

English 3305: Critical Analysis of Literature

M/W 2:30-3:45

Fall 2017

Texas A&M University - Central Texas

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Kirchoff

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Office Hours: M/W 1:00 – 2:00 PM and T/R 2:00 – 3:00 PM; other times may be available by appointment

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Official Catalog Description

A study of contemporary criticism as it relates to the study of form, theory, and content of fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, and other artistic expression.

A Note from Dr. Kirchoff

This class is designed to help students be able to objectively, thoughtfully, and critically examine a wide range of literature (e.g. fiction, non-fiction, plays, poems, ballads, graphic narrative, etc.). To aide us in this endeavor, you will be learning ten of the more prevalent “lenses” for criticizing and analyzing literature. An emphasis will be on understanding the basic premises of each lens and then giving you the space to apply the lens by reading a host of communal texts. I want to emphasize that this is a *survey* approach to literary theory—we’ll only be touching on the main ideas of each lens so that students can have a “taste” of as many literary theories as possible. I anticipate that you will really gravitate towards some frameworks while resisting others. This is ok and expected—the hope, though, is that you will have an open mind regarding how to apply each lens to a piece of literature regardless of whether you “like” the lens or not.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should:

- Understand the key questions and ideas regarding different approaches to critical literary analysis
- Be able to differentiate between different critical analysis frameworks

- Apply a wide range of critical literary analytical lenses to a wide range of texts
- Recognize there is no singular way to interpret a text
- Express your analysis of a text cogently in academic writing

Communicating with Dr. Kirchoff

Email is the best way to reach me. I typically check my email at least once a day, and will make a good faith effort to respond to email within 24 hours of my receipt of your message. If you would like to meet in person, I am available during office hours, and am often amenable to appointments outside my regular office hours.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism (4th edition) by Ann B. Dobie. ISBN 978-1285052441

V for Vendetta by Alan Moore and David Lloyd. ISBN 978-1401208417

Other readings may be required throughout the semester; if so, they will be provided by Kirchoff either in print, via email, or via Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Graded Work

Reading Responses: 15%

- An assignment sheet with detailed expectations will be made available at a later date. Essentially, students will be responsible for **five** reader responses based on the literary analysis readings (from Dobie) and **one** reader response based on *V for Vendetta*.

Group Leader: 20%

- An assignment sheet with detailed expectations will be made available at a later date. Five times this semester, students (in small groups) will be responsible for leading discussion for an entire class period.

Midterm: 20% [due 10.16 at the beginning of class]

- An assignment sheet with detailed expectations will be made available at a later date. Students will need to select a text of their choosing and read it using two different lenses discussed in class.

V for Vendetta Analysis: 25% [due 12.13 by 2:30 PM CST]

- An assignment sheet with detailed expectations will be made available at a later date. Students will pick one lens we discuss in class and use it to extensively analyze *V for Vendetta*

Attendance and Participation: 20%

- Participation is expected of all of us. Please come to class ready to ask questions, share ideas, and provide feedback to others. After each class period, through questions asked and ideas shared with others, I should be able to clearly tell that students completed the

assigned reading. Pop quizzes, in-class discussions, homework, and so forth are all part of participation as well. Attendance is discussed at length in the “course policies” section; simply put, showing up to class on a regular basis is key to your success in this course. When you are not here, you cannot participate meaningfully and thus you lose out on some interaction that can facilitate your rhetorical education.

Grading Scale

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59 and below = F

Note About Resources and Time Management

Please note that you have a bevy of resources at your disposal to help you with your work this semester. First and foremost, please know that I am here to help and answer questions. Utilizing my office hours to chat about course readings and course material is a great way to informally see how you’re doing with the material. Emailing questions about your work and how you are understanding it is perfectly acceptable. Secondly, please be aware that the Writing Center is an excellent resource made available to all TAMUCT students. Whether you’re struggling to come up with an idea, battling over how to wrap up your essay, or simply want an extra set of critical eyes to peruse your work, the Writing Center is there to help. I encourage each and every one of you to visit the Writing Center at least once during the semester.

Additionally, this class demands a lot of reading, and some of it may consist of ideas you are unfamiliar with. While you can bring any/all questions you have to class, you are still expected to complete all the assigned reading. Please budget your time accordingly.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not urge all of you to be very mindful of deadlines. Please do not wait until the last minute to (a) do course reading or (b) complete course writing. Studies have shown time and time again that the more time you allot yourself to complete projects, the more successful you will be.

Course Policies

Attendance: Because so much of the learning process takes place in the classroom, attendance is an integral part of this class. Additionally, I value all voices in the classroom and enjoy the dynamic a full class offers. That said, I understand emergencies do occur and that individuals have a life beyond academia. Thus, students are afforded four “free” absences (the equivalent of two weeks of class); please note I do not need to know about the nature of your absence—just let me know ahead of time if you will miss class (a 24-hour notice is appreciated). For each absence after the fourth, the offending student’s “Attendance and Participation” grade will go down a full letter grade (e.g., five absences will mean the best possible “Attendance and Participation” grade will be a “B”). If a student has missed eight or more classes, a passing mark cannot be achieved for the course.

Students who fall asleep or spend an entire class period on their phone will be counted absent.

Respect for people's ideas, thoughts, and questions are paramount to your success in this class. My goal is for everyone to feel welcome and comfortable in this class, so please treat everyone in a courteous manner. This should be a friendly, positive (online) environment open to discussion and feedback. Bear in mind, though, that disrespect—towards peers or to the instructor—will not be tolerated in any form.

Email is a great tool for communication. However, I ask that when you send me an email to use a proper salutation (e.g. Hi Dr. Kirchoff), complete sentences, and identifying information. This is a matter of common courtesy. As I mention above, I will make a good faith effort in responding to email queries within 24 hours.

Late Assignments are not accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. This is a non-negotiable policy; however, if you have questions or are worried about completing an assignment on time, talk to me well before the due date and we can come up with a plan of action. Note: "well before the due date" does not mean 24 hours before the assignment is due. I generally like to hold these sorts of conferences a week ahead of the due date. If someone contacts me 24 hours before a project is due, my response may not be very favorable. This policy extends to daily/weekly work as well.

Plagiarism occurs when one person presents another person's words or ideas as her/his own. It is a serious offense that will result in an F for the course. Please see me if you have any questions concerning plagiarism.

PROGRAMMATIC ASSESSMENT

To ensure the learning outcomes are met in the English Department, there is a program-wide artifact collection process. To that end, some of the projects you complete for ENGL 3305 this semester may be used for programmatic assessment. Please note that all efforts will be made to keep your identity anonymous; as such, all identifying markers will be removed from your work if used for programmatic assessment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kirchoff.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

--Schedule is tentative and subject to change. To that end, some class periods may shift to "online"; however, fair notice will be given to each student.

8.28: Introductions

- Read handout on Key Literary Terms for 8.30

8.30: Key Literary Terms and Lit Discussion

- Read Dobie Chapter 2 (pp. 14-26) and "Barn Burning" (starts on p. 272) for 9.6

9.4: No Class (Labor Day)

9.6: Familiar Approaches and “Barn Burning”

- Read TBD for 9.11

9.11: Familiar Approaches and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 3 (pp. 33-50) and “Araby” (begins on p. 331) for 9.13

9.13: Formalism and “Araby”

- Read TBD for 9.18

9.18: Formalism and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 4 (pp. 54-77) and “Young Goodman Brown” (begins on p. 311) for 9.20

9.20: Psychological and “Young Goodman Brown”

- Read TBD for 9.27

9.25: No Class

9.27: Psychological and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 5 (pp. 86-99) and “The Diamond Necklace” (begins on p. 338) for 10.2

10.2: Marxist and “The Diamond Necklace”

- Read TBD for 10.4

10.4: Marxist and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 6 (pp. 104-125) and the letters of Abigail Adams (begins on p. 258) for 10.9

10.9: Feminism and the letters of Abigail Adams

- Read TBD for 10.11

10.11: Feminism and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 7 (pp. 132-144) and “The Masque of the Red Death” (begins on p. 344) for 10.16

10.16: **MIDTERM DUE.** Reader Response and “The Masque of the Red Death”

- Read TBD for 10.18

10.18: Reader Response and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 8 (pp. 152-174) and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” (begins on p. 285) for 10.23

10.23: Deconstruction and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

- Read TBD for 10.25

10.25: Deconstruction and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 9 (pp. 178-200) and “The Sky is Gray” (begins on p. 285) for 10.30

10.30: Cultural Studies and “The Sky is Gray”

- Read TBD for 11.1

11.1: Cultural Studies and TBD

- Read Dobie Chapter 10 (pp. 207-228) and *The Road from Coorain* (begins on p. 261) for 11.6

11.6: Post-Colonialism/Multiculturalism and *The Road from Coorain*

- Read TBD for 11.8

11.8: Post-Colonialism/Multiculturalism and TBD

- Read Bongco PDF for 11.13

11.13: Reading Graphic Novels

- Read *V for Vendetta* thru p. 130

11.15: *V for Vendetta*

- Read *V for Vendetta* to end

11.20: *V for Vendetta*

- Prepare for your conference. Be sure you have signed up for a time

11.22: No Class (Thanksgiving)

11.27: Conferences

11.29: Conferences

- Read Dobie Chapter 11 (pp. 241-253) and PDF of *Walden* excerpt for 12.4

12.4: Eco-Criticism and selection from *Walden*

- Read TBD for 12.6

12.6: Eco-Criticism and TBD

- Your paper is due 12.13

12.11: No Class

12.13: Paper Due to Kirchoff by 2:30 PM CST

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

- Students are encouraged to save work to multiple locations (e.g. computer hard-drive

and thumb drive); papers lost due to technological issues will not be a sufficient excuse for failing to turn in work.

Technology Support

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Registrar's Office and complete a drop request form.

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled.

If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Access & Inclusion

At Texas A&M-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion>.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Kim Wood at k.wood@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. To access Tutor.com, go to the 'My Courses' tab in Blackboard.

University Writing Center

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available). Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>