



English 380, Section 5

Introduction to modes, techniques, and terminology of practical criticism

Professor Thomas Willard

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Office: Modern Languages 330

Hours: T 3:30-4:30, Th 12:45-1:45

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Required

- *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, by Chris Baldick, 2nd ed. (2004). \$16.05. ISBN 10: 0198608837
- *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, edited by Joseph Gibaldi, 6th ed. (2003). \$17.50. ISBN 10: 0873529863
- Six reading packets available on D2L

Materials

- 25 white index cards (3x5")
- Folder for returned essays, drafts of future essays, etc.

Requirements

- First essay. Analysis of a short poem. 10 points.
- Unit essays. Best two of four on assigned topics from course readings. You may skip one assignment. 30 points
- Final essay. Incorporating research on a proposed topic. 25 points.
- Quizzes and in-class essays. Best 5 of at least 6, some unannounced; no make-ups. 15 points
- Final exam. Short-answer questions and one essay. Note: Students who have earned 72 or more points (of a possible 80) will be excused from the exam. 20 points

Literary Analysis

- Participation. Up to 5 points may be added to your grade (or subtracted from it) for attendance, participation, effort, and progress above (or below) expectations announced in this syllabus.

Overview. We shall read a series of essays by Northrop Frye on the function of literature and literary criticism, paying attention to key terms and concepts. At the same time, we shall study texts discussed in those essays. We shall pay special attention to representatives of literary modernism, including T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Marcel Proust, Wallace Stevens, Dylan Thomas, Virginia Woolf, and W.B. Yeats.

The first week will be devoted to a preview of course objectives and requirements. Next there will be six units of two weeks each, each unit based on readings in an electronic file posted on D2L. Each unit will culminate in a short essay on a text in the reading file; students must complete at least four essays. There will follow a two-week writing period, during which students will meet individually with the instructor in lieu of regular class meetings while they write the major course essay. Finally in the sixteenth week of classes, there will be a review session to prepare for the final examination. Course grades prior to date will be posted on D2L on the first day of exams. Students who have earned a cumulative grade of 90 percent or better will be excused from writing the exam.

Week 1	Introduction
Aug 26	Course goals and expectations
Aug 28	Read Woolf, “How Should One Read a Book?” on D2L

Week 2	
Sep 2	Read Frye, “The Motives of Metaphor”
Sep 4	Read poems by Wallace Stevens and others

Literary Analysis

Week 3

Sep 9 Reading to be assigned (TBA)

Sep 11 Essay 1 due

Week 4

Sep 16 Read Frye, "The Singing School"

Sep 18 Read poems by W.B. Yeats and others

Week 5

Sep 23 Reading to be assigned (TBA)

Sep 25 Essay 2 due

Week 6

Sep 30 Read Frye, "Giants in Time"

Oct 2 Read fiction by Marcel Proust and others

Week 7

Oct 7 Reading to be assigned (TBA)

Oct 9 Essay 3 due

Week 8

Oct 14 Read Frye, "The Keys to Dreamland"

Oct 16 Read fiction by James Joyce and others

Week 9

Oct 21

Oct 23 Essay 4 due

Week 10

Oct 28 Read Frye, "Verticals of Adam"

Oct 30 Read poetry by Dylan Thomas and others

Literary Analysis

Week 11

Nov 4 Reading to be assigned (TBA)

Nov 6 Essay 5 due

Week 12

Nov 11 Veterans Day. No class meeting

Nov 13 Read Frye, "The Vocation of Eloquence"

Week 13

Nov 18 Read poems by T.S. Eliot and others

Nov 20 Proposal for essay 6 due

Week 14

Nov 25 by appointment: no class meeting

Nov 27 by appointment: no class meeting

Week 15

Dec 2 by appointment: no class meeting

Dec 4 by appointment: no class meeting

Week 16

Dec 9 Exam preview, course evaluations. Essay 6 due.

Dec 12 80 percent grades posted on D2L; no class meeting

Exam Week

Dec 16 Exam in regular classroom (2:00-4:00)