

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 2080	Course Title: Finding a Critical Voice	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Instructor: S. D. Powell	Course Format: Lecture with seminars
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Brief Course Synopsis:

ENGL 2080 Finding a Critical Voice is designed to build on the skills you have started to develop in ENGL 1080 Reading the Past and to give you the tools to analyze and engage with primary and secondary materials in an increasingly persuasive and sophisticated manner. Through a series of six case studies in which we will examine primary texts and related secondary readings, this course will emphasize the importance of the central skill you worked on in ENGL 1080, close reading. To that skill, it will add two others, which were probably only touched on when you took ENGL 1080: historicization and theorization, both of which work with close reading to help build complex arguments about literary materials.

The content of ENGL 2080 changes from semester to semester. This fall, I will be introducing you to literary texts from the Middle Ages to the present, and we will be reading poems, novels, and plays from various places in the English-speaking world. Although I will be refining the reading list somewhat before the start of classes, I expect the primary-text readings to include selected medieval plays, a nineteenth-century novel, a few twentieth-century plays, a twentieth-century novel, and the work of two poets. For each primary text, I will select one or more secondary readings that will be read alongside.

Expect each class session to involve a variety of activities. There will be writing assignments in virtually every class, as well as lively discussions both in the lecture and in the seminar sections. Most of the time, I don't just stand up at the front of the room and lecture: you will be an active participant in your learning every day.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

regular in-class writing assignments 15%
midterm and final exams 15% and 20%
close reading assignment (750 words) 10%
two short response papers (500 words each) 20%
"first best effort" analytic essay (1250 words) 10%
revised analytic essay (1500 words) 10%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
TBA

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: