

Carleton University
Fall 2015
Department of English

ENGL 2005A: *Theory and Criticism*

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 credit in ENGL at the 1000 level.

Tuesday and Thursday / 11:35am-12:55pm

Location:

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Jody Mason

Email: jody.mason@carleton.ca

Office: 1903 Dunton Tower

Phone: 613.520.2600 x8907

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-2:00pm

“Hostility to theory usually means an opposition to other people’s theories and an oblivion of one’s own.”

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*

I. Course Description

This is an introduction to theories and methods of literary analysis. Through the study of literature, theory, and criticism, students will explore disciplinary history, critical terms, textual analysis, and research methods. Recommended for English Majors. Please note that this introduction to theory offers a very limited encounter with primary theoretical texts; instead, it introduces the major concepts and movements in contemporary literary and cultural theory, as well as their application to literary and other cultural texts.

II. Texts

All course texts listed below can be purchased at Haven Books (43 Seneca St., K1S 4X2, 613.730.9888). You need the 2011 Bedford edition of *Heart of Darkness* because we will be using the critical essays in this edition.

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (Third Edition, Manchester UP, 2009: ISBN 978-0-7190-7927-6)

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness* (Bedford / St. Martin’s, 2011: ISBN 978-0312457532)

All other course readings are posted on Ares.

III. Course Requirements and Assignments

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Attendance is recorded in this class. **Those who fail to attend at least 50% of the classes will not be permitted to write the final exam.** You are required to attend every class, to have read the assigned material, to bring the assigned reading with you, to respond to questions, and to join class discussion.

Applying Theory Workshop: 20% + 5%

Quiz: 15%

Essay: 25%

Final Exam: 35%

1. Applying Theory Workshop: 20% for written analysis; 5% for oral participation

Throughout the course, beginning on October 1st and ending on November 19th, there will be a series of “Applying Theory” workshops. The syllabus lists each workshop, its topic, and its text. On the first day of class, each student will sign up for a workshop. On the day of your workshop, you are expected to come to class with a three-page analysis that uses the assigned theory topic to analyze the assigned text (e.g., postcolonialism and Elizabeth Bishop’s poem “Brazil, January 1, 1502”). Your analysis should be written in MLA format (e.g., double-space throughout, 12-point font, parenthetical citation, Works Cited page, etc.) and have correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. On the day your analysis is due, I will ask you to share some of your prepared thoughts with the class. This is not a formal presentation, but be ready to share one or two key elements of your analysis. I will mark the written response only if you are absent on the day assigned to you (unless you have a suitable form of documentation explaining your absence).

2. Quiz: 15%

On Thursday, Sept. 24th, there will be a thirty-minute, in-class quiz that covers lecture material up to and including Sept. 24th (i.e., “Liberal Humanism and the History of English Studies”). The quiz will consist of short answer questions.

3. Essay: 25%

This essay is due in class on Thursday, Dec. 3rd. Please see the assignment instructions posted on CU Learn for details. It must be five pages in MLA format. The essay should have a tightly focused thesis statement, use specific examples from the primary text in question (*Heart of Darkness*), and demonstrate your ability to analyze a literary text using the critical and theoretical terms and concepts studied in lecture. The essay should conform to academic conventions: i.e., it must follow MLA format (e.g., double-space throughout, 12-point font, parenthetical citation, Works Cited page, etc.) and have correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

4. Final Exam: 35%

There will be a three-hour final exam during the examination period in December that will cover **all** course material. This exam will include definitions of critical and theoretical terms, short answer questions, and a longer essay question. Regular attendance and participation, as well as careful note taking, will ensure success on the exam.

IV. Expectations

Email and Office Hours: Please use class time and office hours for questions relating to lectures, readings, and assignments. I have two office hours—please see the header on this document. You may also use email for questions requiring brief responses.

Assignments and Late Policy: Assignments must be submitted in class the day they are due. Late assignments may be handed in up to five days late with a penalty of 1% per weekday (this includes the day they are due if they are submitted after class) and a grace period over the weekend; the maximum penalty is 5%. Essays will not be accepted after this period unless proper medical or other documentation is provided. You must hand in a printed copy of your work. Late assignments must be left in the essay drop-box at the English Department, Dunton Tower, 18th floor: they will be stamped with the date and deposited in my mailbox. Please keep a backup copy of all your assignments.

Plagiarism means passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own or submitting the same work in two different academic contexts (self-plagiarism). The consequences of plagiarism are severe and are issued by the Dean and the University Senate. In order to avoid plagiarism, you must correctly attribute the sources of the ideas you pick up from books, the internet, and other people. For additional information, consult <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

Writing Tutorial Service: Students requiring assistance with their writing should contact the Writing Tutorial Service at 411 MacOdrum Library (613-520-6632, <www.carleton.ca/wts>).

Student Academic Success Centre: Questions about academic rules and regulations, selecting a major, and other matters relating to academic planning should be directed to the Student Academic Success Centre at 302 Tory Building (613-520-7850, <www.carleton.ca/sasc>).

V. Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

VI. Supplementary Resources

Johns Hopkins University Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism

<http://litguide.press.jhu.edu.proxy.library.carleton.ca/index.html>

Baldick, Chris. *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* (available as an e-resource through the Carleton U Library Catalogue)

The Purdue Online Writing Lab has a comprehensive guide to using MLA format, which is the style you are required to use in this and other English classes:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

VII. Tentative Syllabus

Thursday, Sept. 3: Introduction—What Is English?

Introduction to the course, course materials, assignments

Sign up for Applying Theory workshops

Tuesday, Sept. 8: Liberal Humanism and the History of English Studies

Barry, Chapter 1

Thurs. Sept. 10: Liberal Humanism and the History of English Studies

Baldick, *The Social Mission of English Criticism*, pp. 59–75 (Ares)

Tuesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 17: Liberal Humanism and the Rise of English Studies

Viswanathan, *Masks of Conquest*, Chapter One, pp. 23–44 (Ares)

Tuesday, Sept. 22: Liberal Humanism and the Rise of English Studies
Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time," *The Critical Tradition*, pp. 415–29 (Ares)

Thursday, Sept. 24: Liberal Humanism and the Rise of English Studies
Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time," *The Critical Tradition*, pp. 415–29 (Ares)

*QUIZ

Tuesday, Sept. 29: Structuralism

Barry, Chapter 2

Thursday, Oct. 1: Structuralism

Applying Theory Workshop 1: Barry, Appendix 1, pp. 318–21

Tuesday, Oct. 6: Poststructuralism and Deconstruction

Barry, Chapter 3

Thursday, Oct. 8: Poststructuralism and Deconstruction

Applying Theory Workshop 2: Barry, Appendix 2, pp. 321–22

*screening of *Adoration* (date and time TBA)

Tuesday, Oct. 13: Postmodernism

Barry, Chapter 4

Thursday, Oct. 15: Postmodernism

Applying Theory Workshop 3: Richard Hamilton, "Just What Is It that Makes Today's Home So Different, So Appealing?"; Atom Egoyan, *Adoration* (course reserve MacOdrum Library)

Tuesday, Oct. 20: Psychoanalytic Theory

Barry, Chapter 5

Thursday, Oct. 22: Psychoanalytic Theory

Applying Theory Workshop 4: Alice Munro, "Meneseteung" (Ares)

Fall Break (No Classes): Oct. 26-30

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Feminism / Gender

Barry, Chapter 6

Thursday, Nov. 5: Feminism / Gender

Applying Theory Workshop 5: Daphne Marlatt "musing with mothertongue" (Ares)

Tuesday, Nov. 10: Marxism

Barry, Chapter 8

Thursday, Nov. 12: Marxism

Applying Theory Workshop 6: Stephen Spender, "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum" (Ares)

Tuesday, Nov. 17: Postcolonialism

Barry, Chapter 10

Thursday, Nov. 19: Postcolonialism

Applying Theory Workshop 7: Elizabeth Bishop, “Brazil, January 1, 1502” (Ares)

Tuesday, Nov. 24: **Heart of Darkness**—Using Theory

Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Thursday, Nov. 26.: Heart of Darkness—Using Theory

Johanna M. Smith, “‘Too Beautiful Altogether’: Ideologies of Gender and Empire in *Heart of Darkness*” (Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*)

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Heart of Darkness—Using Theory

J. Hillis Miller, “*Heart of Darkness* Revisited” (Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*)

Thursday, Dec. 3:

Wrap-up and review session for final exam

Final Essay due

***Final exam to be held during exam week (Dec. 10-22): Date TBA (do not arrange travel plans until this date is confirmed)**