

ENGL 2350: Introduction to Textual Analysis and Interpretation

Instructor: Dr. Peggy Kulesz	Term: Fall 2009
Phone: (817) 272-2659	Time: 8:00am
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Office Hours: MWF 9:30 to 10:30 (unless I am observing a GTA); and by appointment

Web page: www.uta.edu/faculty/kulesz

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIAL: (5 required, others recommended)

The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms (third edition), Ross Murfin and Supryia Ray.

Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice (fourth edition), Charles E. Bressler

Horseman, Pass By Larry McMurtry;

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. Harriet Jacobs, Norton Critical Edition ISBN 0-393-97637-8

Way to Rainy Mountain, N. Scott Momaday

Recommended:

MLA Guide (latest edition)

How to Read Lit. Like a Professor

Texts and Contexts: Writing About Literature With Critical Theory

Writing about Lit: A Portable Guide

COMPUTER AND EMAIL: All students must have access to a computer with Internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through MyMav. **Your UTA email will be the official class email address.** The course web page will be your link to our course assignments, extra resources, reading material, videos, and changes to the schedule. Please check this web page daily. I will occasionally post information, questions or handouts in this location, and I will not distribute copies of this material. You may print handouts and assignments at home or in a UTA computer lab. Keep in mind the UTA copy allowance. Please read "[Email Etiquette](#)" from OWL at Purdue.

E-CULTURE POLICY: I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus and web page for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I check it periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend. 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.

ENGLISH MAJOR LISTSERV: To unsubscribe--i.e., leave--the ENGMAJOR list all that is necessary is to email the command: **signoff engmajor** to listserv@listserv.uta.edu (Please do not send the command to the engmajor list!)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to introduce English majors, potential English majors, and those seeking secondary certification in English for what is required of them as majors in the English Dept. The course will teach students to (1) identify characteristics of genres (2) recognize and understand critical and literary terms (3) develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting texts and (4) demonstrate a command of these methods and strategies in written work. This course is a prerequisite for all upper-level English courses. Students who are not preparing for academic endeavors related to English studies will be expected to adapt to the specific academic requirements and strategies for reading, thinking, and writing generally followed in the field of English studies.

CONFERENCES AND QUESTIONS: I have three regularly scheduled conference times each week. These times are reserved for students to drop by or to make an appointment to discuss course assignments, grades, or other class related concerns. However, I may be called away for meetings, teaching observations or other job related activities during these scheduled times. I will be happy to make other appointment times for you if your class schedule conflicts with regular conference times or if I am not available on certain days. If you receive a grade on an assignment or quiz about which you have questions, please wait twenty-four hours before discussing it with me. This gives you time to process the assignment comments and to think about how your course work meets the requirements set forth for each assignment. I do not discuss individual student issues in the classroom before, during or after class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students should be able to demonstrate an informed understanding of the many different approaches to analyzing and interpreting texts and films. Students should be able to explain the similarities and differences of those approaches as well as their benefits and limitations.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate an informed understanding of the different modes of inquiry and research within English studies.
3. Students should be able to analyze and interpret texts and films employing close reading skills as well as a variety of other theories and methods that were included in the class.
4. Students should be able to perform independent research, using the MLA

bibliography and other methods.

5. Students should be able to express their ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways, in both written and oral forms.

6. Students should be able to define many terms within English studies and explain the significance of those terms.

7. Students should be able to respond critically to all course material, using synthesis, analysis, comparison, contrast, critique and evaluation.

8. Students should be able to use web-based scholarly sources in an effective manner.

ASSIGNMENTS: All course work must be completed on time. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. ***Quizzes and in-class assignments may not be made up.*** Assignments must be completed according to the specific assigned format. Assignments are due on the date they are listed in the syllabus. Work done outside of class should be typed. Assignments turned in after the class has begun will receive a ten-percent deduction. For each calendar day following, the work will receive an additional ten percent deduction. Work is not accepted after three late days. If you must be absent, your work is still due on the assigned date. Coming to class ill-prepared could result in your being asked to leave the classroom.

QUIZ GRADE REPLACEMENT: See course web page for guidelines.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION/DECORUM: Although this course is an introductory course, it is designed for those who are entering the various professions of English studies. It is a rigorous course and requires students to come to every class prepared to take an active role in the learning setting. Obviously, you should read each assignment carefully, think about it critically, and generate ideas and questions from your analysis. It is expected that students in this course will actively and appropriately engage in class discussion and participate in collaborative learning situations. Class attendance is very important, and I take roll daily. If you miss five MWF classes you will have 10 points deducted from your final grade. Each absence thereafter will result in five more point deductions. Class attendance is very important and will affect your participation grade and your final course grade. Since I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences, it is best to use your "free" absences for real emergencies. Please do not bring me doctor's excuses or tell me sad stories about your absences. You have four freebies, use them wisely. NO, you cannot make-up anything you missed in class, and YES, you will miss something. Get information and notes from a classmate. I do not have notes to give you. I will not supply what you miss by email or phone. Please make an appointment to see me in person to discuss absenteeism and tardiness. Please be in class on time, ready to begin the day's activities. Students who arrive in class after we have begun may be counted absent or may not be admitted at all. Please be in class on time, ready to begin the day's activities. Habitual tardiness is one indication of poor time management and life preparation. If you have special circumstances, please discuss them with me before they become a problem. However, please be advised that I will be the sole judge of what constitutes special circumstances not covered by the syllabus. If you register late for this course, all classes missed will be counted as absences. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen

to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally. Here are some links to help clarify student/faculty interaction: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ary22Z-b8Ds>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nyphQI-B9U>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQRkIT6tVOc>

To view more video interviews with faculty and students:

<http://www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/video-advice-for-first-year-students>

METHODS FOR ASSESSMENT AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT: Class will usually begin with a short reading quiz. Additionally, during the semester, several essays will be required. The due dates are listed in the course schedule, but actual essay assignments will be posted on the course web page. These essays should be typed, stapled, and prepared according to MLA guidelines. We will have two exams: a test over literary criticism and a final exam which will require you to demonstrate knowledge of the readings and your ability to apply and synthesize several methodologies for textual analysis. Each student will also engage in research culminating in a scholarly paper of 5-7 pages. As part of your project you will prepare a bibliography of your research and an authorial context paper, and a textual history Power Point. You are encouraged to schedule conferences with me to discuss your term project, essays, or other issues relating to the course.

<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Participation/quizzes	15%
JacobsEssay	5%
Terms Exam	15%
Project Assignments	25%
Literary Analysis	20%
FinalExam	20%

(*A portion of your participation grade is made up of quiz grades, in-class assignments, presentations, group assignments, attendance, etc.

ELECTRONICS POLICY: Please turn off and put away all cell phones, pagers, and other electronics during class. During class, lab computers are not to be used to read email or to instant message. Texting is absolutely forbidden during class.

THE WRITING CENTER: The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, will assist you with any writing assignment while you are a student at UT-Arlington. During Fall 2009, the Writing Center's hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday; and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at www.uta.edu/owl/appointments, by calling 817 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can assist you with any aspect of your writing, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an

editing service; tutors will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you learn to solve your grammatical and organizational problems. I encourage each of you to use the Writing Center.

DROPS/WITHDRAWALS: I am not allowed to "drop" you from this course. You must familiarize yourself with and follow university policies, procedures and deadlines. If you stop attending class and fail to officially drop the class, you will receive an "F" grade in the course.

DISABILITIES: 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 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new 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 accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. If you require academic accommodations due to disability, please contact me during the first week of classes.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Your work is to be your own, and it is to be prepared originally for this course. It is considered academic dishonesty to present work done by someone else and to claim it as yours. It is also inappropriate to hand in a paper or portions of a paper written for another class. Any borrowed information (from books, websites, and other sources) should include the correct documentation to identify it as originating elsewhere. Academic dishonesty of any type (plagiarism, cheating, preparing work for others, etc.) is unacceptable even if you do it accidentally. All instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to UTA policy and procedures, and I will send a copy of questionable work to the office of the Dean of Students to be kept on file. I also reserve the right to award zeros on assignments and/or an F in the course to any student who engages in any type of 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)

STUDENT SERVICES SUPPORT: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance,

developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

LIBRARIAN CONTACT: Rafia Mirza; Reference and Instruction Librarian for English, History, Communication: rafia@uta.edu 817-272-7428

[Course Schedule and Assignments](#)

English 2350 Fall 2009 Daily Schedule (Subject to change)

Day	Topic	Assignment due or Reading to complete
M 8/24	Course Overview	Access course information and syllabus: www.uta.edu/fac View literary terms Begin reading <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> by Harriet Jacobs
W 8/26	Preparing Major Research Assignments	Print the following handout: "Primary Text Considerations <i>in the Life</i> "
F 8/28	Critical Editions, Bibliographies, Other Resources	Explore Norton Critical Editions, Twayne Authors Series, Teaching Series Link to our library course guide: See formal assignment for your ANNOTATED BIB.
M 8/31	Textual History	Read Introduction to <i>Incidents</i> AND "Written By Herself" (203-209) Access Jacobs websites from course home page See formal assignment for your TEXTUAL HISTORY
W 9/2	Context and Author	Read Jacobs Chronology beginning on page 387 Scan "Contexts" pages 161-197 See formal assignment for your AUTHOR/CONTEXT ES:
F 9/4	Primary Text	Complete PRIMARY TEXT FORM to turn in today
M 9/7	Labor Day	No school today
W 9/9 Census Date	Research Resources	Meet in Central Library Basement B20 Get to know Rafia Mirza the English Research Librarian
F 9/11	Research Resources	Meet in Central Library Basement B20
M 9/14	Research Resources	Meet in Central Library Basement B20
W 9/16	Research Resources	Meet in Central Library Basement B20

F 9/18	Introduction to Literary Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Read Bressler Chapters 1 and 2 · Group discussions over reading assignment
M 9/21	Poetry and close reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Annotated Bibliography Due · Reading and writing about poetry · Literary terms and poetic devices
W 9/23	New Criticism	Read Bressler Chapter 3 (Russian Formalism, New Criticism)
F 9/25	Close Reading	<p>Read the following information on close reading of the text: http://www.mantex.co.uk/samples/cloread.htm (p. 1-2) http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/Cloread.htm (p. 3-4)</p> <p>Finish Reading <i>Incidents</i> by today</p>
M 9/28	Author and Context	<p>Author/context research essay due today</p> <p>Scan Jacobs Chronology beginning on page 387</p> <p>Read "Contexts" pages 161-197</p>
W 9/30	Feminist Theory	<p>Read Bressler Chapter 7</p> <p>Read "Form and Ideology" from NCE (p.222)</p>
F 10/2	Reader-Oriented Criticism	Read Bressler Chapter 4
M 10/5	Presentations	Textual History Power Point Due today
W 10/7	Jacobs and her readers	<p>Read "Resisting Incidents" from NCE (p. 312)</p> <p>Read "Spiritual Purity and Sexual Shame" NCE (p.209)</p> <p>Read Welter article</p>
F 10/9	Jacobs and her readers	Literary argument and close reading informed by research
M 10/12	New Historical Criticism	<p>Read Bressler Chapter 9</p> <p>Brief presentation of author/context research</p>
W 10/14	Building a thick description	Review Contexts from NCE (pp. 161-197)
F 10/16	Psychological Criticism	Read Bressler Chapter 6
M 10/19	Jacobs and Psychological Criticism	<p>Read "Three Southern Women and Freud" from NCE (p. 365)</p> <p>Maslow, Bloom, and more</p>
W 10/21	Marxist Criticism	Read Bressler Chapter 8
F 10/23	Marxist Readings of	<p>Read "The Heady Political Life of Compassion" NCE (p. 365)</p> <p>Read "The Laws Were Laid Down to Me..." NCE (p. 365)</p>

	Jacobs	
M 10/26	Textual History Presentation	Textual History Power Point Due Reminder: Jacobs essay due in one week
W 10/28	Cultural Criticism	Read Bressler Chapter 10
F 10/30 Final Drop Date	African American Lit. Theory	Read " The Girls Who Became Women" NCE (p.236) Read "Runaway Tongue: Resistant Orality" NCE (p. 253) ALERT: Jacobs Essay due Monday
M 11/2	Modernity and Postmodernism	Three page Jacobs essay due Read Intro. and Prologue to <i>Way to Rainy Mountain</i>
W 11/4	<i>Way to Rainy Mountain</i>	Read Bressler Chapter 5 Read all of WTRM By N. Scott Momaday Discuss "The Setting Out"
F 11/6	WTRM	Discuss "The Closing In"
M 11/9	WTRM	Discuss "The Going On"
W 11/11	Review	Review literary terms for exam
F 11/13	EXAM	Exam on literary criticism and terms
M 11/16	Writing Literary Analysis	Schedule a writing conference with Dr, Kulesz Following writing guidelines Working thesis due
W 11/18	Writing Literary Analysis	Writing significant literary argument Supporting the argument Judging quality and suitability of secondary sources Correct MLA Style and Format
F 11/20	<i>Horseman, Pass By</i> by Larry McMurtry	Read entire novel Discuss archetype, myth, bildungsroman, rites of passage
M 11/23	HPB	Discuss gender and race First Drafts Due
W 11/25 & F 11/27	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	No class on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
M 11/30	HPB	More discussion of novel
W 12/2	HPB and HUD	Fiction and Film
F 12/4	HPB and HUD	Literary Analysis Essay Due

		Fiction and Film
F 12/11	FINAL EXAM	Friday, Dec. 11, 8:00am to 10:30am