NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

Course Name: Critical Reviewing  
Course Number: WR 449; Sec 400;  
Credits: 4  
Instructor name: Sara Jameson  
Instructor email: jamesosa@onid.orst.edu

Course Description
Writing critical reviews of books, television programs, movies, plays, art exhibits, etc. for newspapers and magazines in print and online. The role of arts criticism in popular culture. PREREQS: Upper-division standing.

This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

Course Overview
This class offers an opportunity for students to gain experience writing, reading, and analyzing reviews and critical essays of various genres including Performing arts (film, television, music), Visual Arts (2 and 3D and architecture), and Literary arts (books, etc.) in various print and online journals, which is a great way to start as a freelance writer. In today’s online journalism market, taking this class online makes great sense.

In addition, we will review and critique reviews published in a variety of sources (with special attention to The New York Times) and study the history of reviewing as a cultural and institutional phenomenon, with the question of the roles of professional, amateur and citizen reviewers. We will also look at the relationship between the rhetorical situation of a publication (its general attitudes) and the form and content of reviews that appear in its pages.

Finally, in this class we will also consider what might be characterized as the economics, politics, and ethics of critical reviewing. A negative review by a well-known critic can sink a Broadway play or cause a film to go immediately into video stores rather than showing in theaters, so reviews can play key economic, cultural, and political roles in our information age.

Given these and other potentially serious consequences, how can reviewers enact ethical practices? How should a reviewer writing for a local newspaper establish standards for high school productions, for instance, or semi-professional musical events? You will attend events on your own for the DIY Do It Yourself Field Trips and then write about them.

The course challenges you to develop and attune your own writing style(s) to specific publications, articulating educated opinions adjusted for specific print and online audiences. You will write a short review and a long critical essay, and create three Case Studies (The Work of Art, The Critic at Work and The Media Project). Some readings are chosen for you, and others you will find and choose.
Content Prerequisites: This course is designed for students with upper division standing who have completed their OSU WR II requirement, have good writing skills, and can keep up a strong schedule of reading and writing.

Specific Outcomes and Objectives for WR 449
Upon successful completion of WR 449, students will demonstrate the ability to:
- Write effectively to discover and convey meaning attuned to specific audiences and purposes;
- Demonstrate appropriate conventions for stylish written English at the 400-level;
- Use a variety of writing processes effectively to generate ideas and compose, organize, and revise writing;
- Rhetorically analyze a variety of genres in order to write critically about them;
- Employ Information Literacy both for markets (Media Project) and for the background you need for your reviews - via research & evaluation; demonstrate effective and ethical integration and utilization of source material;
- Demonstrate skills in collaborative aspects of reading, writing, and revising

LEARNING RESOURCES:
Hardware: Regular access to a Computer with fast internet connection; speakers/headset to listen to audio presentations
Software: Word processing and presentation (slide) software capable of saving and posting in .doc/.docx; PPT/PPTx; .rtf; and/or PDF formats. OSU students can get Office 365.

Learning Resources
- TEXTBOOKS: Tichener, Reviewing the Arts; Null, 5 Stars
- NEWSPAPER: Online subscription to the New York Times; Access to other publications online and in print for comparison

NEW YORK TIMES: Students can access complimentary 24-hour digital passes to the New York Times by logging onto http://nytimes.com/passes. There are around 125 digital "seats" available to anyone with an edu address. This will give the subscriber access for 24 hours a day/7 days a week to everything on nytimes.com, including access to the archives, videos, blogs and opinion pages.

Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll (http://osubeaverstore.com/Academics or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

Online Course in Canvas
This course is fully online and utilizes the Canvas Learning Management System, where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help.

In addition, you will need to use the internet regularly to research and find resources in order to complete assignments during this class. Below are the minimum technology skills recommended for success in this course:
- All students must have frequent (at least twice a week, preferably more often) access to a computer with an internet connection (preferably high speed)
- All students will need to have a browser compatible with Java, and be able to read and create Word Doc, Docx, PPT, PPTx, and PDF documents. OSU students are eligible for free Office 365, a Microsoft software that will work for this class. More details are available in the OSU help desk (541) 737-3474.
- All students must have access to their ONID e-mail account and be able to login to create messages, send messages, and receive messages.
- All students must be able to read directions closely and follow step-by-step instructions.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into
the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online. Note some browsers work better than others for interfacing with the course materials.

Assignment Overview

Case Study 1 - Work of Art
The Work of Art Case Study asks you to study multiple reviews of a particular work to see how critics differ in their assessment of a particular chosen work of art and in their craft of the review. Proposal and drafts.

Case Study 2 - Critic at Work
The Critic at Work helps you learn about a particular genre of reviewing, a particular style of writing, a particular writer, and a particular publication by analyzing the work of one person. Proposal and drafts.

Case Study 3 - Media Project
This rhetorical analysis / information literacy project includes researching, analyzing, and comparing two publications (New York Times plus another from the list) as potential markets for reviews. Proposal and drafts.

SR Short Review & LCE Long Critical Essay
The major focus of the class is on the short review and long review essay, in two different genres (book, film, music, television, art, etc.) Online peer workshop and online conferences, plus feedback from me will help your drafts improve. At least one of the two must include a book or books.

Online Weekly Discussion
A significant portion of your grade for this class depends on the regularity, quality and quantity of online Weekly Discussion, which will relate to your reading and thinking, with posts and replies. The WK discussion has several purposes, including becoming familiar with each genre of art, the market for reviews and the styles, and also to share for class discussion. Due dates are on the schedule.

DIY Field Trips
As part of our 4th credit hour, you will be taking four field trips on your own to apply criticism to art in your local area. You will also post about your DIY Field Trips.

Informal Writing
You will conduct online workshop on first drafts by classmates. Other ungraded and minimally graded informal writing may take place. Through the term you will also have quizzes to help guide your learning through the reading materials.

Specific Assignment Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Study 1</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study 2</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study 3</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR Short Review</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCE Long Critical Essay</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIY Field Trips</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 1000

Evaluation of student performance:
- Exceptional A =1000-935; A- = 934-900;
- Superior B+ = 899-870; B =869-840; B- = 839=800;
- Satisfactory C+ = 799-770; C=769-740; C- = 739-700.

Submitting Assignments
Please see the schedule for specific due dates for this term. Work is due at the midnight (11:59 p.m.) on the dates specified typically but not always on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Late assignments may not be
accepted and will lose points. If you think you need an extension, contact your instructor by email before the due date. All assignments must be submitted in order to pass. Proofread. Grammar counts. Save all your document files until final grades are submitted. I recommend that you back-up electronic files often. Crashed computers/lost flash drives are no excuse. Cloud based file storage is a good option.

Professionalism
Work should be written in Standard English at the 400-level, free of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors and in a style appropriate to the publication you are targeting. In some cases we will format in magazine style, using columns, images, etc. to resemble how the work would really appear in print.

Course Policies
You need to have frequent reliable access to the Internet and software compatible with the course. Check your ONID email and course site several different times a week to keep current. Announcements will be posted frequently and sent out as emails. It is your responsibility to keep up with these.

Incompletes
An incomplete may not be available at all or only in extreme cases and usually only if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible. If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away. Extensions may be possible, but are not automatic. Write to request one if needed.

Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation
- **Online threaded discussions** are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members. If you prefer that only the instructor see your communication, send it to me by email, and be sure to identify yourself and the class. Use the “Ask Questions Here” forum for drop in questions that anyone could answer.
- Posting of personal contact information is discouraged (e.g. telephone numbers, address, personal website address).
- **Observation of “Netiquette”**: All your online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your level of professionalism. Here are a couple of references:
  - writing online: [http://goto.intwg.com/](http://goto.intwg.com/)
- Please check the Announcements area and the course syllabus before you ask general course “housekeeping” questions (i.e. how do I submit assignment 3?). If you don’t see your answer there, then please contact me

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course by email prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations, including extensions or alternative formats. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations. Conduct in this Online Classroom: Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:
- Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any
academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another. We may have some plagiarism prevention software. Watch for a notice.

b) It includes:
   
   (i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

   (ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

   (iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

   (iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

   (v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate quote marks and references, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own. All information, facts, quotes, dates, images, etc. must be correctly attributed to the creator. This class uses MLA citation.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University’s Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

Tutoring
NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors and approved by Ecampus. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your class site. Check the course menu on the left.

As an OSU student you also have access to OSU's Online Writing Lab. If you submit work, be sure to include your assignment prompt to help the writing assistant provide helpful feedback by email.

Communication
Contacting the instructor — I will respond to emails no less than every 48 hours. Virtual Office Hours or Google Hangout can be established for one or more students to conduct real-time live chat by appointment. You can use the "Ask Questions Here" forum for general questions. Be sure to subscribe to the forum so that you know when an answer is posted. If I don’t reply to a post quickly, you may follow up with an email. Please use my ONID address: jamesosa@onid.orst.edu.

OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching
Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to
“Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after final grades are posted.

If you have questions about the syllabus, please contact your instructor.
Have a great term.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.