

ENGL 2350.006
Introduction to Textual Analysis & Interpretation
Fall 2009
TR 11-12:20
Preston Hall 101

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Course webpage: <http://2350introtext.wordpress.com>
All assignments, announcements, and updates to the course schedule will be posted on this site. Students should consult it frequently for the most up-to-date information on the course.

Required Books:

Robert Dale Parker, *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies* (Oxford UP) ISBN13: 9780195334708
Gerald Graff & Cindy Birkinstein, *They Say, I Say: the Moves that Matter* (WW Norton) ISBN-13: 978-0-393-92409-1
Henry James, *Turn of the Screw* (Bedford Critical Studies in Contemporary Criticism) ISBN-13: 978-0312406912
Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (Vintage) ISBN-13: 978-1400033416
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition) ISBN: 9781603290241

* You are required to have a literary terms book; I recommend (and have made available through the bookstore): Ross Mufirin & Supryia M. Ray, *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms* (Bedford) ISBN-13: 978-0312461881

* You must have this particular edition of James' *Turn of the Screw* – no other edition will suffice.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce English majors and potential English majors to what is required of them as students of literature, language, and writing. The course will teach students to identify characteristics of genres, recognize and understand critical and literary terms, develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting texts, and demonstrate a command of these methods and strategies in their own written work. This course is a prerequisite for all upper-level English courses. Students who are not preparing to pursue a degree in English studies will nonetheless be expected to meet the specific academic requirements and strategies for reading, thinking, and writing generally followed in the field.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Define genres and literary terms.
- Explain or describe major fields of literary criticism.
- Recognize and synthesize multiple interpretations of a single text.
- Apply different and appropriate critical frameworks to the analysis of literary texts.
- Locate, explicate, and apply literary criticism to textual analysis.
- Utilize research materials to develop and present an original analytical argument.

Course Requirements:

Participation 10%
Test #1 10%
Test #2 15%
Essay 15%
Research Project 30%
Final Exam 20%

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. Students are granted 2 unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. *Points will be deducted from the student's final grade.* In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.

| # of Unexcused Absences | Points Deducted |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 0-2 | 0 |
| 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 4 |

Excessive absences (5 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.

Participation: Class participation is a very important part of this class. Good participation can significantly improve your course grade. This includes: participating in class discussion, asking questions, responding to questions, attending office hours, being polite and respectful to classmates, and generally being alert and interested.

Late Policy: All assignments are deducted 5 points every class day they are late, with 10 points per weekend. No missed quizzes, homework, or in-class assignments can be made up. Missed exams can only be made up with evidence of family or medical emergency.

ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OVER EMAIL UNLESS SPECIFIED BY THE PROFESSOR. ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED OVER EMAIL ARE NOT CONSIDERED "TURNED IN" UNTIL A HARD COPY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.

New University Drop Policy: Students seeking to drop a course should speak to the Academic Advisor for their major. Undergraduate students who drop a course on or before the Last Drop Date will receive an automatic grade of "W" regardless of whether they have completed assignments or not. If you stop attending class but fail to drop the course, you will receive an F for your final grade; the instructor cannot drop you from the class.

Electronics Policy: TURN CELL PHONES OFF BEFORE CLASS. No electronic items of any kind, including tape recorders, iPods, pagers, palm pilots, etc. should be used during class unless you have received permission from the instructor. Violating this rule can effect your Participation grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

English 2350 PLAGIARISM POLICY: I hold students to the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism of any kind will result in strict penalties, including the possibility of failing the course.

Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism occurs whenever a student quotes, paraphrases or summarizes another person's work without providing correct citation. Plagiarism occurs whether the text quoted is a book, article, website, reader's guide like Cliffs Notes or Sparks Notes, another student's paper, or any other source. An entire essay is considered fraudulent even if only a single sentence is plagiarized.

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

There are two ways to avoid plagiarism:

1. Develop your own opinions and ideas whenever you write papers or exams. Unless you are specifically required to do research, the paper should express only your thoughts.
2. Whenever you refer to another person's ideas or words, use proper citation to give them credit. Most English classes will require you to use MLA Citation Form. For information about MLA Form, consult your instructor or any writing handbook, particularly the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Consequences for Plagiarism

Students who commit plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the fraudulent assignment and be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Students may incur further penalties including the possibility of a failing grade for the course.

ENGL 2350.006 Reading and Assignment Schedule

Students are expected to bring their copies of *Turn of the Screw* (TOS) to every class during the first ten weeks of the semester.

Week One

8/25 Introduction

8/27 Parker, Chapter 2: New Criticism

Week Two

9/1 Close Reading Exercise due

James, *Turn of Screw*, 22-78

9/2 James, TOS, 78-120; TOS: Critical History, 189-222

Week Three

9/8 Parker, Chapters 3-4: Structuralism & Deconstruction

9/10 Book Selection due

Reading TBA

Week Four

9/15 Test #1

9/17 Research Workshop -- meet in B20 of Central Library

Week Five

9/22 Parker, Chapter 5: Psychoanalysis; Freud's "The Uncanny"

9/24 TOS: Psychoanalytic Criticism, 254-289

Week Six

9/29 Graff & Berkinstein, *They Say, I Say*, Part 1 "They Say" (17-47)

10/1 Parker, Chapter 8: Marxism; TOS: Marxist Criticism, 317-346

Week Seven

10/6 Annotated Bibliography due

Parker, Chapter 9: New Historicism; additional reading TBA

10/8 Graff & Berkinstein, *They Say, I Say*, Part 2 "I Say" (51-97)

Week Eight

10/13 Book History due

Parker, Chapters 6-7: Feminism & Queer Theory

10/15 TOS: Gender Criticism, 290-316; additional reading TBA

Special Note: English Department Hermanns Lecture Series: "Greening English Studies" Oct. 16-17, 2009. Further information will be provided.

Week Nine

10/20 Essay due

Parker, Chapter 11: Reader-response; TOS: Reader-Response Criticism, 223-253

10/22 Class cancelled

Week Ten

10/27 Parker, Chapter 10: Postcolonial & Critical Race Studies

10/28 Test #2

October 30 Last Day to Drop

Week Eleven

11/3 Film TBA

11/5 Film TBA

Week Twelve

11/10 Research Project due

11/12 Reading TBA

Week Thirteen

11/17 Morrison, *Beloved*

11/19 *Beloved* (cont.)

Week Fourteen

11/24 *Beloved* (cont.)

11/26 Class cancelled: Thanksgiving Vacation

Week Fifteen

12/1 *Beloved* (cont.)

12/3 Review

Final Exam Tues. Dec. 8, 11-1:30pm