

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*2120*01	Course Title: Critical Practices	Date of Offering: W' 19
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Course Instructor: Dr. Ajay Heblé	Course Format: Seminar with the occasional informal lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course seeks to sharpen students' critical and analytical skills by exploring the ways we read and respond to literary texts. Although much of the course will be devoted to close critical readings of primary texts (selected from various periods and genres), we will, throughout the semester, be engaged in an attempt to confront some of the assumptions and theoretical frameworks governing the practice of reading and interpreting. Particular emphasis will be placed on the relations between texts and the world of lived experience, on reinvigorating our understanding of the social function of art and literature, on asking fresh questions about why, how, and what we read.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Essay 1 - 250 words (10%)
Essay 2 - 750 words (15%)
Final Essay - 2000 words (25%)
2 seminar presentations (20%)
Journals (10%)
Final examination (20%)

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

Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin, eds., *Critical Terms for Literary Study*, 2nd edition (Chicago)
bell hooks, *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope* (Routledge)
Robert Scholes, Nancy Comley, et al. *Elements of Literature: Poetry, Fiction, Drama* 4th Canadian Edition (Oxford)
Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Ed. Gerald Graff and James Phelan (Bedford)

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Harvard)
Daniel Brooks and Guillermo Verdecchia, *The Noam Chomsky Lectures: A Play*
(Coach House)

Additional readings may be placed on reserve at the McLaughlin Library.

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