**English 555: Reading Criticism – Directed Study for Meredith Brown**

**Fall 2023**

**Dr. Mackas**

**Course Time: Twice a month, 10-11 am on Mondays, via Big Blue Button on Canvas**

**Office Location: Lawson 124-E**

**Email: maria.mackas@reinhardt.edu**

**Office Hours: TT 12:30-1:45 and by appointment**

**Course Description:**

This class prepares students for the Critical Thesis by teaching them how to conduct literary research and how to write a scholarly essay on literature. Students will master research and writing skills associated with writing about literature, including research methods and resources, the conventions of scholarly writing, and proper quotation and citation style. All activities will focus on recognizing craft elements in literature, using appropriate research methods to find useful secondary sources about craft elements, and writing about a literary work while incorporating and appropriately citing secondary sources.  Students will analyze elements such as image, structure, syntax, diction, voice, tone, style, figurative language, point of view, characterization and plot and will find and use secondary sources that aid in their analysis.

Students will also receive instruction in how to use the Reinhardt Hill-Freeman library’s online and print resources to conduct literary research.  Students will write a rough outline for their Critical Thesis and find and summarize five scholarly articles on their thesis topic in preparation for the Critical Thesis.  They will also read a craft book related to their area of study and write a response, and write a comprehensive overview of scholarly articles and criticism on their chosen text(s).

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate mastery of structure and form in their chosen genre.

Means of Assessment: article summaries, book response paper, research paper

1. Demonstrate mastery of style, including diction, syntax and tone.

Means of Assessment:  article summaries, book response paper, research paper

1. Demonstrate mastery of image in concrete description and figurative language.

Means of Assessment: article summaries, book response paper, research paper

1. Demonstrate mastery of character, point of view and voice.

Means of Assessment: article summaries, book response paper, research paper

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze craft elements in literary works within their chosen genre.

Means of Assessment: article summaries, book response paper, research paper, outline

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct and document scholarly research

Means of Assessment: article summaries, outline

Assignments and Grading

Read *The Art of Memoir* by Mary Carr. Write a 3-5 page response to the book, noting the points that resonated with you about writing a memoir, and that will be useful to you going forward – 10% - Aug 30

Critical thesis proposal with thesis statement and rough outline – 30% - Sept 8

Find and analyze 5 scholarly articles/critical essays that will be useful when writing your thesis (2-3 pages each) – 30% (Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Nov. 3)

8 to 10-page scholarly overview of the text(s) you’ll be focusing on in your thesis, to include a review of critical scholarship, and placing the text(s) within the context of other work in the field – 30% (Nov. 21)

Class Meetings:

Aug 23 – 11 am

Sept 5 – 10 am

Sept 11 – 10 am

Oct 9 – 10 am

Oct 23 – 10 am

Oct 30 – 10 am

Nov 13 – 10 am

Nov 27 – 10 am