

## Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

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**Semester:** Spring

**Year:** 2025

**Course Prefix:** ENGL

**Course and Section #:** 2600-003

**Course Title:** Critical Introduction to Literature

**Credits:** 3

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### ***Course Description***

Surveys contemporary critical, theoretical, and ideological approaches to literature (such as structuralist, poststructuralist, psychoanalytical, feminist / gender, Marxist, new historical, postcolonial, etc.). Introduces key literary terms and engages close reading techniques. Includes lectures, screenings, student presentations, analyses and written reports, exams, and a final essay in MLA format and documentation.

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### ***Course Attributes***

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: [Click here to enter text.](#)

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### ***Instructor Information***

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Estée Crenshaw

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### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Identify major schools of critical thought
  2. Identify interpretive techniques and theoretical premises of contemporary critical perspectives
  3. Apply critical theory to literary and cultural texts
  4. Apply critical literary vocabulary in written and spoken discourse
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### ***Course Materials and Texts***

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory*. 4th ed., Manchester UP, 2017.

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### ***Course Requirements***

#### **Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy**

**Attendance & Participation (20%)**

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage in class activities.

**Critical Mini-Essays (30%)**

Each week wherein readings are assigned, students write a critical mini-essay.

**Midterm Exam (15%)**

The midterm exam will assess students' knowledge of the key theoretical concepts and terms covered in class during the first half of the semester.

**Final Exam (15%)**

The final exam will assess students' knowledge of the key theoretical concepts and terms covered in class, focusing mainly on the second half of the semester.

**Critical Analysis Essay (20%)**

Students write a critical analysis essay that uses one of the theoretical apparatuses we have investigated in class and applies that apparatus to a literary text.

**Grade Scale:**

A = 100–94	B+ = 89.9–87	C+ = 79.9–77	D+ = 69.9–67	
A- = 93.9–90	B = 86.9–84	C = 76.9–74	D = 66.9–64	E = 59.9 and below
	B- = 83.9–80	C- = 73.9–70	D- = 63.9–60	

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**Required or Recommended Reading Assignments**

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory*. 4th ed., Manchester UP, 2017.

Selected excerpts from corresponding primary sources

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**General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion**

Week 1: Intro to Course

Week 2: Structuralism

Week 3: Post-Structuralism & Deconstruction

Week 4: Postmodernism

Week 5: Psychoanalytic Criticism

Week 6: Feminist Criticism

Week 7: Queer Theory

Week 8: Marxist Criticism

Week 9: Midterm Exam & Final Essay Discussion

Week 10: Spring Break

Week 11: New Historicism & Cultural Materialism

Week 12: Postcolonial & Decolonial Criticism

Week 13: Ecocriticism & Disability Studies

Week 14: AI & Cyberhumanism

Week 15: Exam Review & Essay Workshop

Week 16: Final Exam

Week 17: Finals Week

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***Required Course Syllabus Statements***

**Generative AI**

The UVU English department is also keeping up with artificial intelligence chat bots such as ChatGPT (and many other stand-alone programs or plug-ins). Believing the technology is here to stay, and will only grow, we feel it's important to understand both its strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and assisting with research. We believe AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues. It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It also frequently generates fake citations and quotations. It cannot understand the complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording of an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism and means that a student will be held accountable for violating academic integrity.

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### **Using Remote Testing Software**

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

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## ***Required University Syllabus Statements***

### **Accommodations/Students with Disabilities**

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](mailto:DHHservices@uvu.edu)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

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### **Academic Integrity**

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Equity and Title IX**

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@uvu.edu) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

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### **Religious Accommodation**

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu). If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.