**Course Description, General Policies, and Grading:**

This course is dedicated to introducing the basic methods and practices of literary study, with the main goal of improving your skills as readers and writers. (It is also hoped that with greater knowledge and consciousness will come greater enjoyment.) We will pursue this goal through the study of a relatively small number of texts: the idea is to move beyond content issues ("what happens in this book?") and toward analytical ones. We’ll focus on the following:

* strategies for critical reading, writing, and argumentation
* literary forms, critical terminology, and, to some extent, critical schools
* methods of literary research and documentation of sources