Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Robert Griffin
Course: ENGL 308
Title: History of Literary Criticism

Description: This course offers a survey, from the Greeks to the present, of thinking about what we now refer to as “literature.” Broadly, up through the mid-20th Century, a double focus can be charted: certain writers emphasize the formal properties of art (beauty,) while others debate the value and function of literature in society (utility). More recent critics call into question the definition of literature itself and expand “criticism” to include informed reflection on many kinds of cultural production.

Proposed Readings: Readings include Aristotle, Horace, Longinus, Sidney, Dryden, Wordsworth, Bartha, Derrida, Foucault, Cixous, among others.