

**Instructor:** D. White

**Course number:** ENG280H

**Course title:** Critical Approaches to Literature

**Course Description:**

This course will examine the historical development of literary criticism and theory. Beginning with antiquity and ending with the present day, we will familiarize ourselves with the concepts and stakes of the critical tradition in order to consider the nature of our discipline, the study of literature. You will learn about and apply theories influenced by Romanticism, New Criticism, Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Structuralism, Poststructuralism, Feminism, and Postcolonialism. This will be a challenging and exciting course: each week we will read and write about one or more short but difficult texts as we dedicate our individual and collective energies to understanding what these texts mean and why they demand our attention as students of literature.

**Required Reading:**

Anthology supplemented by handouts.

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:**

Plato, Aristotle, Locke.

**Method of Instruction:**

Lecture / discussion.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Two in-class tests (25% each), weekly short essays (2 pp.) submitted as portfolio (35%), class participation (15%).