

Carleton University
Winter 2015
Department of English

ENGL 2005B: Theory and Criticism

Professor Barbara Leckie

1917 Dunton Tower; 520-2600 ex. 1382

Mondays: 2:35pm-5:25pm (*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*)

Office Hours: Tuesdays noon-2:00pm 1917 DT or by appointment

Email: barbara.leckie@carleton.ca

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to literary and cultural theory. We will read literary/critical/cultural theorists and commentaries on those theorists. The goal of the course is to give students a strong grasp of several different theoretical approaches to literature and an introduction to a wide variety of writings on the subject. We will also try to make these theories relevant to current readings and to students' lives. Students are encouraged to attend at least one theory-related lecture outside the class and to draw connections between the theory and the films they see, the books they read, and the conversations they have.

Text: (Available at After Stonewall, 370 Bank Street [at Gilmour], 567-2221)

The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism

Course Requirements:

One essay (1,500 words):

40% FIRST TERM ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS 6 APRIL.

Late papers will be graded without comments

10 Commentaries

30%

Students are required to submit at least TEN commentaries on individual readings or issues studied this semester; these commentaries should be no more than one page and they must be handed in at least two hours BEFORE the class dealing with the work discussed. They should convey your reaction to the text or idea addressed. You can email your commentaries to:

barbara.leckie@carleton.ca. Please note that two of the ten commentaries are compulsory. **Failure to hand in the minimum of ten commentaries will result in 0% for this requirement. Failure to hand in either of the compulsory commentaries will also result in 0% for this requirement.**

8 In-Class Writing Assignments	10% The first half hour of each class will be devoted to the In-Class Writing Assignment. I will give you a quotation and ask you to respond to it by drawing on the readings for that day. (Failure to hand in the minimum of eight In-class writing assignments will result in 0% for this requirement.)
3 Question Assignments:	10% (The first question assignment should be submitted in January, the second in February, the third in March; you can choose the exact date based on the readings that interest you most)
3 Cultural References	10% Students will identify films, advertising, other readings, visual images, food, buildings, etc that link to the material we are reading in class. We will take up some of these references on the last day of class. Please identify your reference and write one paragraph explaining its relevance. (Once again, the first cultural reference should be submitted in January, the second in February, the third in March; you can choose the exact date based on the references that click for you.)

Plagiarism: See the statement on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar (44).

For those students wishing assistance from the **Paul Menton Centre** you may contact the centre at 520-6608.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*.

The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Course Outline:

5 January

Introduction: The Question of Difficulty

12 January

What is Literature? What is Literary Theory?

Eagleton, "Literary Theory: An Introduction" (2140-45)

Graff, "Taking Cover in Coverage" (1962-69)

****FIRST POSITION PAPER DUE IN CLASS TODAY: WRITE A ONE-PAGE RESPONSE TO EITHER EAGLETON'S OR GRAFF'S ARGUMENT; TAKE A POSITION AND MAKE A CASE FOR YOUR POSITION**

19 January

Structuralism and Linguistics

Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course* (852-63)

Roland Barthes, "Photography and Electoral Appeal (1320-21)

---. "The Death of the Author" (1322-24)

26 January

Psychoanalysis

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (814-23)

Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (823-40)

2 February

Marxisms

Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (651-54)

Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1051-71)

9 February

Post-Structuralism

Jacques Derrida, *Of Grammatology* (1688-1697)

---. *Dissemination* (1713-1719)

---. *Specters of Marx* (1734-44)

16 February

READING WEEK

23 February

Post-Structuralism (cont'd)

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1490-1502)

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality* (1502-1520)

2 March

Feminisms

Woolf, "Shakespeare's Sister" (896-900)

Laura Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure" (2084-94)

Susan Bordo, "Unbearable Weight" (2240-54)

9 March

Gender, Gay/Lesbian, Queer

Judith Butler, from *Gender Trouble* (2540-52)

Eve Sedgwick, "Between Men" (2466-2470)

16 March

Narrative

Martha Nussbaum, *Cultivating Humanity* (2306-2328)

Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees* (2441-2464)

Essay Guidelines and Discussion

23 March

Postcolonialisms

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1866-87)

Gayatri Chakrovorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (2114-25)

30 March

Culture/Society/Reading

Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction* (1664-70)

Dick Hebdige, from *Subculture: The Meaning of Style* (2481-87)

6 April

A selection of texts, culture items, and ideas recommended by students in the class

Class Summary

****FIRST TERM ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS TODAY**