Instructor: Gabriella Colombo Machado  
Office hours: By appointment  
Email: gabriella.colombo.machado@umontreal.ca

Course Description:  
This course introduces students to the methods and techniques of critical reading and writing about literature. While the class reviews the basic elements of fiction, it also pays considerable attention to the theoretical and social contexts in which literary texts are situated and that shape the ways in which we read and interpret them. The aims of this class are to learn how to read and write critically by addressing the historical, social, institutional and theoretical contexts of both the literary text and our habits of reading. Writing about literature involves devising a strong purpose (thesis statement) of writing and the ability to critique and revise one’s own writing. You will learn how to develop your thesis statement into a research essay; how to understand and use the ideas of diverse critical schools of thinking effectively; how to research, compile and assess critical materials and secondary sources about a given literary text; how develop your analytical tools in effective ways (including the proper use of quotation conventions, i.e., the MLA style guidelines); and how to develop your research and ideas into a logically and coherently organized essay.

Required Texts:  
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby. Any edition. (Both books are on the bookstore)

MLA handbook (online or hard copy)

Selected short stories and theoretical texts will be posted on StudiUM.

Evaluation:

- 3 Writing assignments: 30% (3x10%)
- 2 Essays: 35% (2x17.5%)
- 2 Essay Workshops: 20% (2x10%)
- Annotated bibliography: 5%
- Participation: 10%