

TERM: Fall 2026

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 6600: Critical Methodology

COURSE TITLE: Critical Methodology

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: W 4:30-7:00 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Paul Harris

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

"Critical Methodologies" is a foundational course designed for Master's level students to cultivate advanced research skills and critical thinking essential for scholarly work in the humanities. This course highlights the complexities of conducting research within the broader intellectual landscape of literary studies, including literary periods, ideological and theoretical trends, and interdisciplinarity. Students will investigate various methodologies, engage in close reading practices, and understand the theoretical frameworks that form the basis of critical analysis.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Advanced Research Techniques: Students will learn how to formulate research questions and effectively utilize different library databases, internet resources, and AI tools.

Understanding Research Politics: The course will equip students with the skills to navigate and contribute ethically and responsibly to academic discourse.

Close Reading Methodologies: Students will develop close reading competencies in literary texts and secondary sources, gaining a nuanced understanding of textual analysis.

Theoretical Frameworks: Develop an overview of the history of literary theory, its movements, and its connections to various reading methods.

Interdisciplinary Approaches: Students will learn to envision their research within a larger intellectual landscape, understanding the importance of interdisciplinarity and the connections between different academic fields.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Graduate Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- Critical Methodology
- Contemporary Critical Theory
- Major Writer / Genre / Literary Period
- Literature Elective
- Theory Elective
- Creative Writing Seminar
- Rhetoric / Composition Theory and Practice
- Linguistics OR Reading Theory