Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce current and potential English majors to what is required of them as students of literature. The course will teach student 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Articulate an understanding of major approaches to literary criticism and explain the similarities and differences of those approaches as well as their benefits and limitations.
2. Define literary terms and use vocabulary appropriate to literary study.
3. Apply different and appropriate literary frameworks to the analysis of literary texts.
4. Demonstrate independent critical thinking in their analysis of literary texts.
5. Perform independent research, using the MLA bibliography and other methods, and synthesize research materials to present original analytical arguments.
6. Employ correct MLA documentation of primary and secondary sources.

Required Texts – Subject to change:

Robert Dale Parker: *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*

Bram Stoker: *Dracula - Norton Critical Edition*

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness – Case studies in contemporary criticism*

Murfin and Ray: *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*

Jospeh Gibaldi: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition*

Grading:
Your course grade will be based on the grades of your exams, papers, quizzes, and class participation. You must submit all paper assignments and exams in order to pass this class. The final grade breakdown will be as follows:

- **Participation** 10% (100 points)
- **Daily quizzes, homework, or in-class work** 10% (100 points)
- **Essay 1** 10% (100 points)
- **Midterm exam** 20% (200 points)
- **Essay 2** 10% (100 points)
- **Research paper** 20% (200 points)
- **Final exam** 20% (200 points)

**Daily quizzes, homework, or in-class assignments** – expect short quiz questions on all assigned readings. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period, and they cannot be made up. Quizzes and in-class assignments cannot be made up. Late homework will not be accepted.

**Essay 1** – an explication of a primary text (3 pages long).

**Essay 2** – a paper demonstrating a use of a critical method (5 pages long).

**Midterm exam** will be held in Week 8.

**Research paper** – a paper of research and textual analysis (8-10 pages long).

**Final exam** will be held during the finals week.

**Participation** – readings, lectures, and discussion are essential components of the course. You are expected to have read the assigned readings **before** each class meeting. Failure to attend class on a regular basis will lower your grade. Class time will consist of lectures and discussions; please come to class prepared with questions about the reading material.

**Attendance** is mandatory. You are allowed to have 5 unexcused/excused absences. Missing 6 classes will result in a 10% reduction of the course grade.

**Late papers** will be deducted 5 points for every day they are late.

**Electronics policy** – turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices when in class. Texting or checking email is absolutely forbidden during class. Electronic devices may be used to access the course materials only. Any other use is considered a violation of the course and university policies. If you are texting, listening to your iPod, or browsing the internet, you will be marked absent for that day.

**E-mail policy** – students are responsible for checking their emails regularly for university or class updates. You are required to use your UTA email account when you communicate with your instructors. As instructors often need to communicate with students after the last scheduled class day, students should continue to check their UTA email accounts and visit the course website until final grades for the course are posted. Please check the Undergraduate Catalogue for more detailed explanations of academic regulations.
Plagiarism

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, Series 50101, Section 2.2). You may cite the words or ideas of another, but you must document your sources properly using the MLA guidelines. See the UTA library tutorial on plagiarism: http://libraries.uta.edu/infolit/plagiarism/plagiarism.htm, or talk to me, if you have any questions about how to document a source appropriately or if you are unsure about what constitutes fair usage of someone else’s words.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and the letter of federal equal opportunity legislation. 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.

Student Support Services

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.

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. 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. 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.

Drop Policy
November 4 is the last day to drop classes. For more information on the UTA’s Drop Policy visit the Office of the Record’s website at: http://www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/schedule-changes-adddrop-policies

Tentative Schedule of Assignments
(Subject to change)

Introduction

F 8/26 – Introduction to the class. Discussion of the syllabus.

Week 1 – New Criticism

M 8/29 – Parker: Chapter 2.

W 8/31 – W. B. Yeats: “Sailing to Byzantium”


Week 2 – New Criticism

M 9/5 – James Joyce: “Araby.”

W 9/7 – Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness (pp. 17-27).


Week 3 – Structuralism and Deconstruction

M 9/12 – Parker: Chapter 3

W 9/14 – Parker: Chapter 4


Week 4 – Deconstruction

M 9/19 – Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness (pp. 60-94).

W 9/21 – James Joyce: “The Dead.”

F 9/23 – group work.

Week 5 – Psychoanalytic Criticism


F 9/30 – Library research workshop. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Chapter 1 Research and Writing, sections 1.4-1.7).

Week 6 – Feminist Criticism and Queer Studies


W 10/5 – Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The Yellow Wallpaper.”


Week 7 – Marxist Criticism

M 10/10 – Parker: Chapter 8.

W 10/12 – Nathaniel Hawthorne: “Young Goodman Brown.”

F 10/14 – Kate Chopin: “The Story of an Hour.”

Week 8 – Midterm week

M 10/17 – Draft workshop.

W 10/19 – Essay #2 due. Review for the exam.

F 10/21 – Midterm exam.

Week 9 – New Historicism


W 10/26 – Elizabeth Gaskell: “The Old Nurse’s Story.”

F 10/28 – Group work.

Week 10 – Postcolonial Criticism


F 11/4 – Rudyard Kipling: “The Man Who Would Be King” and “At the End of the Passage.”
November 4 – the last day to drop class.

Week 11 – Reader-Response Criticism

M 11/7 – Mahasweta Devi: “The Breast-Giver.”

W 11/9 – Parker: Chapter 11

F 11/11 – Developing your research paper – bring a twp-page proposal. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Chapter 1 Research and Writing, sections 1.1-1.3).

Week 12 – Novel Analysis

M 11/14 – Bram Stoker: Dracula (Chapters 1-5). Critical essays on Blackboard.

W 11/16 – Bram Stoker: Dracula (Chapters 6-10).

F 11/18 – Bram Stoker: Dracula (Chapters 11-14).

Week 13 – Novel Analysis


F 11/25 – Thanksgiving holiday – no class.

Week 14 – Film Analysis


F 12/2 – view North by Northwest before class. Read the selection on Blackboard.

Week 15 – Film Analysis and Review

M 12/5 – discuss North by Northwest. Critical essays on Blackboard.

W 12/7 – discuss North by Northwest.


Final exam: Preston Hall 103, on Monday, December 12 from 8-10:30 a.m. Bring the blue book.