

COURSE SYLLABUS – Summer 2015

Close Reading and Literary Criticism

文本细读与文学批评

(授课时间: 周一、三上午)

Jonathan Hart

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will use brief texts in poetry and prose to develop a better understanding of reading English literary texts and therefore lead to a better understanding of close reading, that is of methodology and textual analysis. The purpose of the course is to encourage better reading and critical thinking. The understanding of reading will improve critical and analytical skills as a reader and a writer. The class will read short poems, brief prose texts, novels and drama together in class and analyze the relation between form and content. How does the author put the texts together and how do we read it? By concentrating on poetics, grammar and rhetoric (metaphor, simile, images, diction or word choice, syntax or word order etc.), the course will discuss the meaning of these texts. Much of our work will be as a workshop where we figure out the critical thinking and close reading together.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

- Be familiar with close reading, critical thinking, methodology of reading and writing;
- Develop, through reading very brief texts, experience with the complexity of reading and writing;
- Build an understanding of theory and practice of writing, reading and literature
- Become familiar with important literary texts and how they work in poetry and prose
- And see how the reading of poetry and prose are closely related and help to develop confidence in writing and reading
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TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Recommended books:

- Howe, Elizabeth A. *Close Reading: An Introduction to Literature*. London: Longman, 2010. Primary Sources
- Lentricchia, Frank and Andrew DuBois ed., *Close Reading: The Reader*. Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2003. Secondary Sources.

The readings will be from the corresponding primary texts in the sections on prose, novel, drama and poetry in Howe, Elizabeth A. *Close Reading: An Introduction to Literature*. London: Longman, 2010. A more detailed list will be attached or posted once we work out the further logistics.

METHODOLOGY AND POLICIES

The class will involve the discussion of brief texts (prose, poetry, novel, drama), and students are expected to spend time outside of class to prepare for class discussions. Class participation is an important part of the course, and counts toward your final evaluation.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

In-class essays or the equivalent (90%) as well as student participation (10%)

Jonathan Hart, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is a literary scholar, historian and poet who has held appointments and visiting appointments at Trent, Harvard, Cambridge, Princeton, Sorbonne-Nouvelle (Paris III), Toronto, Western and elsewhere. He has given classes, talks and readings in China and elsewhere in Asia for over two decades. He is the author of more than 15 academic books and 5 books of poetry, most recently, *The Poetics of Otherness: War, Trauma, and Literature* (2015).