



**EAST TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY

**ENG 520.01E & 01W.—Contemporary Critical Practice in English Studies**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

Hybrid Course (Synchronous)

Class Meetings on Thursday 5:00 pm -7:00 pm

In-Person: Classroom DTH 201

Online: <https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059

**\*Students are required to attend class synchronously based on the mode of delivery they enrolled, either in-person or via Zoom. The class will not be recorded.**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Hyo Kyung Woo, Assistant Professor

Office Location: David Talbot Hall 209

Office Hours: TT 10:00-12:00 am, 3:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment)

University Email Address: [hyokyung.woo@etamu.edu](mailto:hyokyung.woo@etamu.edu)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours during weekdays, 48 hours during weekends

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Textbook(s)**

**Required**

Lois Tyson, *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*, Fourth Edition, Routledge, 2023. [ISBN: 978-0367709426]

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, Penguin Classics, 2021. [ISBN: 978-0143136125], **any edition is acceptable.**

**Recommended**

See the schedule.

\*Bring the book (e-book) to every class. Students without their books may be marked absent.

\*Other supplementary readings are available at D2L in PDF format.

\*E-book and different editions are acceptable.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**Technology Required:** MyLeo Online Learning Management System (D2L).

**Software Required:** Microsoft Word, University Email, PowerPoint

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an overview of the key critical approaches that inform and guide contemporary scholarships in English studies. Primary focus is on various approaches to analyzing literature, including psychological, Marxist, New Criticism, structuralist, feminist, new historicism, deconstruction, postcolonial theory, critical race theory, queer studies, ecocriticism and others. This course seeks to demystify critical theory as a practical tool for interpreting literary texts. As such, this course will introduce a range of critical theories, along with suggestions for and examples of their use in interpretation and will offer the student ample opportunity to try out a variety of critical approaches. Such practice will help the student become more informed about and comfortable with the field of theory and criticism, will strengthen their critical thinking and writing abilities. Required Core Courses.

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify and explain major critical approaches in English studies within their historical and intellectual contexts.
- Students will be able to apply a range of theoretical frameworks to the analysis and interpretation of literary texts, demonstrating the ability to compare and contrast multiple approaches.
- Students will be able to develop critical thinking and writing skills by composing analytical essays that employ theory as a lens for interpretation, integrating evidence from primary texts and scholarly criticism.
- Students will be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of different critical theories in relation to specific texts, genres, and cultural contexts.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course, the class will read and discuss literature as well as secondary materials in a manner befitting a specialist in the discipline of English. You are expected to do all readings for class by the date indicated on this syllabus (see "Course Outline/Calendar" below). The readings are the foundation of our class meetings; we cannot discuss and understand the ideas and theories

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unless you have completed the required readings. On occasion there will be videos for you to watch on YouTube. You must have internet access to view them.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

- 1) Attend every class meeting.
- 2) Read every assigned reading.
- 3) Complete every assignment/exam on time.
- 4) Communicate with your professor if you are in doubt.

### **STUDENT CONTACT STATEMENT**

Announcements: General tool for course communication; I will post short messages or reminders related to due dates or changes in the assignments.

Email: Please only use the official ETAMU Leo Email to communicate with me and your classmates. I will send general emails with information related to the course, date changes, assignments modifications, etc. or with information that relates to our content. I will send individual emails as needed. I will respond to emails in 24 hs. during the work week and on the next business day on weekends and holidays.

### **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale and total points:

- A = 90%-100% (900-1000 points)
- B = 80%-89% (800-899 points)
- C = 70%-79% (700-799 points)
- D = 60%-69% (600-699 points)
- F = 59% or Below (below 599 points)

### **ASSESSMENTS**

Attendance & Participation	20%	(200 points)
Weekly Reading Response	20%	(200 points)
Class Reading Presentation	20%	(200 points)
Midterm Exam	20%	(200 points)
Final Exam	20%	(200 points)
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		100% (1000 points)

#### **Attendance & Participation 20% (200 points)**

Everyone is in this class to learn and will therefore come to class fully prepared to discuss the material in a meaningful way. For that reason, everyone now has 200 points for attendance and

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participation. You can lose up to 10 points per class if you (a) don't show, (b) leave early without permission, (c) do not participate, or (d) treat a fellow class member or the instructor in an unprofessional and disrespectful manner. (Also see ETAMUC Attendance policy below).

### **Weekly Reading Response 20% (200 points)**

Students will write a 150–200-word weekly reading response about the assigned reading for each week. Students can choose to write about multiple authors or choose a specific text. The response should include at least one discussion question about the text(s). Due by Sunday midnight (Sunday leading into Monday). Points will be deducted if the post is too short or does not write about the assigned text. Complete/Incomplete assignment. No feedback will be given for this assignment unless necessary.

### **Course Reading Presentation 20% (200 points)**

Students will present one theory or primary text they like to study further in solo or a group (2 people) for 15 minutes, followed by a Q&A discussion. The presenter(s) will read the assigned text thoroughly and choose 2-3 important passages from the assigned primary text with one or two discussion questions after briefly explaining the social and cultural context as well as the author's biography.

### **Midterm Exam 20% (200 points)**

Students will take a midterm take-home exam including explanations of theoretical terms, historical contexts, and application of theory on literary texts we studied in class.

### **Final Exam 20% (200 points)**

Students will take a midterm take-home exam including explanations of theoretical terms, historical contexts, and application of theory on literary texts we studied in class.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Academic Honesty Policy**

East Texas A&M University and the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments (using AI without critical caution), collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (East Texas A&M University-Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result

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in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and may result in failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is important for your success in this class. Therefore, each unexcused absence after two will result in the lowering of your final grade by a third of a grade. Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not alter your grade. Also, use of a cell phone during class without permission will result in an unexcused absence (that means texting). Three unexcused absences will automatically result in failure for the course.

### **Assignment Policy**

Student work must be completed and submitted when it is due. Students who know in advance they will miss class when an assignment is due must contact the instructor as soon as possible in advance of class to arrange for submission of the assignment. Deadline extensions and other allowances can often be provided before they are required.

### **Administrative Withdrawal**

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **Students Sources**

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce**

Halladay Building, Room 203

Phone (903) 886-5145.

[www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

# COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

\* Thursday 5:00-7:00

In-Person: Classroom DTH 201

Online: <https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059

\* Wednesday: 200-word Reading Response Due

Black: Reading and in-class activities

Blue: Student Work

Weekly Topics, Reading, and Assignments	
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction: Reading Theory</b>
Reading	Required Reading: Tyson, "Everything you wanted to know about critical theory but . . ." in <i>Critical Theory Today</i> [CTT] (pp. 1-8)
Class (8/28)	Introduction to Course <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/93519422623">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/93519422623</a> Meeting ID: 935 1942 2623
Homework	<a href="#">Complete Welcome Survey and Sign-Up for Presentation</a>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Primary Text: The Great Gatsby</b>
	Required Reading: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Assignment (9/2)	<a href="#">Reading Response 1 Due</a>
Class (9/4)	Lecture & Discussion <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059  Presentation 1: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> , Part 1 Presentation 2: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> , Part 2
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Psychoanalytic Criticism</b>
Reading	Required Reading: "Psychoanalytic Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 9-42) Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892), Tiliie Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing" (1956)  Recommended Reading (optional): Sigmund Freud, "The Dream Work" in <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> (1900)

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Assignment (9/9)	<a href="#">Reading Response 2 Due</a>
Class (9/11)	<p>Presentation and Discussion  <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059</p> <p>Presentation 1: “Psychoanalytic Criticism” in <i>CTT</i>  Presentation 2: Gilman &amp; Olsen</p>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Marxist Criticism</b>
	<p>Reading: “Marxist Criticism” in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 43-69)  Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (1853), Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson” (1972)</p> <p>Recommended Reading (optional): Terry Eagleton, “The Author as Producer” in <i>Marxism and Literary Criticism</i></p>
Assignment (9/16)	<a href="#">Reading Response 3 Due</a>
Class (9/18)	<p>Presentation and Discussion  <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059</p> <p>Presentation 1: “Marxist Criticism” in <i>CTT</i>  Presentation 2: Melville &amp; Bambara</p>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Feminist Criticism</b>
	<p>Reading: “Feminist Criticism” in <i>CTT</i> (pp.70-120)  Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour,” “The Storm” and Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl”  Nellie Wong’s “When I Was Growing Up” (1973), “Typing the Menu” (2004)</p>
Assignment (9/23)	<a href="#">Reading Response 4 Due</a>
Class (9/25)	<p>Presentation and Discussion  <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059</p> <p>Presentation 1: “Feminist Criticism” in <i>CTT</i>  Presentation 2: Chopin, Kincaid, &amp; Wong</p>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>New Criticism</b>
	<p>Reading: “New Criticism” in <i>CCT</i> (pp. 121-148)  John Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”  Cleanth Brooks, “The Well Wrought Urn: Studies in the Structure of Poetry” (1947)</p>

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Assignment (9/30)	<a href="#">Reading Response 5</a>
Class (10/2)	<p>Presentation and Discussion  <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059</p> <p>Presentation 1: "New Criticism" in <i>CCT</i>  Presentation 2: Keats &amp; Brooks</p>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Structuralist Criticism &amp; Midterm Exam Review</b>
	<p>Reading: "Structuralist Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp.182-213)  <b>TBA</b></p>
Assignment (10/7)	<a href="#">Reading Response 6</a>
Class (10/9)	<p>Presentation and Discussion  <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059</p> <p>Presentation 1: "Structuralist Criticism" in <i>CTT</i>  Presentation 2: TBA</p>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Class (10/9)	No Class (Take-Home Exam)
Assignment (10/9)	<a href="#">Take-Home Exam Due</a>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Deconstructive Criticism &amp; New Historical and Cultural Criticism</b>
	<p>Reading: "Deconstructive Criticism" &amp; "New Historical and Cultural Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 214-272)  Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"</p>
Assignment (10/14)	<a href="#">Reading Response 7</a>
Class (10/16)	<p>Presentation and Discussion  <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059</p> <p>Presentation 1: "Deconstructive Criticism" in <i>CTT</i>  Presentation 2: "New Historical and Cultural Criticism" in <i>CTT</i></p>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism</b>

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	Reading: "Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 273-312) Audre Lorde, TBA
Assignment (10/21)	<a href="#">Reading Response 8</a>
Class (10/23)	Presentation and Discussion <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059  Presentation 1: "Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> Presentation 2: Lorde
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Critical Race Theory</b>
	Reading: "African American Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 312-362) Lorraine Hansberry, "A Raisin in the Sun"
Assignment (10/28)	<a href="#">Reading Response 9</a>
Class (10/30)	Presentation and Discussion <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059  Presentation 1: "African American Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 312-362) Presentation 2: Hansberry
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>
Class (11/6)	No Class (Instructor will participate in an international conference.)
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Postcolonialism</b>
	Reading: "Postcolonial Criticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 363-409) TBA
Assignment (11/11)	<a href="#">Reading Response 10</a>
Class (11/13)	Presentation and Discussion <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059  Presentation 1: "Postcolonial Criticism" in <i>CTT</i>

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	Presentation 2: TBA
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Ecocriticism &amp; Conclusion</b>
	Reading: "Ecocriticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 410-462) TBA
Assignment (11/18)	<a href="#">Reading Response 11 (Bonus)</a>
Class (11/20)	Presentation and Discussion <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99562770059</a> Meeting ID: 995 6277 0059 Teaching Feedback  Presentation 1: "Ecocriticism" in <i>CTT</i> (pp. 410-462) Presentation 2: TBA
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
11/27	No Class (School Close)
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>
12/4	<a href="#">Take-Home Final Exam Due</a>
12/11	Final grade will be posted at D2L, with email notification. Students will have 24 hours to submit any inquiries or complaints before the official grade is due.
12/15	Final grade will be submitted to the ETAMU system, and no change can be made at this stage.

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