

ENG 38001 - CRITICAL THEORY AND READING

Course Syllabus

Fall 2018

First Day of Classes: August 23, 2018

Last Day to Add: August 29, 2018

Last Day to Drop: September 5, 2018

Midterm Grades Available: October 11, 2018

Fall Break: October 11-12, 2018

Last Day to Withdraw ("W"): October 31, 2018

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-25, 2018

Last Day of Classes: December 9, 2018

Final Exam Date: December 13, 2018

Final Grades Available: December 19, 2018

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- No Regular On-land Office Hours: I will also be available on-land (in the classroom and/or via Zoom), sometimes before and sometimes after class (see the Course Plan).
- At least five hours of appointment times will be made available each week. These are for online text-chat conferences (via KSU Google Hangout). Links to the appointment sign-up sheets will be available in Blackboard Learn.

Required Reading Materials

1. Habib, M.A.R. *A History of Literary Criticism: From Plato to the Present*. Malden, MA, Blackwell Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 9781405176088
2. Various Handouts (*available online*)

Course Description

Introduction to major interpretive paradigms in literary studies, from America New Criticism to the present, with emphasis on strategies for analyzing poetry, drama, and narrative fiction. Students will develop knowledge of major models of literary criticism—ranging from political approaches (such as Feminism, Marxism, Queer Theory) to other approaches (such as structuralism, semiotics, formalism, historicism, and deconstructionism). *This is a required course for English majors.*

Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of major models of literary criticism, such as formalism, historicism, and deconstructionism.
- Students will demonstrate and compare composition strategies for writing interpretive essays.
- Students will apply MLA documentation style in formal written literary analyses.

Course Structure

- This course is an on-land course supplemented with online materials. It is being offered, via Zoom technology, to three of Kent State University's Regional Campuses (Trumbull, Geauga, and Tuscarawas). You are not at all required to become familiar with Zoom technology, curious students might want to visit one of the online training sites (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/217214286-Watch-Recorded-Training-Sessions>). Other technological tools, that do require student understanding for usage, are: Blackboard Learn, KSU Google Hangouts (Chat feature, for online conferences), and KSU Google Documents (for writing assignments). Finally, in an attempt to keep the course lively, you should know that I will be experimenting with various lecturing tools in a variety of ways.
- While the "home" course site is the Trumbull campus, I will be teaching from the Geauga and Tuscarawas campuses on selected Thursdays (*see the Course Plan*). This is a traditional (lecture dominated) style course, which means that there will be time made available before and/or after lectures for student questions and comments on the material covered, but not during.
- Students will keep a weekly journal in which they summarize or explain certain concepts and/or practice composition strategies for writing three interpretive essays. Additionally, there will be two exams. Finally, as a means of making quick and small measurements of your comprehension of the

reading materials, I will occasionally hold oral or written (sometimes with open books/open notes) unannounced (“pop”) quizzes. Prerequisites: ENG 21011 or HONR 10297 and ENG 24001, or instructor's permission.

Course Assignments and Grade Values

- Unexpected (“POP”) Oral or Written Quizzes (10% or 100 points total)
- Weekly Journals (10% or 100 points)
- Interpretive Essays (30% or 300 points; *10% or 100 points each*)
- Midterm Exam (20% or 200 points)
- Final Exam (30% or 300 points)

Course Grades

No grade ever goes above the level of an A+ (never above 100/100 possible points, for example); likewise, no graded work ever goes below the upper level of an F points (never below 55/100 points, for example); however, if an assignment is never submitted, or is submitted too late to be graded, it will receive ZERO points. There is one scale: a 100 point scale (10% total course grade; see the chart); however, for some assignments or tests, this scale will be either multiplied or divided. For example, a quiz might be worth only 1% with 10 possible points, so the scale will be divided by 10 (e.g., an A with 100 points becomes an A with 10 points). Only grades for A, B, C, D and F may be earned at the 2%/20 point scale. (The 100 point scale is doubled or tripled for 20% and 30% assignments.) If your final course score is 64-63%, you will earn a D for the course; if your final course score is 62-60%, you will earn an F for the course. All assignments will be weighted according to the percentage value.

LETTER GRADE	100 POINT SCALE	FINAL GRADE CONVERSION
A+	100-98	----
A	97-94	4
A-	93-90	3.3
B+	89-88	3
B	87-84	2.7
B-	83-80	2.3
C+	79-78	2
C	77-74	1.7
C-	73-70	1.3
D+	69-68	----
D	67-64	1
D-	63-60	----
F	55	0

Grading Rubrics will be provided with each assignment or exam.

Attendance

A regular semester runs for roughly 15 weeks (including vacation days, not including final exam days). It is crucial that you attend each class: on time and prepared. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to attain class notes from a fellow student, and you should buy them ice cream for those notes, at the very least! If you miss an exam day, you must provide a valid excuse (such as documented illness) in order to make-up that exam. **To encourage you to come to class AND to make sure that you are understanding the materials, I will be assigning pop-quizzes.**

Regarding Work Submitted Late

Late work will be accepted for a period of time after the due date; however, points will be deducted for late submissions. For each day the work is late: 3% (3 out of a possible 100 points) will be deducted from the grade. No exams may be made-up, unless a university-acceptable excuse is provided. **No work will be accepted after December 13, 2018.**

SAS: Student Accessibility Services

Kent State University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with disabilities can succeed. University policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability, you may request accommodations to obtain equal access and to promote your learning in this class. After your eligibility for accommodations is determined, you will be given a letter to provide to the class instructor to make arrangements for any necessary classroom adjustments.

Cheating and Plagiarism

University policy 3342-3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided for in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have questions, please read the policy at http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779 and/or ask your instructor.

