

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: Seminar: Critical Practice	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
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Course Instructor: Julie Cairnie	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course guides students through a range of critical approaches and explores their implications for readings of a limited number of literary texts. The seminar's main areas of concentration are: (1) close reading, centering on the way a particular poem, work of fiction, or play works in its details and overall structure; (2) critical approaches and methodologies; (3) critical writing and discussion. (Choices of approaches and texts will be determined by individual instructors.) Writing- and presentation-intensive course.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL*1080

The American theorist Gerald Graff argues that students need to be “taught the conflicts” which define our discipline, English. Graff draws an analogy between the undergraduate student in English and the child in the family: both may have a sense that their teachers/parents are engaged in an argument, but they don’t understand its nature and terms. This course introduces students to those “conflicts.” It provides an introduction to a range of critical approaches and their application to one controversial text: Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar Presentation	20%
Midterm	15%
4 Quizzes	20% (4 @ 5%)
Essay #1 (1000 words)	15%
Introductory Paragraph	5%
Final Essay (1500 words)	25%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
Conrad, Joseph, *Heart of Darkness* (Broadview, Critical Edition Online 2015)

Note: There is only one text for this course: it is a hard copy with an extensive online component. We will be reading online essays on postcolonialism, gender theory, affect theory, psychoanalytic theory, and a range of other critical perspectives.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional): The course focus may change — please contact me before purchasing texts (jcairnie@uoguelph.ca)

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 20th/21st century