

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

ENGL 446

Name of Course:

Critical Theory

Catalog Description:

A study of selected principles underlying literary criticism and analysis, with focus on both historical and contemporary theorists. Repeatable with different topics.

Credit Hours:

4

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Prerequisites:

WR 121, one 100-level ENGL course, and junior standing or consent of instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- To familiarize students with the major statements of the foremost literary critics and the changing views and values expressed therein during the various periods of literary history, from classical Greek times to the present.
- To give students an understanding of changes in literary theory and methodology introduced by new schools of thought during this century.

Course Requirements:

Major assignments, attendance expectations

Grading Policies:

Explain how each course requirement will be graded (append rubrics), what percentage on any one assignment equals what grade for that assignment, percentage of overall course grade derived from each requirement, policies on accepting late work, opportunities to resubmit, etc.

Means of Assessment:

Each student's performance in this course is evaluated through various oral and written examinations including a final examination, through brief papers to be submitted at periodic intervals, through a research paper where appropriate, and through the quality of his/her participation in classroom discussions.

Brief Outline of Course:

- An examination of the earliest statements concerning literary art by critics of ancient Greece and Rome (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Longinus, Horace) which comprise the foundation of much literary criticism to this day.
- A chronological survey of representative critical statements by major spokesmen of the literary periods from the 16th century to the present.
- For example:
 - The Renaissance: Sir Philip Sidney
 - Neoclassicism: Dryden, Pope, Samuel Johnson
 - Romanticism: Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley
 - The Victorian Period: Arnold, Sainte-Beuve
 - The Present: Henry James, T. S. Eliot, I. A. Richards, John Crowe Ransom and others, including representative exponents of late 20th-century criticism.

General Education Category and Outcomes:

NA

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

NA

Writing Center Statement:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Classroom Decorum:

NA

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:**Date:**

Edited 03/09/2026