

Southeast Missouri State University

Department of English

Course No. EN 201

Title of Course: Writing about Literature

Revision

New X

- I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course: A course which focuses primarily on the writing process within the academic discipline of literature. Emphasis will be placed on various critical theories of reading and their application to the writing process as well as to research in the field of English studies at the undergraduate level. (3 credit hours)
- II. Prerequisites: EN140 or equivalent.
- III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course: will vary, but may include the following:
- A. To provide experiences in close reading and analysis of texts.
 - B. To provide instruction in various critical theories of reading and writing.
 - C. To provide students with opportunities to use various critical theories in their writings about literature.
 - D. To become familiar with resources in the field and integrate research into a written analysis of a text.
- IV. Expectations of Students:
- A. To come prepared to discuss various critical theories as they pertain to the study of and writing about literature.
 - B. To demonstrate the ability to do literary research and to choose sources wisely
 - C. To produce their own interpretation of texts through close reading
 - D. To integrate and synthesize their own interpretations with various critical theories
 - E. To attend class regularly and to complete satisfactorily all work in the course
 - F. To take a midterm and a final examination
- V. Outline of Course Content:
- Overview:
1. The Writing Process
 2. New Critical Approaches to Reading and Writing
 3. Reader-Response Approaches to Reading and Writing
 4. Deconstructive Approaches to Reading and Writing
 5. Biographical, Historical and New Historical Approaches to Reading and Writing
 6. Psychological Approaches to Reading and Writing
 7. Feminist and Gender Approaches to Reading and Writing
 8. The Research Paper

Week-by-Week: The following week-by-week outline is a sample of a typical semester.

Week One:

- One Hour--Introduction and Review of the Writing Process.
- One Hour--Lynn, "An Introduction, Theoretically," pp. 3-11. In-Class Writing Assessment Exercise.
- One Hour--Lynn, "Critical Worlds: A Selective Tour," pp. 13-31.

Week Two:

- One Hour--New Critical Approaches to Reading and Writing: Lynn, "Unifying the Work," pp. 33-43.
- One Hour--The Writing Process and New Critical Approaches: Lynn, "Unifying the Work," pp. 44-53.
- One Hour--Peer Workshop on Essay 1: New Critical Close Reading.

Week Three:

- One Hour--Reader-Response Approaches to Reading and Writing: Lynn, "Creating the Text," pp. 55-69
- One Hour--The Writing Process and the Reader-Response Approach: Lynn, "Creating the Text," pp. 69-87
- One Hour--Essay 1 Due, Conference with Instructor

Week Four:

- One Hour--Deconstructive Approaches to Reading and Writing: Lynn, "Opening Up the Text," pp. 91-102
- One Hour--The Writing Process and the Deconstructive Approach: Lynn, "Opening Up the Text," pp. 102-119
- One Hour--Peer Workshop on Essay 2: Reader-Response or Deconstructive Approach.

Week Five:

- One Hour--Biographical, Historical, and New Historical Approaches to Reading and Writing: Lynn, "Connecting the Text," pp. 121-140
- One Hour--The Writing Process and the Biographical and Historical Approach: Lynn, "Connecting the Text," pp. 140-155
- One Hour--The Writing Process and the New Historical Approach: Lynn, "Connecting the Text," pp. 155-165. Essay 2 Due.

Week Six:

- One Hour--Psychological Approaches to Reading and Writing: Lynn, "Minding the Work," pp. 167-176
- One Hour--The Writing Process and the Psychological Approach: Lynn, "Minding the Work," pp. 176-190
- One Hour--Peer Workshop on Essay 3: Biographical, Historical, New Historical, or Psychological Approach

Week Seven:

One Hour--Feminist and Gender Approaches to Reading and Writing: Lynn, "Gendering the Text," pp. 193-205

One Hour--The Writing Process and the Feminist Approach: Lynn, "Gendering the Text," pp. 205-221

One Hour--Revision and the Writing Process. Essay 3 Due.

Week Eight:

One Hour--Taking Essay Examinations in the Discipline

One Hour--MIDTERM ESSAY EXAMINATION

One Hour--Research and Writing within the Discipline: *MLA Handbook*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Week Nine:

Three Hours—Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and Case Book Essays

Week Ten:

One Hour: Baker and Huling, *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*

One Hour: Introduction to English Studies in the Kent Library.

One Hour: Peer Workshop on Essay 4.

Week Eleven:

One Hour: The Research Paper: Lynn, "Investigating the Work," pp. 223-243; Baker and Huling, *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*

One Hour: The Writing Process and the Research Paper: Lynn, "Investigating the Work," pp. 244-256; Baker and Huling, *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*

One Hour: Essay 4 Due, Conference with Instructor.

Week Twelve:

One Hour: Baker and Huling, *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*

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One Hour: Baker and Huling, *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students*

Week Thirteen:

One Hour: Preparing the Research Paper: Using Sources.

One Hour: Preparing the Research Paper: Documenting Sources.

One Hour: In-Class Workshop on MLA Documentation Style

Week Fourteen:

One Hour: Drafting the Research Paper

One Hour: Drafting the Research Paper

One Hour: Peer Workshop on the Research Paper, Conference with Instructor.

Week Fifteen:

- One Hour: Revising the Research Paper
- One Hour: Revising the Research Paper
- One Hour: Research Paper Due.

VI. Textbooks:

The following text will be available from Textbook Rental:

Barnet, Sylvan, et. al eds. *Literature for Composition: Essays, Fictions, Poetry, and Drama*. 5th edition. Longman, 2000.

The following text will be used in each section of the course and purchased at the University Bookstore:

Lynn, Steven. *Texts and Contexts: Writing about Literature with Critical Theory*. 3rd edition. Pearson, 2001.

The following texts are examples of literary texts which might be used in the course as the basis for writing assignments and discussion of research in the field:

Shakespeare, William. *The Taming of the Shrew*. Ed. Frances E. Dolan. Bedford/St. Martin's, 1996.

Wharton, Edith. *The House of Mirth*. Ed. Shari Benstock. Bedford/St. Martin's, 1994.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A.	Four essays of 3-5 pages, each worth 10%	40%
B.	One six to ten-page critically researched, interpretive essay	30%
C.	Midterm Examination	10%
D.	Final Examination	10%
E.	Class Participation	10%

Composed by Dr. Dean Shackelford