English 2140  Sample Syllabus 1

Class Materials: Texts and Readings

Texts:

Additional Readings:
Shaw, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*
Barthelme, *The School*

Articles and other samples of literature as handouts from students

Course Goals and Activities: English 2140, Introduction to Literature, aims to introduce students to literary theories and applications of theory in order to prepare the English major for future course work. This course also serves as the literature requirement for many other majors. Students will learn about and discover the respective histories, concepts, politics, and applications for critical study in literature. During this course students will:

· discuss the complexity of the concept of “literature”
· identify and explain the fundamental features of the genres of poetry, fiction, and drama
· analyze literature and explain how various components of literature work together to create meaning.
· define key literary, critical, and theoretical terms/concepts and implement these in oral/written discussion
· recognize, compare, and evaluate major critical theories and apply them to works of literature
· perform basic research using various research tools and bibliographies
· analyze critical secondary sources on literature
· critique literature using both primary and secondary sources
· describe, examine, and evaluate their own reading practices and oral/written critical analyses
· apply writing and revision as tools for understanding literature and its interpretation

Class activities will include lecture, small and large group discussions, a midterm and final exam, several short written responses and a presentation/paper.

Assessment: Assessment will be based on the following:

Midterm 10%
Response papers/Portfolio 40%
Presentation/Paper 40%
Final Exam 10%

**Attention all English Majors:** As part of your graduation requirement, you will be asked to submit, during your senior year, a portfolio of your work as an English major. You should collect several assignments each term to prepare your portfolio. To find the specific requirements for your concentration, contact the main office of the Department of English. Please feel free to ask one of your instructors or your advisor for advice about your portfolio.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is a necessary part of English 2140. If a student misses more than four classes, he or she may be withdrawn. The midpoint for this semester is _____. Students who wish to withdraw should do so before this date in order to receive a grade of W for this course.

**Make-up or late work:** No late assignments will be accepted unless illness or extenuating circumstances warrant an extension. Any extension should be discussed with the professor.

The policy on **Academic Honesty** can be found in the Georgia State University General Catalog. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with the policy and to abide by it.

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

**Course Outline and Assignments**

Week 1 - Introductions
Criticism vs Theory
Bressler, Chapter 1

Week 2 - A history of literary criticism
Bressler, Chapter 2

Week 3 - First Response Paper due
Groups for theories
Presentations for New Criticism, Reader Response, Structuralism

Week 4 - Presentations for Deconstruction, Psychoanalytic, Feminism
Presentations for Marxism, New Historicism, Cultural Studies

Week 5 - 2nd Response Paper due
Chopin, *Desire’s Baby* and *Story of an Hour*

Week 6 - Chopin, *The Awakening*
Find and copy an article of criticism of Chopin’s work
Week 7 -  Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Find and copy an article of criticism of Roy’s work

Week 8 -  **3rd Response Paper due:** Critiquing criticism
Midterm Exam

Week 9 -  Shaw, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*
Find and copy an article of criticism of Shaw’s work

Week 10 -  Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
Find and copy an article of criticism of Faulkner’s work

Week 11 -  **4th Response Paper due**
Barthelme, *The School*
Find and copy an article of criticism of Barthelme’s work

Week 12 -  Contemporary film: *Momento?*

Week 13 -  **5th Response Paper due**
Students’ choice – poetry – bring in copy of poem and an article of criticism
Presentation conferences

Week 14 -  Presentation Conferences
Presentations

Week 15 -  **Presentations**
Final Papers due

Week 16 -  **Final Exam**

Assessment Info…..

**Response Papers/Portfolio:** Response papers are intended to help you synthesize and analyze the materials presented and read in this course, discussions, observations, and your own experience. They also help me to know what you are interested in, what you have learned, and where you might be having trouble understanding the material. While these responses are meant to be informal discussions (rather than research papers), they should be typed, double-spaced, 2-4 pages in length, and incorporate readings and class discussions in a focused way. We will discuss suggestions for these papers in class as the semester progresses. The portfolio is a collection of summaries and informal responses to readings and class discussions. I will review these once at midterm and again at the final exam.
Midterm and Final Exams: These exams will incorporate materials from the first half of the semester for the Midterm, and the second half of the semester for the Final. Each exam will be comprised of short answer and essay questions.

Presentation/Paper: At the end of the semester, each student will present a 10-15 minute paper that applies theory to a literary work. This presentation/paper will comprise nearly half of the course grade and should demonstrate your knowledge and synthesis of the materials discussed and read during the semester. You may choose one theory (or two) to apply to a piece of literature, or you may wish to define and discuss theory or philosophy in a more definitive way, or you may want to look historically at literary theory to synthesize movements in literary criticism. We will discuss options as the semester progresses. The response papers are meant to serve as prewriting, draft, or perhaps sequential writing that leads to the final paper.