

## ENGL 3000: Research and Methodology

(Re)Theorizing Body Politics

Sect. 03W, CRN 11468, TR 12:30-1:45, PAF 309

Professor: Dr. Rebecca Harrison  
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**Class Description:** An introduction to critical theory, ENGL 3000 provides the English major with a solid foundation of theoretical approaches to reading literature, analyzing texts, and engaging in worthwhile research. As a collaborative liberal arts research community, this course will aid students in developing critical lenses and individual approaches to the advanced study of texts by focusing on (re)constructions of gender, sexuality, and female artistry in literature that enforce and/or transgress national, cultural, and political agendas.

**Required Texts & Materials:** Please purchase listed editions.

- Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*, Ed. Nancy Walker, Bedford/St. Martin (978-0312195755).
- McCullers, Carson. *The Member of the Wedding*, Mariner (978-0618492398).
- Welty, Eudora. *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*. Harcourt Brace (978-0156189217).
- *The Piano* (Directed by Jane Campion).
- *MLA Handbook* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed).
- Literary criticism packet.
- All supplemental material (poetry, short fiction, etc.) will be distributed electronically. Students are expected to bring hard copies to class.
- A bound notebook (spiral or journal style) for your reading journal.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn to

1. Recognize the essentials of representative critical approaches that they will encounter in the major;
2. Apply representative critical approaches to explain elements of their reading;
3. Interpret their reading in the context of basic research as performed in the disciplines of English studies;
4. Apply discipline-specific methods to discuss and write about literary texts;
5. Argue, in thesis-driven and research-supported analytical prose, for a basic interpretation of literary texts.

**Assignments & Grade Distribution:** In-class presentations, group work, and other activities will complement class discussions on a regular basis. As the semester progresses, I will discuss and/or distribute specific guidelines for each written assignment. Please Note: You must complete *all* assignment to pass this course.

- (15%) Reading journal & other homework as assigned. (Learning Outcomes 1, 2, & 4.)

- (30%) Essay I and II: 15% each. (Learning Outcomes 3, 4, & 5.)
- (25%) Final scaffolded research project. (Learning Outcomes 3, 4, & 5.)
- (15%) Participation. (Learning Outcomes 2 & 4.)
- (15%) Multimodal presentation. (Learning Outcomes 2, 3, & 4.)

**Grading Scale:**

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68	F = 50
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65	
A- = 92	B- = 82	C- = 72	D- = 62	



### Reading Schedule

This schedule provides a tentative layout of in-class and out-of-class activities and assignments. As it is based on the estimated progress of our class, some modification (including additions, postponements, or deletions) will be necessary as we move through the semester. In the event West Georgia closes due to inclement weather, you should continue your out-of-class assignments according to this schedule and check your email regularly for class updates.

Writing, Researching, and MLA Workshops: Mini-lessons in these areas will be regularly built into the existing schedule. I will announce these in advance along with any required materials.

Class Date	Assignments	Due Dates & Notes.
T 1/8	<b>Becoming a Practicing Literary Critic—</b> Class overview and introductions.	
R 1/10	Why Perspective Matters: Read New Criticism (51-64) and New Historicism (181-196) in the criticism pdf.	<b>Reminder:</b> Fee payment deadline is tomorrow (1/11).
T 1/15	Literary Theory as Advocacy in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century. Read Feminism (143-164) in the criticism pdf and the “Contextual Documents” (140-166) section of your edition of Chopin.	
R 1/17	<i>The Awakening</i> : Read Chapters I-XVI (22-71).	
T 1/22	<i>The Awakening</i> : Read Chapters XVII-XXXIX (71-139).	
R 1/24	<b>Theory in Context—(Re)Seeing <i>The Awakening</i></b> Read the New Historicist essay by Margit Stange (274-290) in the “Contemporary Criticism” section of your Chopin edition.	
T 1/29	UWG closed due to inclement weather.	
R 1/31	Read the Feminist essay by Elaine Showalter (202-221) and the Gender theory piece by Elizabeth LeBlanc (237-255) in the “Contemporary Criticism” section of your Chopin edition.	
T 2/5	Read the combined perspectives essay by Cynthia Griffin Wolff (376-393) in the “Contemporary Criticism” section of your Chopin edition.  FYI—Bring your paper’s working thesis to class for workshop.	
R 2/7	Essay Planning Sheet Workshop. Bring two (2) completed copies to class.  FYI—You will need to bring your MLA Handbook (8 <sup>th</sup> ed) today.	

T 2/12	<b>New Reading Strategies—Deconstruction and (Post)Colonial Encounters</b> Read Deconstruction (105-122) and Postcolonialism (197-209) in the criticism pdf.	
R 2/14	Jane Campion, <i>The Piano</i> . Prescreen film at least twice before class.	<b>Due:</b> Essay I & Journal Check I.
T 2/19	<i>The Piano</i> (continued).	
R 2/21	<b>International Welty Conference; No Class.</b> Use this time to get ahead in your reading of the McCullers novella.	
T 2/26	<b>Bodies, Social Construction, and the Gaze—</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read African-American criticism (210-219) and Queer Theory (220-229) in the criticism pdf. Also,</li> <li>• Read Carson McCullers <i>Member of the Wedding</i> (1-46).</li> </ul>	<b>Reminder:</b> Last day to withdraw with a grade of W from 16 week courses is tomorrow (2/27).
R 2/28	Read <i>Member of the Wedding</i> (49 to 100).	
T 3/5	Read <i>Member of the Wedding</i> (101 to end).	
R 3/7	<b>Theory in Context—(Re)Seeing Bodies in McCullers</b> Read all of the critical essays on <i>Member of the Wedding</i> in the second course criticism pdf.	
T 3/12	Welty: <i>Collected Stories</i> “First Love” (153-168).	
R 3/14	Welty: <i>Collected Stories</i> “The Wide Net” (169-188).	<b>Due:</b> Essay II.
T 3/19	<b>Spring Break; No Class.</b>	
R 3/21	<b>Spring Break; No Class.</b>	
T 3/26	Welty: <i>Collected Stories</i> “A Still Moment” (189-199).	
R 3/28	Welty: <i>Collected Stories</i> “Livvie” (1228-239).	
T 4/2	<b>UWG Honors Day; No Class. All classes that meet anytime between 1 and 4 are canceled.</b>	
R 4/4	Welty: <i>Collected Stories</i> “At the Landing” (240-258).	<b>Due:</b> Journal Check II.
T 4/9	No Class: Individual Paper Conferencing. FYI—A Signup Genius link will be sent out to schedule the meetings.	<b>Due:</b> Your paper outline is due at the time of your scheduled conference.
R 4/11	Catch Up Day. Assignments TBA.	
T 4/16	Presentation In-Class Workshop.	
R 4/18	Research Paper In-Class Workshop.	
T 4/23	Multimodal Presentations.	

R 4/25	Multimodal Presentations and Evals. Last day of regular class.	
T 4/30	UWG Reading Day; No Class.	
R 5/2	Multimodal Presentations. Class will meet during the final exam period, 11 to 1. You are expected to stay for the <i>entire</i> exam block.	<b>Due:</b> Final Essay and Optional Revision.
	<i>Reading Schedule Last Updated on 1/30/2019.</i>	

## Course Policies

**Attendance:** Attendance and punctuality are mandatory and key to your success in this course. Arrive to class on time having completed any reading/writing assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions and group work. As this class meets twice per week, a student is allowed *three (3) absences* over the course of the semester. Upon the fourth absence, the student *will no longer be able to pass the class*. Be aware that no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences. In addition, should a student choose to withdraw, she/he will receive a “W,” if the withdrawal date falls before the midpoint. If the withdrawal date falls after the midpoint, the student will receive a “WF.” Please note that tardiness counts against your two allotted absences at a rate of 0.25 per day late. In other words, if you are late to class four times, it will count as one missed class period. Tardiness may also negatively affect your class participation grade and may result in missed in-class work that cannot be made up. FYI—University policy regarding severe weather and emergency closings is posted at <https://www.westga.edu/police/policies.php> under the “Emergency Plans” link; official announcements about class and/or examination cancellations will be made by the university President and posted on the UWG homepage.

**Breaks:** There are none. Our class meets for only seventy-five minutes. As such, I expect that you go to the restroom, get tissues, and grab coffee *before* class starts. If you have emergency situations that may require you to leave and return during my class, you must make prior arrangement with me.

**Paper Format:** All work for this class must be typed, use Times New Roman 12 point font, be double-spaced, use standard 1 inch margins, and conform to standard MLA guidelines as outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Papers must be submitted in a clearly labeled two pocket folder.

### Make-Up Work, Late Work, & Recycled Papers:

- In-class work cannot be made up and may count as zeros in the daily grade component.
- If you miss a class, it is up to you to check with a classmate in a timely fashion concerning missed notes and any homework assignments due the next period.
- All formal assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified in the course schedule. If you must miss a class on a date when an assignment is due, you need to make prior arrangements with me to submit your work on time.
- Late assignments are subject to a *five point deduction* for *each day* submitted after the due date, including weekend days.
- Recycled work (i.e. turning in material written for other professors) is not permissible in this class and will result in a non-passing grade on the assignment.

**Plagiarism:** The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The use of another individual’s words, phrases, or ideas without proper citation will result in the following at my discretion (no questions):

- a zero on the assignment.
- possible failure of this course.
- an official academic dishonesty report filed with UWG, which could lead to suspension from the university.

In short, as members of the UWG community, I expect you to fully abide by the university honor code, which can be found at <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php>

**Optional Revision Policy:** You may revise either of the first two essays for resubmission. If the revised assignment receives a higher grade, it will be used in your final grade calculation in place of the original. The revision *must be meaningful* and submitted *along with the original, graded assignment* in order to be considered. Revised papers are due no later than the start of the final exam period; however, you may turn them in at any point before that date as well.

**Conferences:** Each student is required to attend at least one conference with me during the course of the semester about the research project. Having that said, my office door is always open to you. Please come by during the hours noted on this syllabus whenever you have questions concerning class discussions, need advice or help with reading/writing assignments, etc. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours, email me for an appointment.

**Class Decorum:** Throughout the semester, we will examine controversial topics, materials, and our critical reactions to them. Everyone in this class has both the right and the responsibility to express his or her critical reads of the texts in class discussions and to treat one another's ideas respectfully and seriously, even if – or especially if – you disagree. Consequently, ill-spirited discussions, unmerited comments, and intolerance are not permitted in the classroom. Also, please raise your hand when you would like to have the floor. This format facilitates structured discussion and equal participation.

**Controversial Language:** At least one of the texts we will be reading contains offensive language as it reflects a racially charged and prejudicial period of American history; this language does not necessarily reflect the personal opinion of the author. While we will squarely address these issues, I prefer that you do not employ this language in class discussions.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Students may be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, sleeping (or the appearance of it) in class, allowing cell phones to ring, text-messaging, frequently leaving class, and speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy above.

**Email:** In accordance with university policy, all email correspondence must take place through the UWG email system. I will email the class often; therefore, please be sure that your default address is set for your westga account in the Banner student system and that you check it regularly. Also, please keep in mind that email is professional correspondence; thus, remember to properly address your audience, use the same standards of writing that you would in any paper you write, and sign your email. FYI—While I normally respond to student emails within 48 hours during the work week, please note that I do not regularly answer emails sent after noon on Friday until Monday morning.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center (TLC 1201) is a valuable student resource and, while, consultants will not proofread, they will question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. This is a free university service for you to take advantage of as often as you need. To schedule an appointment call the center at 678-839-6513. See <http://www.westga.edu/~writing/> for more information.

**Student Support:** The UWG community cares deeply about student welfare and is committed to providing a variety of support mechanisms for those who need additional academic support or who are experiencing distressing situations. The following resources may be helpful if you have specific needs that arise:

- Center for Academic Success—<http://www.westga.edu/cas/>
- Counseling Center—<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php>
- UWG Cares—<http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/>

**Special Accommodations:** Students in the UWG community have a right to equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, whether temporary or permanent. Students with needs on file with Accessibility Services will be accommodated in this class per West Georgia regulations. Please send me your packet and meet with me immediately for arrangements. Accessibility services may be reached at (770) 839-6428 or see <https://www.westga.edu/accessibility/>

*Students should review the full common syllabus policies for UWG at*

<https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

*Information about the regulations governing campus carry at UWG can be found at*

<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>