

Carleton University  
Fall 2014  
Department of English

**ENGL 2005B: Theory and Criticism**

**Monday – 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**  
**TB 447 (Please confirm on Carleton Central)**

**Instructor: Janne Cleveland**  
**[Janne.Cleveland@Carleton.ca](mailto:Janne.Cleveland@Carleton.ca)**

**1913 DT**  
**Office Hours: TBA**

**Course Outline:**

How does a text impart meaning to the reader or viewer, and what is the role of the author, the reader, and/or the critic in this undertaking? How does a reader assign/construct meaning from a text? For that matter, what constitutes a ‘text’? What tools do we need to begin to answer these questions? What are the uses and limits of those tools? What makes literature literary? This course is designed to be a practical examination of methods of literary criticism emerging through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, down to the contemporary moment. We will explore such facets of theory as Formalism, Structuralism, Poststructuralism/Postmodernism, Marxism, Cultural Materialism, Feminism, Psychoanalysis, Cultural Theory, and Queer Theory. The larger question of the usefulness of literary theory in the construction of meaning will be an overarching focus throughout the course.

**Required Reading:**

*A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature, sixth edition* (Oxford UP, 2011)

Text is available at Haven Books

**Highly Recommended:**

Composition handbook (e.g. Joanne Buckley’s *Checkmate: A Writing Reference for Canadians*)

M. H. Abrams’ *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (Harcourt Brace)

John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism

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

## **Course Evaluation:**

### **In-class Reading Responses (5 X 2% = 10%)**

There will be 5 reading quizzes conducted randomly in-class throughout the course in relation to the readings assigned for that week. Quizzes can only be submitted in the class in which they are conducted, and cannot be made up later. Therefore, it is important to attend class to earn these marks.

### **Interpretive Analysis 15%**

Students will be provided with a visual object of study and asked to analyze and interpret the narrative embedded within the image. Parameters of the assignment will be distributed early in the term. Due date TBA.

### **Annotated Bibliography/Thesis Assignment 20%**

This assignment builds the research paper. You will be expected to present a thoughtful, coherent thesis (argument) that will be defended in your paper, followed by a properly annotated bibliography (in MLA format) that briefly describes your sources, and **fully assesses** their relevance to your argument. The following cites provide information on how to create an annotated bibliography. Pay particular attention to the formulation of critical assessment:

[http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/annotated\\_bibl.php](http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/annotated_bibl.php)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/1/>

### **Research Essay 25%**

A paper of 10-12 pages (double-spaced, exclusive of works cited page) will be due at the beginning of class on **December 1st**. Essay topics will be distributed at the beginning of the term.

### **Exam 25%**

A three-hour exam will be schedule by the university during the examination period in December. **NOTE:** Before making arrangements for holiday travel, check the exam schedule for this course when it becomes available.

### **Attendance/Participation 5%**

It is important to attend all classes, and come prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that week. **NOTE:** If you miss 50% or more of class, you will not be allowed to write the final exam.

**Late Policy:** Assignments must be submitted online through cuLearn on the due date by the beginning of class to receive full marks. There will be **no extensions** granted unless discussed prior

to the due date with the instructor. In the case where illness prevents a student from submitting an assignment on time, a doctor's note will be accepted. All other late assignments will be penalized **1 mark** per day up to seven days, including weekends. No assignments will be accepted if they are more than 7 days late, with the exception of those stated above. **NOTE: It is your responsibility to insure that all assignments are handed in on time. Keep a backup copy that can be submitted upon request in the event of a lost or misplaced assignment.**

**NOTE:** All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to write the final exam. Failure to hand in any assignment will preclude your ability to sit the final exam and will result in a grade of "F".

### **Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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 the accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/mid-term requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

### **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". This can include:

Reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source

Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in any academic assignment

Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks

Plagiarism is a serious offence. When an instructor suspects plagiarism the Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties can include a final grade of "F", which will appear on the student's transcript.

The Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed at <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

## **Reading Schedule**

<b>September 8</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>September 15</b>	<b>Traditional Approaches</b>
<b>September 22</b>	<b>Formalist Approaches</b>
<b>September 29</b>	<b>Materialisms</b>
<b>October 6</b>	<b>Literature and Linguistics ** Interpretive Analysis due</b>
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Thanksgiving – no class</b>
<b>October 20</b>	<b>The Psychological Approach</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Reading Week!</b>
<b>November 3</b>	<b>Mythical and Archetypal Approaches ** Annotated Bib due</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Feminisms and Gender Studies</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Queer Theory *</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Cultural Studies</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>Postcolonial Studies ** Research paper due</b>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>Wrap up – Review</b>

**Unless otherwise noted, all readings correspond to the Chapters in the textbook.**

**\*Reading supplied on cuLearn**

**\*\* Assignments due**

**NB:** Schedule may be subject to change; check for messages on cuLearn.