

Course Code & No. - Section: ENGL 295 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Introduction to Literary Criticism (3)
Term & Year: Spring / 2014
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 10281

Instructor: Dr. Robert King
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Office: Prim 205
Office Hours: By appointment

Class Meeting Time: MW 1-2:15 p.m.
Location: Patterson Hall 207

Prerequisites (from Catalog): ENGL 101
Corequisites (from Catalog): None

Course Description

Focuses on approaches to literature that stress close reading with examination of literary genres, styles and techniques. Students interpret and analyze major works and are introduced to various modes of criticism. Student responses to the reading include in-class discussions, short response papers, and formal analysis papers.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic grasp of literary criticism in two of its major periods, pre-modern and modern;
2. Be able to identify and evaluate the basic literary genres, styles, and concepts studied through literary criticism as well as the major schools of thought in contemporary criticism;
4. Recognize any serious gaps in understanding of literary criticism and its key terms, conventions and techniques;
5. Improve reading comprehension and critical thinking skills.
6. Respond verbally and in writing to literature
7. Write a formal, critical essay in context of one of the schools of literary criticism.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Classroom participation and discussion, leading up to a midterm and a final exam;
2. A 10-12 page formal, critical term paper approved by the instructor in advance;
3. Successful completion of homework and other assignments.
4. Quizzes.

Instructional Strategies

This course will be a combination of lecture and discussion based upon close reading of the text. Discussion will become increasingly important as we move further into the material.

Required Texts

Fish, Stanley. *How to Write A Sentence and How to Read One*. New York: Harper, 2012.
Koch, Kenneth. *Making Your Own Days: The Pleasures of Reading and Writing Poetry*. New York: Touchstone,

1999.

Lodge, David. *The Art of Fiction*. London: Penguin Books, 1992.

Recommended Texts

Aaron, Jane E. *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*. Seventh Ed. New York: Pearson, 2010.

Bressler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. 5th Ed. London: Longman, 2011.

Attendance

Attendance in so concentrated a course will be especially important. Any missed classes must be made up in order to pass the course. If you miss 6 classes, you fail the course, regardless of standing academic performance. If you miss five classes, you will drop a letter grade. As well, regular tardiness is basically equivalent to an absence in class (2 x tardy = 1 absence). Once class begins, all members of the class will be expected to remain for the duration of the class.

Class Behavior

Food will not be permitted in this class. Always come prepared with your textbooks and necessary materials to take notes. I strongly discourage the use of computers for note-taking. If you need to use a computer to take notes, please first ask for permission. In addition, there will be no use of cell phones during class, including texting. If you are seen using a cell phone for any reason without prior permission, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the session. We will be using our texts frequently in class; therefore, please bring them to each meeting.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just the internet) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either onsite or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Prim Library has many resources which are helpful for your research. You may find the following information helpful:

Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles): Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your research are EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, and ProQuest.

Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

For any books not housed at SNC, you can use inter-library loan (ILL) to borrow books from major university libraries, free of charge. Speak with someone at the front desk at the Prim Library for help.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the

individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based upon written work, presentations, the midterm and final exam, and classroom participation. Although exams will be the primary means of grade assessment, improvement from the midterm to the final can be very important in terms of the final grade. A simple average of the grades from the exams, presentations, and participation will be the baseline for the final grade.

Grading Scale

Exams	= 50% of course grade
Formal Paper	= 15%
Midterm Paper	= 10%
Quizzes	= 10%
Participation*	= 15%

Participation also includes all in-class writing assignments, not including the midterm and formal paper.

100 – 98 %	= A+
97 – 90%	= A
89 – 88%	= B+
87 – 80%	= B
And so on...	

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an

accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu, office in Prim Library: PL-304.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Homework Due
W 1/22	Introduction	
M 1/27	Standards of Literary Taste and Judgment; What is Literature, What is Criticism	Brief Oral Presentation: A Statement of Personal Literary Taste
W 1/29	Form/Content; Genres	Short Essay on What is Literature? Due "Teenage Skaz," Lodge 17-21; Bressler, 4-9
M 2/3	Verisimilitude	Group Work: Discuss and Present on What is Literature
W 2/5	Plato: Is Good Literature True?	Quiz on Standards of Judgment
M 2/10	Aristotle: Is Good Literature Real?;	Bressler, 21-25; Reading the Classics, Selection from Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i> —Instructor will provide
W 2/12	Longinus, The Sublime; Should Art Be Shocking?	Bressler, 25-27; Koch Preface; Quiz on Verisimilitude
M 2/17	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
W 2/19	Horace, To Delight and Instruct; Can Literature Matter?	Reading the Classics, Selections Longinus and Horace—Instructor will provide
M 2/24	Conventions of Reading: Audience, Reader, Context	Bressler, 80-81; "The Reader in the Text," Lodge 80-83; 1-2pg. Comparative and Evaluative Essay on Taste and Judgment Due

W 2/26	Conventions of Reading: Analyzing a Poem: Music	Koch, 17-26; Analyze Marianne Moore, <i>To A Steam Roller</i>
M 3/3	The Literary Text: Text, Texture, Setting, Place, World (Umwelt)	"Defamiliarization," Lodge 52-55; "The Sense of Place," Lodge 56-60; "Weather," Lodge 84-88; Stan Brakhage short-film
W 3/5	Literary Style, Repetition in the Novel and the Poem	"Repetition," Lodge 89-93; "Fancy Prose," Lodge 94 – 97; Koch, 28-50
M 3/10	Liberal Humanism and the Schools of Contemporary Criticism; Subject/Object/Text	Quiz on Literary Form; "Death of the Author" Roland Barthes; "On Truth and Lie in the Extra-Moral Sense," Nietzsche--Instructor will provide
W 3/12	MIDTERM EXAM	
M 3/17	NO CLASS (spring break)	NO CLASS (spring break)
W 3/19	NO CLASS (spring break)	NO CLASS (spring break)
M 3/24	Structuralism and Critique of Liberal Humanist Subject	Bressler, 96-116; "Interior Monologue," 46-51
W 3/26	The Death of the Author; The Modern and the New	Quiz on Structuralism Vocab; 6 pg. MIDTERM ESSAY DUE on aesthetic judgment.
M 3/31	Marxism I	Bressler, 192-205
W 4/2	Marxism II; Race, Feminism and écriture féminine, Gender	Bressler, 174-185
M 4/7	Narratology I: Plot, Story and Narrative Structures	Quiz on Marxist Vocab; "Point of View," Lodge 25-29; "Names," Lodge 35-40; "Lists," Lodge 61-65
W 4/9	Narratology II: Formalism, Historicism	"Showing and Telling," Lodge 121-124; "Telling in Different Voices," Lodge 125-129
M 4/14	Psychoanalysis I: The Unconscious, Mommy, Daddy, Me	"The Stream of Consciousness," Lodge 41-45
W 4/16	Poetic Language, Form and the Unconscious	Bressler, 155-161; Koch, 51-70; Analyze William Carlos Williams, <i>The Locust Tree In Flower</i> & Mina Loy, <i>Three Moments in Paris</i> .
M 4/21	Cultural Studies	Bressler, 235-262; Quiz on Psychoanalytic Vocab; **French Film Festival
W 4/23	Applying Critical Approaches: Using Literary Criticism; The Poetry Base	Last Day to Submit Draft of Formal Paper (12 pages); Koch 71-78; **French Film Festival Analyze Blaise Cendrars, <i>Waking Up & Dawn</i> .
M 4/28	Visual Literacy: Analyzing a Painting: Line, Color	**French Film Festival
W 4/30	Visual Literacy: Analyzing a Film: Shot, Frame, Duration	Group Work: Discuss and Present on Visual Literacy
M 5/5	Inspiration in Poetry	Koch 79-108; Analyze, William Carlos Williams, <i>The Three Graces</i> .
W 5/7	READING DAY	READING DAY
FINAL EXAM	Final Exam (see finals schedule)	Final exam; FINAL PAPER DUE (12-15 pages)