

ENGL 550. 1: Introduction to Literature and Literary Analysis

This course provides a concise history of the concept of literature, literary criticism, and the professionalization of English literary studies. The focus is, however, on giving students a good grasp of the elements of the major genres of literature—fiction, drama, and poetry—before encouraging them to apply the knowledge gained to the analysis of literary texts.

Unit 1: Critical Idioms of Literature (09 hrs)

- Circumscribing the Concept
- History of the Concept
- The Literary
- The Free Space of Literature
- Thinking Critically (from Kirsznner & Mandel)
- Reading and Writing about Literature

Unit 2: Understanding Fiction & Its Elements (09 hrs)

- Reading and Writing about Fiction
- Plot (Reading for critical application: Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily")
- Character (Reading for critical application: Updike's "A & P")
- Setting (Reading for critical application: Chopin's "The Storm")
- Point of view (Reading for critical application: Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado")
- Style, Tone, and Language (Reading for critical application: Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place")
- Symbol and Allegory (Reading for critical application: Hawthorne's "Young Goodman, Brown")
- Theme (Reading for critical application: Lawrence's "The Rocking-Horse Winner")
- Fiction for Further Reading for Critical Practice: Joyce's "Eveline")

Unit 3: Mastering Drama & Its Elements (06 hrs)

- Understanding Drama
- Reading and Writing about Drama
- Plot (Reading for critical application: Glaspell's *Trifles*)
- Character (Reading for critical application: Shakespeare's *Hamlet*)
- Staging (Reading for critical application: Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*)
- Theme (Reading for critical application: Norman's *'night, Mother*)

Unit 4: Grasping Poetry & Its Elements (12 hrs)

- Understanding Poetry
- Reading and Writing about Poetry
- Voice (Reading for critical application: Auden's "The Unknown Citizen")
- Word Choice, Word Order (Reading for critical application: Dickinson's "My Life Had Stood A Loaded Gun")
- Imagery (Reading for critical application: Owen's "*Dulce et Decorum Est*")
- Figures of Speech (Reading for critical application: Frost's "Out, Out—")

- Sound (Reading for critical application: Hopkins' "Pied Beauty")
- Form (Reading for critical application: Herbert's "Easter Wings")
- Symbol, Allegory, Allusion, Myth (Reading for critical application: Yeats' "Leda and the Swan")
- Poetry for Further Reading for Critical Practice: Plath's "Mirror")

Unit 5: Defining Literary Criticism & Scholarship (12 hrs)

- Institutions: Histories of English & English in the Universities
- Philosophies and Practitioners: Critics and Professors, Criticism and the Modernists, Methods and Institutions
- Current Debates

Evaluation Guideline

Unit 1 and 5 together contain 30% of total grade, while units 2, 3, and 4 contain 70% of the total grade

Internal evaluation: **40% of the total grade**

- One 5-7 page research paper 50% of internal grade
- Mid-term exams 30% of internal grade
- Presentation, attendance, participation, reading quizzes 20 % of internal grade

Final Examination: **60% of the total grade**

- Three long questions out of four: $3 \times 20 = 60\%$ (excluding the poetry section)
- Textual analysis of a poem: $1 \times 20 = 20\%$
- Four short questions out of five on the elements of literature: $4 \times 5 = 20\%$

Prescribed Texts

Atherton, Carol. *Defining Literary Criticism: Scholarship, Authority, and the Possession of Literary Knowledge, 1880–2002*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Kirszner, Laurie & Stephen Mandell. *Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing*. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013.

Widdowson, Peter. *Literature (The New Critical Idiom)*. London: Routledge, 1999.