ENG 203 Introduction to Writing Literary Criticism

Fall Term 2016

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Office Hours:
Monday 11-1
Tuesday, Thursday, 1:45-3:15
And by appointment

English 203 Intern: Monica Mordowanec

Required Materials
Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, (Oxford World Classics edition preferred)
Assigned Copy Readings (available on Blackboard or as hard copy)

Catalog Description
ENG 203 is an intensive introduction to the conventions of scholarly writing about literature. The course explores writing about literature in different forms, considers prominent varieties of literary criticism and theory, and addresses methods of research in the discipline.

This course is one of the “Gateway” options required of all English majors. It is a required course for the English for Early Childhood and Elementary Education, English for Secondary Education, and Literary Studies concentrations. It is an option for all other English concentrations. It’s also a designated “Writing Intensive” course for the English major (and so you will be asked to write a lot).

Course Requirements
Short Papers 25%
Writing about Writing Response 10%
Medium Papers 25%
Long Paper 15%
Oral Research Presentation 12%
Annotated Bibliography 3%
Participation 10%

Short Papers 25%
There are several short papers and assignments (about 1-3 pages,) due throughout the semester. These are posted on Blackboard

Writing about Writing Response 10%
You must write one “Writing about Writing” response (at least 2 pages) for any of the three reading assignments about writing. See the assignment for a list of eligible reading assignments. Response questions must be turned in on the day that you have selected. For example, the response to September 22nd’s reading must be turned in class on that day. (You are not required to submit a draft of your response; however, you may do an extra response, and I will record the higher grade.)

Medium Papers 25%
There are two medium papers (about 3-5 pages) which will ask you to respond to a piece of literature read for the class. (metaphor analysis, narrative analysis). Drafts and final revisions must be typed, double-spaced and turned in on the due
Long Paper 15%
There are also one Long Paper (6-8 pages) on *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. This is a research paper that must show the use of outside sources and research in its pages. Draft and final revision must be typed, double-spaced and turned in on the due date. I will provide a selection of scholarly works that will hopefully help to get you started on your search for information. It might be best, though, first to reflect and brainstorm on the topics and works that might interest you before embarking on your research.

For Medium papers and the Long paper, you will be asked to turn in a draft and a revision. Draft and final papers are due on the assigned date and are subject to late penalty. Each draft must be submitted in class with extra copies: one for me and one for each member of your review group. Each member of your group will have the opportunity to constructively comment on your draft and vice-versa. With their comments, and feedback from the intern, and/or me, you will have a period of time to revise your writing before turning in a revision for a final grade. I will only grade your revisions. All final papers must be in hard copy and submitted to me directly (not through Blackboard).

All papers (drafts and final revisions) must be typed, double-spaced and turned in on the assigned date. Late papers will be subject to a reduction in grade. If you feel you have a good reason for requiring an extension, please come talk to me about it beforehand. However, after- due date extensions, except in the case of emergencies, will be difficult to obtain.

Oral Research Presentation 12%
At some point early in the semester I will divide the class into groups. Each group will then be given the task of putting together an oral presentation. There are several throughout the semester. Each presentation will be devoted to a specific topic. (See the Calendar for specific topics.) Each presentation should be at least 15 minutes (and last no more than 20 minutes) and must include at least one handout to be given to the class as a whole. In addition you must provide me with a bibliography of your research materials in MLA format. Beyond the handout and the bibliography, the materials and format of the presentations are only limited by the group’s imagination and may include use of a variety of media.

Annotated Bibliography 3%
At the end of the course you will submit an annotated bibliography of 6-8 items based on the research topic of your research paper assignment.

Participation 10%
Regular attendance of classes is absolutely expected for this course. Three or more unexcused absences will lower your participation grade significantly.

Avoid plagiarism (stealing the words or ideas of another) like the plague. In this class acts of plagiarism incur a zero and could also result in course failure or even dismissal from the university.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to change the syllabus and assigned readings (with plenty of advanced warning)

Calendar
Week 1
August 30: Introduction

September 1: “If You Were Born to Write”; Donald M. Murray, “Teaching Writing as a Process Not a Product”

Metaphors We Live By

Week 2

Short Response due: Describe Your Own Writing Process
September 8: Critical terms: “figurative language”; writing response dos and don’ts: [link](http://www.easternct.edu/mcneilk/reading-response-suggestions/)

**Week 3**

September 15: Critical terms “sonnet”; **Medium Paper “Metaphor Analysis” Draft Due. Peer Review**

**Week 4**
September 20: Individual conferences, no class

September 22: Critical terms: “allegory”; George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language”

**Week 5**
September 27: **Medium Paper “Metaphor Analysis” Final due.** Hone Tuwhare, “No Ordinary Sun,” Percy Bysshe Shelley “Similes for Two Political Characters of 1819”

**Story Matters**

**Week 6**

October 6: critical terms: “fairy tale,” “Goblin Market”

**Week 7**
October 11: **Medium Paper “Narrative Analysis” Draft Due; peer review**

October 13: Individual conferences, no class

**Week 8**
October 18: “Why Kim Kardashian Can’t Write Good”


**How to Read Literature**

**Week 9**
October 25: Critical term: “sentimentalism”; New Historicism; “Reading the Victorian Age” (paintings); **Short Response Paper due**

October 27: Oral Presentation: **Historical Background on Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Slavery and the Fugitive Slave Act**
Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (Read to Chapter XII “Select Incident of Lawful Trade,” p. 122)

**Week 10**
November 1: Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (Read to Chapter XIX “Miss Ophelia’s Experiences and Opinions, Continued,” p. 226); Feminism, Jane Tompkins, “Sentimental Power: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and the Politics of Literary History”

November 3: **Oral Presentation: Biographical Background on Harriet Beecher Stowe**
Protest Novel”

Week 11
November 8: **Oral Presentation: “Afterlives” of Uncle Tom’s Cabin**
Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (read to end)

November 10: Doing research for the long paper.

Week 12
November 15: **Oral Presentation: the Literary Canon**
“To: the English Department at Eastern Connecticut State University”

November 17: Research tips and documenting your sources

Week 13
November 22 Peter Elbow, “Being a Writer Vs. Being an Academic”

November 25: Thanksgiving Break: No class!

Week 14

December 1: Individual conferences, no class

Week 15
December 6: Individual conferences, no class

December 8: Final check of MLA formatting, Annotated Bibliography. **Annotated Bibliography due; Research Paper Due**

Final Exam Week
No final! Have a happy holiday!

“If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at (860) 465-0189. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.”