

ENGL 209

Foundations of Literary Criticism

Instructor: Richard van Oort
Email: rvanoort@uvic.ca
Phone: (250) 853-3737

Course Description

This course is a *practical introduction* to the discipline of literary studies. Through multiple short assignments and one research paper, you will learn the art of literary criticism. The hope is that by the end of this course you will become a skilled critic, someone who can read literature with confidence and write about it fluently.



Becoming a good critic is not easy but, as with most things in life, you will improve with practice. This course will give you plenty of opportunities to practice literary analysis. In other words, be prepared to write often.

This course will be useful for anyone who wants to learn to read and write critically. It will be especially useful for English majors, as it introduces students to the basic skills of literary analysis and to the different critical approaches to literature.

Proposed Assignments

- Short Papers 30%
- Research Essay 30%
- Final Exam 30%
- Participation 10%

Proposed Texts

- Paul Headrick, *A Method for Writing about Literature*. 3rd ed., Nelson, 2017.
- M. H. Abrams and G. Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 11th ed., Cengage, 2015.
- Anne H. Stevens. *Literary Theory and Criticism: An Introduction*. Broadview, 2015.
- Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Edited by David Bevington. Broadview, 2018.