THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
ENGLISH 1340. INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY ANALYSIS
FALL TERM 2007 (3 CREDIT HOURS)

GENERAL INFORMATION
Course Number: ENGL 1340  Section: A01  Time: MWF 1300-1415  Location: 401 Tier
Instructor: Dr D. Watt  Telephone: 474-8945  Email: David_Watt@UManitoba.ca
Office: 629 Fletcher Argue Building  Office Hours: or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT
This course provides an introduction to literary analysis. In other words, it will introduce you to the
discipline of reading and writing about prose, poetry, and drama from various historical periods in an
English Department. The course promises to help you learn to recognize literary forms and stylistic
devices, understand their importance, and use a range of critical terms accurately. I will help you to
achieve these objectives in the following ways: first, I will conduct lectures and facilitate seminar
discussions in the classroom; second, I will be available for consultation in person during office hours or
by appointment, as well as by email and telephone at reasonable times; third, I will assign written
assignments to help you to develop and demonstrate these skills; and finally, I will assess the progress of
your learning by evaluating your written assignments and provide you with feedback concerning the style
and content of your writing. You can help yourself and others to achieve this course’s objectives by
participating in lectures and seminar discussions, consulting me outside the classroom for clarification
and to challenge yourself further, and using discussions and written assignments to refine your analytical
skills and demonstrate your ability to apply them. I hope you find this course’s focus on literary analysis
will ultimately help you to improve your ability to think critically and communicate clearly.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
Barnet, Sylvan, et al., A Short Guide to Writing about Literature, 2nd Canadian ed. Toronto: Pearson,
Canopy Course Pack. (Available in October)
0-7434-7754-5.

METHOD OF EVALUATION
Type of Work                      Value  Date
1. Written Assignments          40 %  Draft  Final
   a. Essay 1 (1000 words)  10 %  27 September  6 October
   b. Essay 2 (1250 words)  25 %  22 November  4 December
      Note: I do not accept drafts or final essays by email.
   c. Drafts and Workshops (2x2.5%)  5 %  27 September and 22 November
      By writing drafts and participating in workshops you will be able to develop your ideas and
      receive feedback about matters of style, convention, and content in your writing before the final
      paper is due. Full credit will be given for drafts prepared on time and workshops in which you
      fully participate. Late drafts will be given no credit.
2. Examinations                  50 %
   Mid-Term Examination (750 words)  10 %  3 November
   Final Examination (2 Hours)  40 %  December Examination Period
3. Contribution to the Intellectual Community  10 %
   Active participation is vital to the success of our class. I expect you to be prepared for classes by
   having read the material and thought about appropriate questions or comments. I expect you to
   bring along a copy of the text under discussion as well as A Short Guide to Writing About
   Literature. This aspect of your mark considers not only how you contribute to discussions, but
   also your ability to listen actively to others. I encourage you to learn from your classmates and to
   act in a way that enables others to learn.
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

1. Attendance: Please make yourself familiar with the University’s policy on attendance in the General Calendar (p. 26, Section 6.1). In accordance with the University and Department of English policy, I reserve the right to debar a student from the final examination if s/he has more than three (3) unexcused absences in a single term.

2. Late Assignments: I hope not to deduct marks for late papers. I expect you to organize your time in order to submit papers in class (i.e., not by email or after class) on or before their due date. You may set a new date by writing to me—and having me confirm it with you in writing—up to one week before the assignment’s original due date. Papers handed up to a week late will be assessed a half-grade penalty (e.g. B + becomes B); papers handed in more than one week will be assessed a further half-grade penalty (e.g. B + becomes C +) and will receive limited comments. Papers will not be accepted after the last day of the term in which they are due. Penalties will be adjusted or waived in the case of emergencies, but you must provide appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note) in such cases.

3. Plagiarism: Please make yourself familiar with the University’s policy on plagiarism and cheating in the General Calendar (pp. 26-27, Section 7). The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

4. Grades: Please consult the description of Letter Grades in the General Calendar (p. 23, Section 3.1). For an explanation of what these grades mean when they apply to a written assignment in this course, please see page 5 of the outline.

UNIT 1. READING AND RESPONDING TO CONTEMPORARY TEXTS

WEEK 1.

6 September

INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the Course; Tom Wayman, “Did I Miss Anything?”

WEEK 2.

11 September

READING AND RESPONDING


13 September

Margaret Atwood, “Marrying the Hangman”; Ted Hughes, “Pyramus and Thisbe” SGWL 12-30 (Drafting and Writing)

WEEK 3.

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT LITERARY FORMS PART I: WRITING ABOUT PROSE

18 September


20 September

Jonathan Swift, “A Modest Proposal”

Nadine Gordimer, “The Moment Before the Gun Went Off”
James Joyce, “Araby” (SGWL 354-358); Thomas King, “Borders” (SGWL 359-367)

Margaret Atwood, “you fit into me”; Ovid, “Pyramus and Thisbe”  
*SGWL* 31-51 (*Explication and Analysis*); *SGWL* 255-257 (*Grammar and Syntax*)

(What is Literature?)

James Joyce, “Araby” (SGWL 354-358); Thomas King, “Borders” (SGWL 359-367)

**WEEK 4.** **WRITING ABOUT FICTION.**

**25 September**  
Essay 1 (Final) Due

**27 September**  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde*  
*SGWL* 139-146 (*Plot and Character*)

E. A. Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart”;  
*SGWL* 146-155 (*Foreshadowing, Setting and Atmosphere*)

**WEEK 5.** **WRITING ABOUT FICTION**

**2 October**  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde*  
(Theme)

**4 October**

**WEEK 6.** **WRITING ABOUT DRAMA**

**9 October**  
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*  
*SGWL* 184-189 (*Types of Plays*); *SGWL* 189-194 (*Theme, Plot, and Meaning*)

**11 October**  
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*  
*SGWL* 194-196 (*Characterization and Motivation*)

**WEEK 7.** **WRITING ABOUT DRAMA**

**16 October**  
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*  
*SGWL* 196-204 (*Costumes, Gestures, and Settings; Conventions*)

**18 October**  
Essay 2 (Draft) Due. Writing Workshop

**WEEK 8.** **WRITING ABOUT POETRY: VERSIFICATION AND RHYTHM (SGWL 12)**

**23 October**  
Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”  
Margaret Atwood, “My Last Duchess”; Christina Rossetti, “In An Artist’s Studio”  
*SGWL* 77-92 (*What is Interpretation?*)

**WEEK 9.**

**30 October**  
Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market”  
*SGWL* 93-103 (*What is Evaluation?*)

**1 November**  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “How do I Love Thee?”  
*SGWL* 205-211 (*The Speaker and the Poet: Dction and Tone*)

**WEEK 10.** **WRITING ABOUT POETRY**

**6 November**  
John Keats, “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer” (SGWL 212); William Blake,  
“The Sick Rose” (SGWL 216); *SGWL* 211-217 (*Figurative Language*)
08 November  Donne, “The Flea” (SGWL 222-223)
               SGWL  217-224 (Structure, Irony, Paradox)

**WEEK 11.  WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER. A CASEBOOK**
13 November  Earl of Surrey, “Love That Doth Reign” / Lady Mary Wroth, “Am I Thus Conquered?”
               SGWL 227-232 (Versification and Rhythm)
15 November  Lady Mary Wroth, “In this strange Labyrinth” (Coursepack)
               SGWL 233-39 (Stanzaic Patterns / Verse & Prosody)

**UNIT 4. PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**WEEK 12.**
20 November  Final Paper (Draft) Due.
22 November  Final Paper Due *The Chester Play of Noah’s Flood*

**WEEK 13.**
27 November  William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
29 November  William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

**WEEK 14.  REVIEWING EXPLICATION AND ANALYSIS**
4 December   William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
               SGWL 351-353 (Writing Examinations)

8-20 December Final Examination Period