This course serves as an introduction to the major techniques and approaches to literary criticism, which we will accomplish through analyzing critical theories and applying those methodologies to literary works. We will read numerous essays on the major issues and modes in criticism (including historical, feminist, formalist, and poststructuralist approaches) alongside Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn," Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," Shakespeare's The Tempest, and Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby. In class discussion and short assignments, we will consider how critical concepts apply to these literary texts. Additionally, you will construct a portfolio of applied criticism: a series of four written critical approaches to a short work of your choosing and a final essay in which you define and describe your critical paradigm.

Assignments and Grading

The Midterm Exam (10%) will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching questions, and it will include a short essay. The midterm will take place on Wednesday, April 27.

The Final Exam (15%) is comprehensive. It will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching questions, and it will include a short essay. Our final examination will occur at 10:15 Monday, June 6. Make-up exams will be given only in the case of a documented medical condition or university obligation. University policy prohibits giving make up exams before the scheduled exam time.

The Criticism Portfolio (55%) gives you an opportunity to “try on” the critical approaches we read and talk about, and it takes two parts:

1. Four short papers (3-4 pages, 10% each). You will choose one short story or poem from a selection on Blackboard to work with throughout the term, and to which you will apply critical theories. Roughly, one paper is due every two weeks. I will post further details to this assignment on Blackboard.
2. A final paper (4-5 pages, 15%). For this essay, discuss your methodology as a critic. I will post further details to this assignment on Blackboard.

Grading criteria and formatting instructions for essays are located on Blackboard. Papers are due by the date given on the assignment schedule. Late papers will be graded down by one full letter-grade per calendar day they are late unless you have made prior arrangements with me.

Five Reading Responses (15% total, or 3% each) Over the course of the term, you should post to Blackboard five individual responses to five different reading assignments. You choose the readings and when to post your response; however, each post must address a current reading (e.g., in week eight you should not post a response to Cleanth Brooks). Each of your five responses should engage with a specific aspect of a reading's argument, and you should provide context for your response.

1) Provide context by including an excerpt from the article you are addressing. Choose a quotation or assertion that you find particularly intriguing, compelling, or troublesome. Write out the quotation (give the page number as well).
2) Following the quotation, discuss how you find it intriguing, compelling, or troublesome. Be specific, and be prepared to talk about your responses in class.
**Participation (5%)** There will be some lecture, but you should expect a substantial amount of discussion. Some conversation will be class-wide, but you should expect small group exchanges as well. “Participation” also includes short writing assignments that we use to contribute to our discussions. Note: if it appears that people are falling behind in the reading, I will give pop quizzes at the beginning of class.

**Attendance** Your regular attendance is vital to the goals of this course. You may miss three class meetings without penalty. Your final grade will drop one-third of a letter grade for each subsequent absence, unless you have contacted me and we have agreed on alternative arrangements. You are still responsible for submitting your work on time, despite absence. Missed work cannot be made up except by prior arrangement. Three occasions of tardiness/leaving early equals a day’s absence. Coming to class without the relevant text qualifies as an absence.

**Submitting work** Please submit hard copies during class or in my office, 213 PLC. You should not leave your materials outside of my office, nor should you ask someone in the English department to put your materials in my mailbox. You are welcome to email your work to me as long as it is a MS Word or .pdf document. Whether submitted electronically or as hard copies, out-of-class assignments will be graded down by one full letter-grade per calendar day they are late unless you have made prior arrangements with me.

**Blackboard** Please check Blackboard often. I will regularly post class updates, assignment details, general announcements, and links to online resources that you might find useful. If you cannot access Blackboard to locate assignment details, please contact me immediately so that I can discuss the assignment with you. It is your responsibility to contact me.

**Communication** If, for any reason, you anticipate or encounter issues that might interfere with your performance in this class, please speak with me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to contact me if a problem arises, or if you foresee a problem arising, so that we can discuss ways to help you succeed in this course. I encourage you to drop in during office hours to talk about your works in progress or other class-related issues; if you cannot make my posted office hours, please contact me to arrange an appointment.

**Incomplete Policy** No incompletes will be granted, except in case of documented emergency. If you are forced to take an Incomplete, then, effective Winter term 2005, undergraduate students have one calendar year to make up an incomplete mark assigned by a UO faculty member. Failure to make up the Incomplete at the end of one calendar year will result in the mark of "I" automatically changing to a grade of "F" or "N."

**Accommodations** If you have a documented disability and require accommodations in this course, please speak with me as soon as possible. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

**Inclement Weather** If inclement weather prevents our class meeting, I will notify you via Blackboard and email no later than 7:00 am on the day of class.

**Academic Honesty** All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult Rules for Writers or the University of Oregon Libraries website <http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/> for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation, and refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice of the English Department. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.
Reading and Assignment Schedule

Caveat: this schedule might be modified; if there are adjustments, you will be notified in class, via email, and on Blackboard. Except for *The Tempest* and *The Great Gatsby*, all readings indicated are found in Keeseys *Contexts for Criticism*.

Week One
M 3/28 Syllabus, introductions, definitions
   For Wednesday read Keeseys (1-8), (75-83)
W 3/30 The Poem
   For Friday read Ellis (92-7) and Brooks (84-91)
F 4/1 Discussion Select poem or story critical portfolio focus
   For Monday read Keats 485-87 and Kent (112-15)

Week Two
M 4/4 Discussion: Keats, Irony
   For Wednesday read Keeseys (9-16) and Hirsch (17-28).
W 4/6 The Author
   For Friday read Watson (29-33) and Austin (47-57).
F 4/8 Discussion Portfolio paper one due
   For Monday read Keeseys (129-39) and Iser (140-47).

Week Three
M 4/11 The Reader
   For Wednesday read Holland (148-63) and Wilson (172-85)
W 4/13 Reader Response and Keats
   For Friday read Gilman (531-38) and Kolodny (194-204)
F 4/15 Reader Response and Gilman
   For Monday read Keeseys (205-14) and Paris (215-23)

Week Four
M 4/18 Mimetic Criticism
   For Wednesday read Donovan (224+), Gilbert and Gubar (259+).
W 4/20 Reality and Gilman
   For Friday read Brann (244-9) and TBA
F 4/22 Discussion
   For Monday prepare questions about the midterm.

Week Five
M 4/25 Discussion Portfolio paper two due
   For Wednesday: review for midterm.
W 4/27 Midterm examination.
   For Friday read Keeseys (265-78)
F 4/29 Intertextuality
   For Monday read Frye (279-87) and Culler (288-97),
Week Six
M 5/2 Literary and Linguistic Conventions
For Wednesday read Metzger (306-09), and Kennard (327-40).
W 5/4 Discussion
For Friday read *The Tempest* (Acts 1, 2, and 3), and from the Norton, the brief selections from
Ovid, Mirandola, Biddulph, Isaiah xxix,
F 5/6 *The Tempest*
For Monday read Frye (298-305), *The Tempest* (Acts 4 and 5), and from the Norton, the brief
selections from Montaigne, and William Strachey.

Week Seven
M 5/9 *The Tempest* Portfolio paper three due
For Wednesday read Lamming and Hulme from the Norton.
W 5/11 *The Tempest*
For Friday read Orgel's "Prospero's Wife" (201-14), and Barbara Fuchs's "Conquering
Islands: Contextualizing *The Tempest*"
F 5/13 *The Tempest*
For Monday read Keesey (341-52), Derrida (353-63).

Week Eight
M 5/16 Language
For Wednesday read de Man (364-73)
W 5/18 Discussion
For Friday read Feldstein (401-8) and Guetti (384-91)
F 5/20 Discussion
For Monday read Keesey (409-18) and Eagleton (419-26)

Week Nine
M 5/23 Culture Portfolio Paper four due
For Wednesday read Greenblatt (436-41) and Fitzgerald, Chapters 1-3.
W 5/25 Discussion
For Friday read Fitzgerald, Chapters 4-10
F 5/27 Discussion: Fitzgerald

Week Ten
M 5/30 No Class: Memorial Day
W 6/1 Discussion: Fitzgerald
F 6/3 Discussion: Fitzgerald Paper: “My Critical Theory” in 213 PLC by 5:00 pm.

Monday, June 6th Final Exam, 10:15 -12:15 in 214 McKenzie