COURSE / CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Surveys literary criticism from Plato to the present and introduces the variety of critical and theoretical thought in literary studies, including new criticism, structuralism and post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, reader-response criticism, gender studies, Marxist criticism, and multicultural and postcolonial theory.
Course Policies

ATTENDANCE: Regarding attendance and absences, graduate courses are held to a higher standard than undergraduate courses, particularly for courses meeting only once a week. As such, you are only allowed ONE absence, and I highly recommend that you use that absence ONLY for a true emergency.

LATE WORK: I allow one “get out jail free” for late work, which means you can turn in a paper up to three days late without penalty. Otherwise, a paper that is a full day late will be automatically marked down half a grade; two days late is a full grade markdown; and three days late is an automatic “D.” No papers will be accepted after four days.

PLAGIARISM: Acts of plagiarism run the gamut from misattributing sources and forgetting to cite sources, patchworking sources to create paragraphs, to purchasing papers or copying and pasting entire essays. In all my course, I expect work that represents original work and the correct use of sources. If at any time you are unsure about how to cite a source or how to incorporate work into your writing, please see me for help. If you do engage in plagiarism that is in violation of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, you will receive a zero for the assignment and be reported to the appropriate Academic Dean. A second offense is an automatic failing grade for the course, and you will again be reported to your Academic Dean. To see the university’s policy, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

DISABILITY SERVICES: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services(ODS) at 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester to receive accommodations in a timely fashion. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

REQUIRED TEXTS


Course Assignments

APPLIED THEORY SHORT PAPERS (32%): Literary theory is learned best through a combination of reading, discussion, and application. These short papers represented the third: you will apply 1-2 concepts or ideas from each of the literary theories we study to one of the two short stories we will be using in the course to "practice" the featured theories. Each paper will be between 400-500 words.

READING CRITIQUES TO FRANKENSTEIN ARTICLES (15%): Studying how others use literary theory to analyze and interpret texts is another way to learn how literary theory can aid in deeper understanding of literature. For these reading responses, students will write short critiques of articles analyzing Frankenstein using a variety of literary theories / approaches. Each critique will be between 400-500 words.

CRITICAL ESSAY PROPOSAL (13%): In a short 3-4 page proposal, students will provide a brief annotated bibliography of five sources on a piece of literature (not featured in the course), and in a proposal identify noteworthy gaps or omissions in the scholarship, and outline a research project for a 10-12 page critical essay.

CRITICAL ESSAY AND PRESENTATION (40%): A 10-12 page conference-length critical essay on a literary text not featured in the course, which applies at least one critical theory studied in class. Students will also read their papers in a "mock conference" for the last class meeting during Finals Week.
READING SCHEDULE

W1  1/16  Introduction to class; read "My Son the Fanatic"
W2  1/23  Read "The Husband Stitch," chpts. 1-2 of Culler, and chpt. 1 of Eagleton
W3  1/30  Read Part One: 1-5 of Rivkin
W4  2/6   Read Part Three: 1-5 of Rivkin and chpt. 2 of Eagleton
W5  2/13  Read Part Five: 1-5 of Rivkin and chpt. 5 of Eagleton
W6  2/20  Read Part Two: 1-6 of Rivkin and chpt. 3 of Eagleton
W7  2/27  Read Part Four: 1-8 of Rivkin and chpt. 4 of Eagleton
W8  3/5   Read Part Seven: 1-5 & 9-11 of Rivkin, chpt. 7 of Culler, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence," and "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse"
W9  3/12  NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK
W10 3/19  Read Part Eight: 1-2, 4, & 8 of Rivkin, "Of Mimicry and Man" and "Signs Taken for Wonders"
W11 3/26  Read Part Six: 1 & 4-9 of Rivkin and conclusion in Eagleton
W12 4/2   Read "Biographical and Historical Contexts" (p. 3-18), "A Critical History of Frankenstein" (p. 267-300), skim Part Two in Smith
W13 4/9   NO CLASS - EASTER HOLIDAY
W14 4/16  Read Psychoanalytic and Feminist Approaches to Frankenstein (p. 300-380) in Smith
W15 4/23  Read Gender and Marxist Approaches to Frankenstein (p. 381-480) in Smith
W16 4/30  Read Cultural and Postcolonial Approaches to Frankenstein (p. 481-568) in Smith
W17 5/7   Final Class Meeting: Critical Essay Presentations

DUE DATES

APPLIED THEORY SHORT PAPERS:
#1 DUE 1/30/20  
#2 DUE 2/6/20  
#3 DUE 2/13/20  
#4 DUE 2/20/20  
#5 DUE 2/27/20  
#6 DUE 3/5/20  
#7 DUE 3/19/20  
#8 DUE 3/26/20

FRANKENSTEIN ARTICLE CRITIQUES:
#1 DUE 4/16/20  
#2 DUE 4/23/20  
#3 DUE 4/30/20

CRITICAL ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE 3/26/20

CRITICAL ESSAYS DUE 5/7/20

CREDIT HOURS JUSTIFICATION: ENGL 5385
"Literary Criticism" (3 credits) meets either twice weekly in 75-minute segments, or once weekly for 150 minutes, for fifteen weeks. The course also meets for a two-hour final examination period. Students have substantial weekly reading assignments, including both primary, secondary, and tertiary source material. Students typically produce a major researched term paper (15 pp.) preceded by an abstract and annotated bibliography, as well as multiple essays responding to primary and critical readings and to other students’ responses, and a class presentation. All of these activities average at a minimum 9 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.