This course introduces the advanced study of “English Language and Literature” through four traditions of intellectual inquiry, each of which has helped to produce our discipline as it currently exists: namely, **philology, criticism, aesthetics, and genealogy**. The course’s texts will engage those traditions in several ways; we’ll read, variously, historical and theoretical accounts of them, foundational examples, and recent scholarship that draws on their notions and methods. The archive instantiated by the syllabus is not comprehensive: it illustrates neither the range of present-day scholarly conversations nor the numerous schools of twentieth-century literary theory. Instead, it takes its cue from the disciplinary history of literary studies, especially the study of literature in English.

Most of what we’ll be doing for the class is **reading and talking**, with the aim of understanding the assigned texts as fully as possible, both on our own and collectively. So, please come to class punctually, ready to discuss. In conversation, we’ll strive to comprehend and summarize the arguments of individual readings, identify and define important terms, distill significant ideas, parse dense passages, and draw connections among texts.

You are responsible for facilitating class discussion twice during the quarter, together with a partner. Facilitation means that you and your partner ‘conduct’ class, an exercise that is at once pedagogical, intellectual, and social. Facilitation may or may not involve a presentation, a handout, or a pre-circulated set of questions for the class. You may focus collective attention on selected passages in one or two texts – or range more widely. The only requirement is that you nudge us into conversation, ideally with the aims of the course in mind (“comprehend and summarize the arguments of individual readings, identify and define important terms, distill significant ideas, parse dense passages, and draw connections among texts”). You and your partner are welcome to divide the task as you see fit, and you don’t have to address every assigned text. You’ll lead discussion until the break (say, about an hour and forty-five minutes into class, or 10:45 a.m.). I’ll facilitate the final part of class.

Collectively you will also produce an annotated bibliography. Each week you will find the bibliographic information for the week’s readings in a ‘googledoc’ online. The annotations will be divided among the members of the class who are not facilitating discussion, and those class members will post their annotations online prior to class. An annotation should first summarize the argument (or the most important parts of the argument) of the text under consideration. You may also include discussion of the evidence marshalled, how it relates to other texts, and your own evaluation of the text’s significance. Depending on the length and complexity of the reading under consideration, annotations will generally be between three and seven sentences. At the end of the quarter, I ask you to go through the perhaps otiose step of turning in your own copy of the collectively authored bibliography. My hope is that this will serve as a mnemonic and resource in future years, when you refer again to seminal texts and arguments in the discipline.
**Texts**

Available at the Seminary Co-op


These are also on reserve at Regenstein if you do not wish to purchase them. The remainder of the readings will be available online, either on the course website or in periodicals that can be accessed electronically through the library catalogue.

**Responsibilities**

Punctual attendance and active participation

Twice facilitating class discussion, together with a partner

Weekly annotated bibliography entries, culminating in a completed bibliography for all the readings in the course

**Schedule**

(An asterisk indicates readings electronically accessible through the library catalogue; all others are on the course website or appear within the required printed books.)

WEEK 1 (Sept 29)  INTRODUCTION


WEEK 2 (Oct 6)  PHILOLOGY I


WEEK 3 (Oct 13)  PHILOLOGY II


WEEK 4 (Oct 20) CRITICISM I


WEEK 5 (Oct 27) CRITICISM II


WEEK 6 AESTHETICS I

Raymond Williams, “Aesthetic,” in Keywords, 31-33.

WEEK 7 AESTHETICS II


WEEK 8 GENEALOGY I

WEEK 9 GENEALOGY II

WEEK 10 GENEALOGY III

Evening of Wed, December 2nd Party! (w/ UIC Ph.D. students; more details to follow)