

ENGLISH 465: THEORY & CRITICISM OF LITERATURE

Instructor: Dr. Daven M. Kari
Office: English Department, Scott Building, 2nd floor, office 4
Phone: 714-556-3610, _____; **E-mail:** dkari@vanguard.edu
Office Hours: MWF 7:00-7:45 a.m.; MF 10:00-10:50 a.m., and by appointment

Required

Text: Abrams, M. H. *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*. London: Oxford U P, 1953.

Eliot, T. S. *The Sacred Wood and Major Early Essays*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1998.

Richter, David H., ed. *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1998.

Materials: Three-ring binder, ¾" to 1", c. 9" X 12" for reading journal.
All students will be expected to have an internet identification number for using computers at Vanguard University, and should be prepared to use Microsoft Word and related programs.

Course

Description: English 465, Theory & Criticism of Literature, is designed to acquaint students with a wide range of classical and contemporary theories that have proven useful in interpreting literary texts. The goal of this course is to equip students with the theoretical and critical tools necessary to negotiate a wide range of literature, and critique the strengths and weaknesses of each of those theories. Furthermore, this course will integrate the Christian perspective with its focus on ethical and spiritual concerns as expressed in biblical and secular texts.

Course

Requirements: English 465 involves considerable reading for each class, and for that reason students will need to read consistently and carefully throughout the semester. To help students cover the material, a **reading journal** will be required to log time spent on reading and to record individual insights into the assigned reading. Use a full-sized, ¾" to 1" thick, three-ring binder for your reading journal so that you can add handouts and notes from class. Students will use this journal for classroom discussion and will turn in the reading journal periodically throughout the semester. On a rotating basis, students will also be asked to share with the class their journal insights about assigned readings about every 5th class period. Students will also be asked to write a 6 to 8 page paper, detailed below. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Participation	10%
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Reading Journal	10%
3 Exams (20% each)	60%
Research Paper	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Grades will be calculated as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% or less = F. Plus and minus grades will be determined based on standard university guidelines.

Research

Paper: Each student is required to write a 6 to 8 page paper demonstrating a careful understanding of at least one author's critical or theoretical approach to literature as presented in the readings assigned in this course. The student's understanding is to be demonstrated in two ways: (1) the paper should offer an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of a given critic's approach to literature, and (2) the paper should present the application of the critic's approach to a particular piece of literature, such as a poem or short story or drama. Be sure to offer insights that move beyond those given in class or the primary reading, and use literary examples that have not been used extensively in class. Be sure to include a bibliography in MLA format with at least five (5) secondary sources supporting your interpretation. These works must be used and cited in your paper. A one-page proposal for the paper must be submitted and approved before the student undertakes the formal writing process.

Manuscript

Requirements: Type the research paper in MLA format on standard-sized, regular bond typing paper. On page one, double-space your name, instructor, course and section number, and date on four separate lines in the upper left side of the page and within the one inch margins. Place the title on the second line below the information block just described, and then type the first line of your paper on the second line below the title. Double-space the text and leave one-inch margins. Place your name, section number, the current date, and a page number across the top of each page; triple-space after this heading before starting to type the text. Paper clip (do not staple) all assignments. Present each essay in a pocket folder.

Completion of

Assignments: To receive credit for English 465, each student must complete all exams and the paper, along with keeping a thoughtful and accurate reading journal. Homework assignments are due on the day assigned.

Daily Work & Oral Reports: Students are individually responsible for all daily work. If you miss a class, make arrangements to copy class notes and assignments prior to the next class meeting. On a rotating basis, about every 5th class period two students at a time will be asked to share from their journals and help lead classroom discussion. An assignment sheet will be given early in the semester to identify when each student is to share. These team presentations should identify the main thrust of the reading to be discussed, along with identifying major points and issues or questions raised by the reading. These presentations should be between 10 and 15 minutes, and each person's contribution should be clearly identified. You are welcome to include documented references to research sources that can assist you in interpreting the reading, but your own insights and questions should constitute the majority of your observations. Each presenting team should offer a one-page handout highlighting your presentation to each class member. Your grade for the oral

report will be based on insightfulness, length, and delivery. Overly short and overly long presentations will lose points. Upon occasion this course will involve exercises, either in-class or take-home. These will also count as part of your homework grade.

Due Dates: All assignments are due no later than the date specified. Late papers will not be accepted except in the event of an unanticipated and unavoidable absence, such as your own serious illness or a death in your immediate family. Reading journals are to be turned in when requested during class as evidence of staying current with reading assignments, so be sure to bring your completed work to class if you wish to receive credit for having finished it.

Attendance: Because English 465 involves considerable in-class work, students are expected to attend all classes. Any absences will affect the student's performance in this course, and may affect his or her grade. If a student misses more than six classes (2 weeks) for any reason, the student's grade will be lowered one letter grade. If the student misses more than eight classes, the student will automatically fail himself or herself in the course. A limited number of make up options may be offered for students facing unanticipated and unavoidable conflicts. Late arrivals and early departures will result in a partial or total loss for class attendance. To receive full credit for attendance, students must bring their books regularly to class. Furthermore, students are expected to be attentive and respectful in class.

Rewrite

Policy: You are welcome and encouraged to rewrite your graded research paper and try for a higher grade, provided that your first grade is at least a C-. Your highest grade will stand, so you need not worry about losing points for doing a rewrite. Do note, however, that a rewrite involves more than resolving simple mechanical errors. To improve your grade you will need to deal with comments about content as well as those about mechanics. Submit the rewrite along with the original graded version and grade sheet. *This revision is due within one week after the graded paper has been returned to you, or at latest by the time of the final exam.*

Use of

Papers: Portions of your essays may be duplicated for class discussions. The author's name will not be mentioned unless the student gives prior permission.

Conferences: Although conferences are not a required part of this course, you are welcome and encouraged to meet with the instructor regarding any assignment in this course. In addition to the traditional office hours listed, the instructor is also available before 8:00 a.m. on MWF and briefly during the noon hours on MWF. Feel free to set a meeting time. To make the best use of your time and your instructor's, always come with specific questions about how you can improve your work, and be sure to take notes. When you make special appointments, keep them. If you must cancel, please call as far in advance as possible, preferably 24 hours.

Plagiarism: One of the best signs of maturity is respect for other people's property and rights. Taking other people's ideas, formulas, phrases, or writings without giving proper credit constitutes a theft, commonly known as plagiarism. You are also forbidden to use a paper you have submitted to another class, since double use of a paper also constitutes a form of plagiarism. Any student found guilty of this crime will be subject to failure in English 465 and possible further disciplinary action.

by the Academic Dean's Office.

SYLLABUS

August	25 (W)	Introduction to course
	27 (F)	<i>The Critical Tradition</i> (hereafter cited as <i>CT</i>), pp. 1-14
	30 (M)	Plato, <i>CT</i> , pp. 17-29
September	1 (W)	Aristotle, <i>CT</i> , pp. 38-52
	3 (F)	Aristotle, <i>CT</i> , pp. 52-64
	6 (M)	Labor Day Holiday
	8 (W)	Plotinus & Danté Alighieri, <i>CT</i> , pp. 108-122
	10 (F)	Christine de Pisan, <i>CT</i> , pp. 123-130
	13 (M)	Alexander Pope, <i>CT</i> , pp. 206-217
	15 (W)	David Hume, <i>CT</i> , pp. 239-252
	17 (F)	Germaine de Staël, <i>CT</i> , pp. 281-293
	20 (M)	William Wordsworth, <i>CT</i> , pp. 300-314
	22 (W)	Percy Bysshe Shelley, <i>CT</i> , pp. 337-356
	24 (F)	Ralph Waldo Emerson, <i>CT</i> , pp. 372-384
	27 (M)	Review for Exam I
	29 (W)	Exam I
October	1 (F)	Karl Marx, <i>CT</i> , pp. 385-393
	4 (M)	Matthew Arnold, <i>CT</i> , pp. 394-411
	6 (W)	Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>CT</i> , pp. 417-433
October	8 (F)	Sigmund Freud, <i>CT</i> , pp. 481-494
	11 (M)	T. S. Eliot, <i>The Sacred Wood</i> , pp. 1-9

- 13 (W) T. S. Eliot, *The Sacred Wood*, pp. 27-33, 93-100
- 15 (F) Fall Break
- 18 (M) T. S. Eliot, *The Sacred Wood*, pp. 122-130
- 20 (W) Carl Gustav Jung, *CT*, pp. 504-515
- 22 (F) Carl Gustav Jung, *CT*, pp. 516-526
- 25 (M) Mikhail Bakhtin, *CT*, pp. 527-539
- 27 (W) Virginia Woolf, *CT*, pp. 548-559
- 29 (F) Kenneth Burke, *CT*, pp. 581-592
- November 1 (M) Review for Exam II
Proposals for Research Paper is Due (may submit earlier)
- 3 (W) Exam II
- 5 (F) F. R. Leavis, *CT*, pp. 599-607
Northrop Frye, *CT*, pp. 641-651
- 8 (M) Susan Sontag, *CT*, pp. 689-696
William Empson, *CT*, pp. 735-747
- 10 (W) W. K. Wimsatt and Monroe C. Beardsley, *CT*, pp. 748-756
- 12 (F) Cleanth Brooks, *CT*, pp. 757-764
Wayne C. Booth, *CT*, pp. 786-795
- 15 (M) M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*, pp. 3-29
- 17 (W) M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*, pp. 30-69
- 19 (F) M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*, pp. 70-99
- 22 (M) M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*, pp. 100-124
Research Paper is Due
- 24 (W) Special Assignments (TBA)
- 26 (F) Thanksgiving Break
- 29 (M) M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*, pp. 156-183

December	1 (W)	Classicism vs. Romanticism in Criticism (Eliot and Abrams) Texts to be announced
	3 (F)	Classicism vs. Romanticism in Criticism (Eliot and Abrams) Texts to be announced
	6 (M)	Last Day of Classes Review for Exam III Course Evaluations
December 7-10		Exam III, TBA

N.B.: This is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted to meet student needs better. Stay alert to adjustments in the content and scheduling of assignments.