

Department of English & Writing Studies

History of Theory and Criticism**English 2200F (001)**

Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. George Donaldson**Location:** Talbot College 341

Teaching Assistant: Sharon Vogel

Date/Time: Tuesdays 7:00 pm – 9:30pm**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of [English 1020E](#) or [1022E](#) or [1024E](#) or [1035E](#) or [1036E](#) or both of [English 1027F/G](#) and [1028F/G](#), or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course aims to provide students with a solid introduction to some of the key issues and debates surrounding thinking about the arts in general, and literature in particular, from Plato up to the early twentieth century. Thus, while the course readings trace something of a historical trajectory, the course also aims to come to an understanding of some of the most crucial and contentious issues throughout and across the tradition: the charge that literature is a "lie"; the question of beauty; the role of the author; gender; and so forth.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Recognize and critique some of the implicit assumptions by which literature has historically been valued and devalued;
- Recognize and critique one's own implicit assumptions about literature;
- Discuss in an informed way, and have a developed opinion of one's own about, matters such as the relation between the text and the author, the social and political roles that literature has served, questions of truth and beauty, the nature of the creative process.

Course Materials**Required Texts:** *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Assignment	Date	Value
In Class Test #1	Tuesday, October 4 th	15%
Mid Term Exam	Tuesday, October 25 th	20%
Essay (2000-2500 words)	11:59pm Tuesday, November 22 nd 2016	30%
Exam	TBA	35%

Bonus & Penalty Marks

- If you made regular, well-informed, intelligent contributions to class and/or office hours discussion which show that you have read and thought carefully about the material for that day's class, you may receive up to five bonus marks.
- If you make no contribution to discussion either in class or during office hours and/or you miss more than 5 lectures over the term without medical documentation you may lose up to five marks from your final grade.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Late Submissions:

Essays are due on the date specified above. Late essays will be penalized 2% *per diem* (including weekends). Late essays receive a grade but no comments. Essays submitted more than seven (7) days after the deadline will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. To be considered for relief from these penalties students require a letter from a physician stating that you were ill on the day in question.

Timetable:

September:

13th COURSE INTRODUCTION; Plato, Republic from Book 10
20th Plato, *Republic*, from Book 10
27th Aristotle, Poetics

October:

4th Aristotle, Poetics; IN CLASS TEST
11th Horace, *Ars Poetica*; Augustine, from *On Christian Doctrine*
18th Dante, from *Letter to Can Grande*; Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*
25th MID TERM EXAM

November:

1st David Hume, *Of the Standard of Taste*; Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman; William Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*
8th William Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*; Karl Marx, Selections; Matthew Arnold, *The Function of Criticism at the Present Time*
15th Walter Pater, from *Studies in the History of the Renaissance*; Friedrich Nietzsche, Selections
22nd Sigmund Freud, *Creative Writers and Daydreaming* (see OWL); Sigmund Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams*
29th Cleanth Brooks, *The Heresy of Paraphrase*; T.S. Eliot, *Tradition and the Individual Talent*

December:

6th W.K. Wimsatt & Monroe Beardsley, *The Intentional Fallacy; The Affective Fallacy*; Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*; REVIEW

No laptops in class. No use of cell phone, tablet or any device in class.

All essays will be submitted electronically only on OWL. Essays will be submitted automatically to turnitin, the plagiarism checking site. Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty. If you cheat you should expect very serious consequences which will adversely affect your career.

Office: HUC A302

Office Hours: see OWL

Email: gdonalds@uwo.ca

Tel. 519-438-7224 x 238

A note on the purpose of office hours: office hours are an opportunity for informed discussion outside class time.

What I expect of you:

- to have read, thought about, researched and have some views about, the issue in hand.

What you should expect of me:

- to help you develop the ideas you already have; to help you look at things in alternative ways; to make you aware of anything that is relevant that you may not have come upon in the research you have already done.

So, I cannot answer questions such as, "Is this thesis sentence OK" because in so doing I become a co-author of your work while, at the same time, discouraging you from independent, capable thought. What I can do is help you think more carefully about what you already have in mind, help you see what you do and do not know, what you intend to argue and what evidence you have to support your contentions.

Also, the office hour immediately prior to an assignment's due date has the same number of minutes in it as do other hours. If you leave it to the last minute before an assignment is due to come to an Office Hour, there is no guarantee that others in the class have been any better organized than you and so there may be no available time. Plan accordingly.

A note about email: I strongly encourage you to come to speak with me during Office Hours rather than sending me emails. You are at university to learn how to think. Emails will not help you do that. While you attend university, you have access to many able, educated people. It is not always so in life. Take advantage of the access you have to these educated people: choose discussion, not email.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.