English 380, Section 5

Introduction to modes, techniques, and terminology of practical criticism

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Required
• 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
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
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
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    Conferences
Nov 25    by appointment: no class meeting
Nov 27    by appointment: no class meeting

Week 15    Conferences
Dec 2     by appointment: no class meeting
Dec 4     by appointment: no class meeting

Week 16    Review
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)