

Murray State University

Revised 7/28/15

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH & PHILOSOPHY

COURSE PREFIX: ENG

COURSE NUMBER 321

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. **TITLE:** Research in Literary Studies

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):** An introduction to research tools and methods in literary studies.

Prerequisite(s): ENG 105 or the equivalent and ENG 221, or permission of the instructor.

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with instruction in methods of research that will enable them to write undergraduate research papers in upper-level English courses.

Upon completion of ENG 321, you should be able to

- A. use library resources and bibliographies to conduct academic research;
- B. locate peer-reviewed secondary sources relevant to topics in English;
- C. demonstrate an understanding of those secondary sources in annotated bibliographies or surveys of scholarship;
- D. demonstrate a sufficient understanding of major literary theories to read scholarly articles and interpret works of literature;
- E. write a researched essay making appropriate use of secondary sources; and
- F. use documentation correctly in a researched essay.

IV. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

This course will introduce students to methods of literary research and major literary theories, and then invite students to apply those methods of research and their knowledge of literary theoretical approaches in an MLA-documented research essay. Students will acquire and hone basic tools for reading and writing critically, including generating research questions and topics, increasing fluency with literary theories, and applying those theoretical approaches to our study text, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. We will build on those skills by working with secondary sources, including search techniques and tools, evaluation and interpretation of sources, integration of sources, and MLA documentation. Students will combine these skills in the creation of an MLA-documented research essay, with the component steps of a prospectus, annotated bibliography, peer-reviewed draft, and substantial guided revision.

V. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Class activities include collaborative discussion of readings of primary texts, secondary material, and background material on research methods and writing, as well as

substantial writing and small group activities to explore the content and significance of course material. Some lectures will be provided, but the majority of the course will be devoted to discussion, tutorials, workshop activities, and engagement in research and writing projects, including preparing bibliographies, writing thoroughly researched critical essays and evaluations of primary and secondary material, visits to libraries and archives, and applying literary theory to primary texts. Students will need to prepare for classes by reading and rereading the texts carefully, critically, and in a timely fashion.

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

Field research, library research, and/or other types of research will be required.

VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter and Other Writings*. Leland S. Person, ed. Norton Critical Edition. NY: Norton, 2005. 978-0-393-97953-4.
Murfin, Ross, & Ray, eds. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. 3E. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009. 0-312-46188-7.
MLA. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7E. NY: MLA, 2009. 978-1-60329-024-1
Gardner, Janet. *Writing about Literature: A Portable Guide*. 2E. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009. 0-312-60757-1.

In addition to class discussion and workshop activities, we will use books, academic journals, handouts, the library, web-based resources, including the Waterfield Library databases, and other resources, depending on the selected research inquiries.

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

Written work will be evaluated for the extent to which it achieves assigned objectives and exhibits logical and coherent organization, effective development, engaging language, and appropriate English grammar, usage, punctuation, and mechanics. Details of each assignment will be discussed in class. Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (plus via TurnItIn for final paper). Emailed assignments do NOT substitute for printed copies.

Assignments:

Exams

Quizzes & Participation

Proposal

Annotated Bibliography

Essay Critique

Documented Research Essay

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to

maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating – Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the IDEA Office. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to

afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889 (TDD).