

English 3096-002, Spring 2019  
Prof. Peter Logan, 914 Anderson Hall  
Office Hours: W 12-3pm  
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## TEXTS AND CRITICISM

What is literary criticism and why do you need to know it? Literary critics specialize in identifying the different meanings we can find in a work of literature. If we accept the premise that there are many ways to read a single literary work, then literary criticism is a specialized technique of identifying the different options and clarifying the assumptions behind each. In this course, we will consider the basic types of literary criticism and learn about the theories that guide each. All criticism relies on theories, each with its own special set of terms and concepts. We will concentrate on learning those terms, so that you understand them and can identify them in existing critical writing.

We will view all methods of critical theory as equally valid, and look at why critics might choose one method or the other. In the process, you will discover key assumptions you bring to your own writing and you will learn new ways of reading and writing about literature. We will also look at the practical issues for English majors: how to locate the best critical articles on any topic, how to incorporate other people's insights into your own ideas, how to cite your sources appropriately, and the other mechanical aspects you need to master in order to produce a well-considered research paper.

### Required texts

- Parker, Robert Dale. *How to Interpret Literature*. 3rd ed., Oxford UP, 2015.
- Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass*. Edited by Peter Hunt, Oxford UP, 2009.\*

\*This edition is available in e-book form from TU Libraries. Search: 9781283634625.

### Recommended texts

- *MLA Handbook*. 8th ed., Modern Language Association of American, 2016.

### Provided texts (on Canvas)

- John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"
- Select critical articles

### Office hours

*Wednesdays, 12-3pm, in 914 Anderson Hall, or by appointment.*

Talking with students about literature is one of the highlights of teaching. You can use the office hours to discuss class materials, talk about your papers, or anything related to the course. If at any point during the semester you have a personal situation that affects your ability to do your work, please talk to me about it confidentially. It is easier for me to assist you in getting the education you want if I know what your situation is before it shows up in your assignments.

**Grading**

Nightingale Draft+Essay	15%
<i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> essay	15%
Annotation Project	10%
Research Paper	40%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%

**Assignments**

**SHORT ESSAYS:** Two 4-page essays. Each is an exercise in applying the critical method you have been reading about to an assigned text. No outside research is needed for these two essays. The first essay includes a peer-review assignment for a first draft.

**QUIZZES:** We will have 4-5 quizzes on the terminology and concepts in our text book.

**ANNOTATION ASSIGNMENT:** students belong to one of four groups, each annotating a different section of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, using COVE Studio. The assignment has two parts.

- *In the first part*, each student supplies five annotations to the text, clarifying word meanings, references, and interpretations, based on standard reference sources.
- *In the second part*, students supply two more annotations to either of the two books, referencing claims made in the critical articles they are reading for their final paper.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** The research paper is a portfolio project on either of Lewis Carroll's two books, culminating in a 7-page essay using five critical sources. The portfolio includes:

- *Research proposal*—before you begin writing a research paper, you need to have a research question. We will discuss what makes a good research question in class.
  - All students will write up a one-page draft of their research question, and we will do a peer-review exercise to help you think about ways to refine your research question.
  - One week later, students turn in a revised research proposal (3-pages) with a list of five potential research sources and an annotation about the content of each article.
  - Students will meet with Dr. Logan to discuss their proposal and get further feedback during the week of April 15.
- *Research paper*—The finished papers is due the last day of class and should be 7 pages long, plus a bibliography in the MLA Style. The paper can look at either or both of the Lewis Carroll books, and you can use any critical method you like. You should integrate claims from your research into your paper; these can support of your own idea or be something you disagree with.

## SCHEDULE

*Class meets MWF, 11-11:50am, in 1122 Anderson Hall*

- Jan 14 Introduction  
 16 Orientation to the history of literary criticism: World, Reader, Author, Text  
 18 Student groups: Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale"
- New Criticism**
- 23 Parker 11-23  
 25 Student groups: Keats, "Ode to a Grecian Urn"
- 28 Parker 23-42  
 30 Cleanth Brooks, "Keats's Sylvan Historian: History without Footnotes"
- Feb 1 **Draft Nightingale Essay Due** (2 pages)  
 Student groups: peer reading of Nightingale papers
- Structuralism**
- 4 Parker 42-50  
 6 **Revised Nightingale Essay Due** (4 pages)  
 Parker 51-65  
 8 Stevenson, *Jekyll and Hyde* (up to "The Last Night")
- 11 Student groups: *Jekyll and Hyde* (finish)  
 13 Parker 65-77  
 15 Student groups: Narratology and *Jekyll and Hyde*
- 18 Parker 77-83  
 20 Snow day  
 22 Claude Levi-Strauss essay
- 25 Student groups: Structuralist reading of *Jekyll and Hyde*  
 27 Research Instruction: Meet in 130 Paley Library (Mezzanine level)
- Mar 1 **Deconstruction**  
 Parker 85-98  
***Jekyll and Hyde* Essay Due** (4 pages)
- Spring Break

- 11 Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper"  
 13 Parker 98-110  
 15 Student groups: Deconstructive reading of "Yellow Wallpaper"

### **Lewis Carroll**

- 18 *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, chapters 1-4  
 NO CLASS  
 20 *Alice* 5-8  
 22 *Alice* 9-12

- 25 *Through the Looking-Glass*, chapters 1-4  
 27 **Annotation, Part 1 due**  
 29 *Looking-Glass* 5-8

Apr 1 *Looking-Glass* 9-12

### **Feminism**

- 3 Parker 148-68  
 5 Parker 169-83

- 8 Student groups: Feminist reading of *Alice*  
 10 **Draft Research Question Due** (1 page)  
 Group workshops on research questions for final project

### **Postcolonial and Race Studies**

- 12 Parker 285-311  
 15 Parker 311-27  
 17 Student groups: Poco/Race Studies reading of *Looking-Glass*)  
 19 **Student research proposal due** (2-pages + annotated bibliography)

- 22 Student conferences  
 24 Student conferences  
 26 Student conferences  
**Annotation, Part 2 due**

- 29 Review of Feminism, Postcolonial and Race Studies, and TBA  
 May 2 **Thursday, 3:00pm: Research Paper Due** (7 pp)

**Attendance**

Attendance is expected at every class, but students may miss up to five classes without penalty. After that, your participation grade will be reduced by one letter grade for every missed class. Excused absences count toward the five days, but you may have more than that without penalty. An excused absence involves documentation, like a note from a doctor.

**Late Papers**

If you have a problem meeting the deadline, you may arrange an extension by discussing it with the instructor before the due date. Otherwise, late papers are marked down one-third of a letter grade (i.e., from A- to B+) for each day of lateness. This protects all students from unfair competition with someone who takes extra time for the assignment.

**Accessibility**

Students who need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the situation during the first two weeks of the course. Disability Resources and Services, at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex, will coordinate accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Plagiarism**

The unacknowledged use of another's ideas or words constitutes plagiarism. Whether you use a verbatim quotation or summarize someone else's ideas as your own, the source must be credited with full bibliographical details. If you receive assistance from another person writing your paper, their work must likewise be acknowledged. This course is teaching you how to develop as an independent thinker as well as to respect the thoughts of others.

Everything used from other sources—suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language—must be acknowledged. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.

Plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course. The English Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies will be notified and may decide to impose more severe penalties, including expulsion from the University.

**Compulsory Language on Freedom**

"Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has a policy on Student and Faculty and Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy #03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link:  
[http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy\\_no=03.70.02.](http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02)"