Reserves which can be accessed using the [Library Resources](#) widget on the [Course Home](#) page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Discussions and Assessments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01: What is Literary Theory?</td>
<td>Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>Monday, May 4, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Module 01 Research and Quiz Activity</td>
<td>Monday, May 11, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Module 01 Graff Discussion</td>
<td>Monday, May 11, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Participation Mark*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>02: What is Literature?</td>
<td>Module 02 Research Activities</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Module 02 Meaning of the Word Literature</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Participation Mark*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Module 02 The Essence of Literariness Discussion</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>03: Russian Formalism</td>
<td>Module 03 Defamiliarization Discussion</td>
<td>Monday, May 25, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Participation Mark*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>04: The Sign and the Sign-System</td>
<td>Module 04 Research Activity</td>
<td>Monday, June 1, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Module 04 Group Analysis: Saussure</td>
<td>Monday, June 1, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>5%**</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Module 04 Group Analysis Discussion</td>
<td>Monday, June 1, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>05: Structuralist Analysis I</strong></td>
<td>Module 05 Analysis: Snow White</td>
<td>Monday, June 8, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>5%**</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>06: Structuralist Analysis II</strong></td>
<td>Essay Assignment text list available Monday, June 15, 2015</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td><strong>07: Deconstructive Criticism</strong></td>
<td>Module 06 Analysis: The Red-Headed League</td>
<td>Monday, June 15, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>5%**</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>08: Writing and Political Commitment</strong></td>
<td>Module 07 Derrida Discussion</td>
<td>Monday, June 22, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Participation Mark*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Module 07 Hillis Miller Discussion</td>
<td>Monday, June 22, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Participation Mark*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>09: Marxist Criticism: Literature and Ideology</strong></td>
<td>No Activities or Discussions this week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Essay Assignment Due</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday, June 29, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>11: Literature and Gender</td>
<td>Module 11 Analysis: Gender in The Yellow Wallpaper</td>
<td>Monday, July 13, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
<td>5%**</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Module 11 Gender and Spectatorship Discussion</td>
<td>Monday, July 20, 2015 at 11:55 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>12: Literature, the Nation, and Colonialism</td>
<td>No Activities or Discussions this week</td>
<td></td>
<td>Participation Mark*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: Discussion participation is worth 20%. See the Discussion Forum Overview for more details.

**NOTE: All five analyses will be marked and the lowest mark will be dropped for a total mark of 20%. See Analysis Overview for more details.

### Final Examination Arrangement and Schedule

In courses with a final exam, students who are exclusively taking online classes must provide examination arrangement information, using Quest, by Friday, May 22, 2015. (Students taking one or more on-campus classes in addition to an online class within the same term do not need to provide exam centre information. Those exams will automatically be scheduled to be written at the University of Waterloo.)

Examination schedule details will be available on Quest approximately four weeks prior to the exam date. For instructions on how to find exam information, go to the Quest Help page.

### Official Grades and Course Access

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through Quest.

Your access to this course will continue for the duration of the current term. You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.
Contact Information

News

Your instructor uses the News widget of the Course Home page to make announcements during the term to communicate new or changing information regarding due dates, instructor absence, etc., as needed. You are expected to read the News on a regular basis.

To ensure you are viewing the complete list of news items, you may need to click Show All News Items.

Discussions

A General Discussion topic* has also been made available to allow students to communicate with peers in the course. Your instructor may drop in at this discussion topic.

Contact Us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who and Why</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Post your course-related questions to the Ask the Instructor discussion topic*. This allows other students to benefit from your question as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questions of a personal nature can be directed to your instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instructor: Ryan Devitt <a href="mailto:rtdevitt@uwaterloo.ca">rtdevitt@uwaterloo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Your instructor checks email and the Ask the Instructor discussion topic* frequently and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 24–48 hours, Monday to Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Support, Centre for Extended Learning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca">learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner Support Services, Centre for Extended Learning</td>
<td>Useful Information for Students in Online Courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- General inquiries
- WatCards (Student ID Cards)
- Examination information

extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca
+1 519-888-4002

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

*Discussion topics can be accessed by clicking Connect and then Discussions on the course navigation bar above.
Welcome

Welcome to English 251B. This is the second of two courses devoted to honing your skills in critical analysis. In this course we focus on how developments in what is called literary theory have changed the way we approach the critical study of literary texts.

Literary theory is a systematic approach to thinking about the methods and aims of literary criticism, which was born at the beginning of the 20th century and has continued to evolve up to the present day. The ideas and techniques created by literary theory didn't just refine or improve the practice of criticism from the 19th century: as you'll see, in some ways literary theory challenged it outright, even to the point of questioning the very category of literature. In this course, we'll start by examining why we call some written works literary and not others, and what criteria we use to define literature. We'll then examine the birth of literary theory in Russia, its development by the structuralists and the adaptation of structuralist ideas by critics interested in psychoanalysis and politics. Although much of the material is abstract and general, our emphasis will be on how to use literary theory in the analysis of literary texts. The course aims to be practical and useful, demonstrating that literary theory makes possible new approaches to criticism, approaches which yield insights not possible with traditional criticism.

When you have finished this course, you will be familiar with a number of literary theories and will have at your disposal many new tools and techniques for literary criticism. This course includes readings, activities, and assignments which you can find in the course schedule. You will need to complete all of these assignments and the final exam in order to complete the course. I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Description

Literary criticism has changed dramatically over the last 40 years or so, and the aim of this course is to introduce you to the ideas and techniques that have emerged in this time. These new ideas and techniques haven't just refined, or improved, the inherited method of criticism: they have challenged it outright. Literary debate since the 1960s has questioned the very basis and purpose of literary criticism, to the extent that it has even thought aloud about whether there really is a definable category of written works that deserves to be fenced off as literature. In this course we'll concentrate on three central areas of debate: whether there is such a thing as literature: and how we decide what belongs to it and what doesn't; the replacement of attention to words with attention to signs and signification; the debate over whether political questions have a role in the analysis of literary texts. Though much of the discussion will be fairly abstract and general, we'll strive to always bear in mind how these questions might affect the way we do literary criticism in the most ordinary, concrete sense.

Course Aims and Outcomes

This course aims to:

- acquaint students with some of the major schools of literary theory and criticism from 1910 to the present,
• provide students with a toolbox of critical methods that will be useful for their further work in literary studies,
• teach students to think critically and reflectively about their approach to the analysis of literary texts, and
• encourage students to consider the purpose and meaning of the study of literature.

By the end of the course, you will:

• have a basic understanding of the evolution of literary theory from 1910 to the present,
• be able to deploy a number of literary-theoretical concepts effectively and carefully in the study and critique of literary texts,
• be able to comment concisely and effectively on issues in literary theory, and
• be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to literary criticism and analysis.

This online course was developed by Dr. Ken Hirschkop, with instructional design and multimedia development support provided by the Centre for Extended Learning. Further media production was provided by Instructional Technologies and Multimedia Services.
Ken Hirschkop is Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature. Born in Brooklyn, NY, and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, he took a BA at Swarthmore College, majoring in Music. Dr. Hirschkop went to England for his graduate training, completing an MA at the University of London in 1982 and a DPhil at Oxford University in 1990. While at graduate school he became interested in two broad areas, which would become the focus of his research: the philosophy and sociology of language, and the relationship between cultural forms and democratic politics in the 20th century.

Dr. Hirschkop taught in England for 18 years, first at the University of Southampton, later at the University of Manchester; he moved to Canada and the University of Waterloo in 2005. His teaching covers not only literary theory, but also studies of urban writing and culture, rhetorical theory, and print culture. He published numerous articles and two books on the philosopher and literary theorist M. M. Bakhtin, as well as many articles on the politics of 20th century culture (there is even the odd piece on his first love, music).
Materials and Resources

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

Course Reserves

The required readings are available through Course Reserves and can be accessed using the Library Resources widget on the Course Home page.

Resources

University of Waterloo Library (Services for Students Taking Online Courses)

Resources for Research

Literature Online - Criticism & Reference Contents

Online Reference Shelf

eReference Items for English

Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Biographies, and more

English Literature and English, Rhetoric & Professional Writing

Contemporary Postcolonial and Postimperial Literature: An Overview

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism
# Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and Assignments</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyses (lowest mark out of five dropped)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Activities and Quiz</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Policies

Late Submissions

**Analyses**: For the analyses, a 20% penalty will apply for the first day late, 50% for two days late, and a mark of 0 after that.

**Discussions**: If you do not participate in a required discussion within the time frame allotted, you will receive a mark of 0 for that discussion.

**Essay Assignment**: The essay assignment will have a penalty of 3% for the first day, and 1% every additional day (up to a maximum penalty of 20%). No essay assignments will be accepted after the start of the final examination period.
University Policies

Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the Eastern Time Zone (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the Ontario, Canada Time Converter.

Accommodation Due to Illness

If your instructor has provided specific procedures for you to follow if you miss assignment due dates, term tests, or a final examination, adhere to those instructions. Otherwise:

Missed Assignments/Tests/Quizzes

Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there will be a problem, and preferably within 48 hours, but no more than 72 hours, have a medical practitioner complete a Verification of Illness Form.

Email a scanned copy of the Verification of Illness Form to your instructor. In your email to the instructor, provide your name, student ID number, and exactly what course activity you missed.

Further information regarding Management of Requests for Accommodation Due to Illness can be found on the Accommodation due to illness page.

Missed Final Examinations

If you are unable to write a final examination due to illness, seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of illness to the Centre for Extended Learning within 48 hours by emailing a scanned copy of the completed University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form to support your request for accommodation. In your email, provide your name, student ID number, and the examination(s) missed. You will be REQUIRED to hand in the original completed form at the time you write the make-up examination, which should be within a week of having missed your exam. The original completed form must be received before you are able to write a re-scheduled exam.

Further information about Examination Accommodation Due to Illness regulations is available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible. Undergraduate students should see the Academic...
Integrity Tutorial and graduate students should see the Graduate Students and Academic Integrity website.

Proper citations are part of academic integrity. Citations in CEL course materials usually follow CEL style, which is based on APA style. Your course may follow a different style. If you are uncertain which style to use for an assignment, please confirm with your instructor or TA.

For further information on academic integrity, please visit the Office of Academic Integrity.

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**Discipline**

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

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**Appeals**

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline, may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

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**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. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

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**Final Grades**

In accordance with Policy 19 - Access To and Release of Student Information, the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to Quest to see all final grades. Any grades posted in Waterloo LEARN are unofficial.

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**AccessAbility Services**

AccessAbility Services, 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 accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

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**AccessAbility Statement**

The Centre for Extended Learning strives to meet the needs of all our online learners. Our ongoing efforts to become aligned with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)](http://www.ontario.ca/accessibility) are guided by the [University of Waterloo AccessAbility Services Policy](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/accessibility) and the [World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0](http://www.w3.org/WAI/er/_recommendations.html). The majority of our online courses are currently delivered via the Desire2Learn Learning Environment. Learn more about [Desire2Learn's Accessibility Standards Compliance](http://www.desire2learn.com/accessibility).

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**Use of Computing and Network Resources**

Please see the [Guidelines on Use of Waterloo Computing and Network Resources](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/computing/services/network-gateway.html).

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**Copyright Information**

**UWaterloo's Web Pages**

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If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or [extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca).