

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 151, section 001

Course Topic: Critical Studies in Literature

Credits: 3

Term: First (fall)

Instructor: S. Lawrence

Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

This course is designed to provide an introduction to literary criticism and analysis, and may appeal particularly to students who are considering majoring in English. We'll be reading Shakespeare's *Macbeth* backwards and forwards, looking at its sources and its appropriations. This latter includes productions (on film). We'll also be reading a number of articles on the play, by way of exploring current critical schools and debates.

At the same time, I'd like you to give you a sense not only of writing at the university level, but also of the study skills and the mechanics of planning and note-taking.

Tentative Reading List:

Macbeth (the play by Shakespeare)

Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland (selections; a history by Raphael Holinshed)

Demonologie (a demon-hunter's guide by King James VI of Scotland)

Macbeth (the movie directed by Rupert Goold)

Men of Respect (the mob film by William C. Reilly)

Throne of Blood (*Kumonosu-jō*, the samurai epic by Akira Kurosawa)

An Experiment in Criticism (selections; an essay by C. S. Lewis)

"How many children had Lady Macbeth?" (an essay by L. C. Knights)

"Shakespeare Bewitched" (an essay by Stephen Greenblatt)

"Examsmanship and the Liberal Arts" (an essay by William G. Perry, Jr.)

"Disintegrated: Did Thomas Middleton really adapt *Macbeth*?" (an essay by Brian Vickers)

Other:

I'll try to arrange viewing nights online for the movies, but attendance will not be mandatory. A willingness to discuss them, however, will be.

You will also have to obtain copies of *The Elements of Style* by William F. Strunk and E. B. White and *They Say / I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. I'll see that the bookstore orders them.

This course will be taught in-person; it cannot be taken at a distance. We will, nevertheless, be using Canvas, probably intensely.