

ENGL 103A Case Studies in Research

3 credits, 3 hours lecture

This variable content course introduces methods of literary research as an in-depth process through one or more case studies.

Prerequisite: English 30 or 30-1 or equivalent

NOTE: Not to be taken by students with 6 credits in approved junior English

Instructor

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Office Hours

Mondays 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Fridays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hours of Instruction

Tuesday 2:00 –3:20 pm
Thursday 2:00 –3:20 pm

Required Resources

Film Studies and Criticism, 8th ed Brady and Cohen, ISBN 978-0199376896
MLA Handbook ISBN 978-1603292627

Additional resources will be available on the course's Moodle site

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Deploy effective research methodologies
- Use research to critically engage texts and ascertain meaning

- . Integrate research effectively into a variety of scholarly activities

Evaluation

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Viewing Notes | 10% |
| Writing Conference | 10% |
| Research Journal | 10% |
| Research Proposal | 15% |
| Research Project | 45% |
| FCF/Participation | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Viewing Notes

Students will watch the assigned film or videos and complete the assignment sheet. The intention of this assignment is to help students understand and develop the skills necessary when conducting primary source research, to teach students how to take research notes, and to gauge the student's mastery of the provided texts. The assignment sheet should be completed in full, and students are expected to follow the provided directions.

Research Journal

In the research journal, students will keep their notes on the course materials read each week as well as ongoing research on the case studies. They are also expected to use the journal to develop ideas and do the prewriting/research for their research projects. Participation in the Keyano College University Studies Conference will provide a 2-point bonus to the overall Research Journal grade.

Proposal

At the beginning of any research project it is necessary to establish the questions that one wishes to pursue and the critical space in which you will explore those questions. This is done, typically, by defining a set of questions or a question and looking at key texts in the area or discipline to start refining those questions, moving towards conclusions and an essay/project. Over time, the collection of key texts will work to form an archive of knowledge that informs your research and process. This assignment is intended to help students understand the material of study better, but also how to develop expertise as researchers—how to learn the general contours or foundations of an area of study, as well as the specific scholarly discourses surrounding the text or issue being examined. It is also intended as the launch point for the research project they will engage in throughout the semester and should establish both the central questions of that project and begin the work of research on those questions. For further information consult the assignment sheet on moodle.

Writing Conference

Students will meet with the instructor for a ten (10) minute meeting to discuss progress towards the final research project. They are expected to come prepared and conduct themselves professionally. The sign-up sheet for appointments will be posted outside of Dr. Cox's office the week before the conferences. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule an appointment and attend. For further information consult the assignment sheet on moodle.

Research Project

Choose either option 1 or 2

Option 1

You will be expected to write a detailed, well researched, thesis driven essay on a text or texts from the course. This essay should demonstrate your mastery of the text(s), your ability to effectively integrate your research into your writing, a familiarity with the current critical discourses surrounding your topic, and your ability to write at the university level. Final Essay 10 pgs.

Option 2

You will be expected to execute on a project that blends the theory and critical study of professional wrestling with creative practice. This project should demonstrate not only your ability to move from theory to praxis, but also an understanding of the critical discourses surrounding your topic, your ability to plan and research your project, and your ability to execute the project. You will also be expected to write a four (4) page author's note in which you discuss the critical value of the project (what does it demonstrate? what does it tell us about professional wrestling and its position in/relationship to culture? what can we learn from the activity? etc). The author's note should make reference to your research.

Film Club Forum and Participation

Students will choose one of the films from the course master list that is not being featured in a case study **AND** has not already appeared in the forum to write a brief personal response about. This response is to reflect the student's personal experience of the film while meaningfully connecting that experience with the critical discourse and themes of the course. This response should be at least 300 words in length, should conform to MLA guidelines and the Standards for Written Assignments, and may use personal pronouns as it is a personal piece. The response should be posted in the Film Club Forum with the subject for that thread being the title of the film. Students are expected to participate actively in any discussion that their post generates. Additionally, students are expected to meaningfully participate in at least three discussion threads other than their own over the course of the semester. Meaningful participation means critically engaged, thoughtful, informed, and respectful responses. It does not mean one word responses or responses that demonstrate the student has not read the original post and has nothing significant to add to the conversation. Behaviour that the instructor determines to be abusive will result in a failing grade.

This assignment will also factor in your participation in the classroom. **ATTENDANCE IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO PARTICIPATION.** Meaningful participation in the classroom should follow a similar model to that described for the Film Club Forum. Students are expected to come to class prepared for classrooms discussions, actively and vigorously engage in those discussions, and generally contribute to the course's critical conversation.

Late Policy

Late work will only be accepted until 3pm on the second day following the due date and it will be penalized at a rate of 10%/Day. If work is not submitted by 3pm on the second day following the due date, it will not be accepted and the student will receive a 0(zero) on the assignment. It should also be noted that late material will receive no feedback from the instructor. It is your responsibility to meet the due dates for the assigned material.

Standards for Written Assignments

Learning how to follow house style sheets is one of the most important skills a writer can develop. To aid you in your quest to learn these skills I have provided a document entitled “Standards for Written Assignments” on Moodle. If your paper does not conform to these standards, expect to lose marks.

All work must be TYPED, double spaced, and have proper MLA documentation (unless instructed otherwise). Do NOT submit work to me by e-mail. All students should submit two versions of their assignments: a hard copy submitted at the beginning of the class the day the assignment is due and a digital copy submitted through the appropriate dropbox on moodle by the beginning of that class. If one of these copies is missing the assignment will not receive a grade. Please also understand that digital submission of the work will be treated as acknowledgement that the work is free from plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct and that the work being submitted is in full compliance with Keyano College Policy 110.1: Student Code of Conduct Procedure (Academic Misconduct: cheating and plagiarism).

Sensitivity, Respect, and Subject Matter

Some of the material we will be covering this semester is of a charged nature—whether in terms of form, content or politics. As critics, we cannot shy away from this material; however, we must understand that this material may generate a wide variety of reactions and opinions among our colleagues in the classroom. Thus, it is imperative that we remain aware of, and sympathetic to the reactions and opinions of our classmates. Respect and sensitivity will produce a stronger learning environment and generate better, more nuanced discussions.

Pronoun Usage

Every student deserves the basic respect of being referred to by the appropriate pronouns. To that end, if there are particular pronouns that you wish to use please feel free to let me know either in person or via email. If I misgender you, please feel free to correct me and I will work to avoid doing so in the future. The pronouns that I use are he/his.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Keyano College is located on Treaty 8 lands This area has been and continues to be home to the Cree, Dene, and Metis peoples. As a scholarly community we recognize that we are treaty people and work to live up to the responsibilities that come with that.

Grading System

| Descriptor | Alpha Grade | 4.0 Scale | Percent | Rubric for Letter Grades |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Excellent | A+ | 4.0 | > 92.9 | Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format. |
| | A | 4.0 | 85 – 92.9 | |
| | A- | 3.7 | 80 – 84.9 | |
| Good | B+ | 3.3 | 77 – 79.9 | Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format. |
| | B | 3.0 | 74 – 76.9 | |
| | B- | 2.7 | 70 – 73.9 | |
| Satisfactory Progression | C+ | 2.3 | 67 – 69.9 | Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting. |
| | C | 2.0 | 64 – 66.9 | |
| | C- | 1.7 | 60 – 63.9 | |
| Poor Minimum Pass | D+ | 1.3 | 55 – 59.9 | Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format. |
| | D | 1.0 | 50 – 54.9 | |
| Failure | F | 0.0 | < 50 | Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete. |

Proposed Schedule of Topics

| Date | Topic | Reading | Assignments | Notes |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jan 6-10 | Introduction: Asking the question | | | |
| Jan 13-17 | Case Study 1: <i>High Noon</i> and the Critical Languages of Film and Nation | See Case Study 1 on Moodle | | |
| Jan 20-24 | Case Study 1 Cont'd | | | |
| Jan 27-31 | Case Study 2: <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> and American Mythopoesis | See Case Study 2 on Moodle | Viewing Notes Due: Jan 28 | |
| Feb 3-7 | Signal to Noise: Building your Archive | MLA Handbook, Chapters 1.1-1.7 | | |
| Feb 10-14 | Case Study 3: <i>Sgt York</i> , <i>Full Metal Jacket</i> , Balakrishnan's "The National Imagination," and War's function in defining Nation | See Case Study 3 on Moodle | Proposal Due: Feb 13 | |
| Feb 17-21 | Reading Week | | | Family Day/Reading Week: No Class |
| Feb 24-28 | Case Study 4: Blaxtploitation, | See Case Study 4 on Moodle | | |

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|--------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| | Stagger Lee, and Resistance in Black Cinema | | | |
| Mar 2-6 | Case Study 4 Cont'd | | Research Journal due: Mar 5 | |
| Mar 9-13 | From Work to Text: Moving from Research to Writing | MLA Handbook, Chapters 1.8-9, Gocsik et al Chapters 6-9 | Viewing Notes Due: Mar 10 | |
| Mar 16-20 | Preliminary Reports | | Sign up for an appointment | There is no class this week, class time will be used for writing conferences please sign up for an appointment |
| Mar 23-27 | Case Study 5: <i>Vanishing Point</i> , <i>Death Race 2000</i> , and the Road as liberatory unspace | See Case Study 5 on Moodle | | Last Day to Withdraw, March 27 |
| Mar 30-Apr 3 | Case Study 5: Cont'd | | Research Journals Due: Apr 2 | |
| Apr 6-9 | Riding off into the Sunset | | Research Papers Due April 9 | Last Day of Classes: April 9 |
| Apr 16-20 | | | | |

Please Note: Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Text Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.