

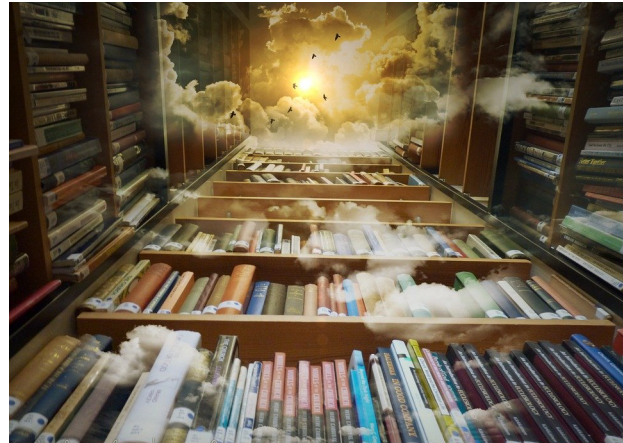
## ENGL 209: Foundations of Literary Criticism Fall 2022

**Instructor:** Corinne Bancroft

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### Course description:

“Poetry is not a luxury,” proclaims poet-philosopher Audre Lorde. “Books. Why? / Because they are wealth, sobriety, and hope,” asks and answers award-winning and genre-being author Louise Erdrich. How can we, careful readers and critical thinkers, engage, explain, and account for the many things literature can do? How does a particular poem or a single story work? What makes one interpretation better than the next? What is the relationship between form and content, text and context?



<https://pixabay.com/photos/library-sky-birds-mystical-clouds-425730/>

This course will engage these essential questions and focus on the close-reading, writing, and research skills necessary to make incisive well-founded interpretations of literary texts. Through class discussion and analysis, you will hone your critical vocabulary and interpretive skills. Regular writing assignments, workshops and responses from the instructor will help you develop your writing skills.

You will emerge from this course as a more confident literary critic, a stronger writer, and a more effective researcher. This course is recommended for English Majors and any student wishing to strengthen their literary critical, analytical, and writing skills.

### Proposed Assignments:

Participation: 10%

Writing Workshops: 10%

Short essays/close readings (2-3 pp): 50%

Mid-term essay: 15%

Final essay: 15%

### Proposed Texts:

Glossaries and encyclopedias of literary terms available online through the UVic Library  
Selected poems and short stories to be distributed in class and via BrightSpace