English 251BA
Criticism 2
Spring 2005
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Shannon Hartling
Email: shartling@rogers.com
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:00 ML 125A; Thursdays 12:30-1:00 HH 245

This course offers an introduction to critical theory and its relationship to the study of literature. We will emphasize twentieth-century theory and focus upon the text, the reader, and culture.

Required texts:
Courseware (Heather Smyth)
James Joyce

Engl. 251B Course Readings
The Dead: A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism

Recommended text:
Jane E. Aaron and Murray McArthur
The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*

Method of Instruction
This course will be taught via lectures and augmented by student presentations and class discussion. Aside from the required texts, we will read material brought in by myself or by other students. All students are required to come to class having read the material assigned for that day and prepared to engage in an informed discussion of that material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>June 09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>throughout term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>June 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>June 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>July 07</td>
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*All proceeds from the sale of The Little, Brown Compact Handbook go to the Department of English Scholarship Fund.

Midterm Test
The midterm exam will take place in regularly scheduled class time, and will involve a selection of definitions and short answer questions relating to all of the work studied in class to that date. No aids will be permitted. No alternate arrangements for the midterm can be made without appropriate documentation.

Group Presentation
Working in small groups (of approx. 3 students), you will present a critical analysis of a literary or non-literary text, based on critical readings currently under discussion. The group presentations will be 15 minutes in length, followed by a short discussion period,
and will be comprised of three parts: a short (max. 5 min.) recap of the critical theory involved, an analysis of the text itself, and a one-page synopsis of the presentation, handed in to me. Each group must meet with me beforehand in order to clarify the focus of their presentation.

**Essay Proposal**
The essay proposal will be a short (1-1.5 page) assignment in which you present your preliminary thesis for your major essay, noting the critical approach you are taking and the text chosen as the subject of your reading. You will further develop your essay from my response to the proposal.

**Essay**
The major essay will be roughly 1500 words in length and will require a critically grounded reading of a literary text, making use of the theory covered in the course. Further details regarding the essay will be given in class well before the due date. The essays must be written and documented in MLA style.

**Final Test**
The final test will be held in the final class of the term, and will be of two hours’ duration. It will involve definition and short answer, and/or an analysis of a text provided for the purpose of the test. No aids will be permitted. No alternate arrangements for the final test can be made without appropriate documentation.

**Late Policy**
Late essays and assignments will be penalized by 3% per school day unless I grant an extension prior to the due date, or appropriate documentation accompanies the extension request. Any papers not handed in during class hours must be handed in to the English Department mailbox. Absolutely no essays will be accepted, barring agreed-upon extensions or documented emergencies, after July 11.

**Avoidance of Academic Offenses**
Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/information/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

You may also wish to consult the Arts Faculty Web page, “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors” (http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html)