

Carleton University  
Fall 2013  
Department of English

**ENGL 2005B: *Theory and Criticism***

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

**Tues. and Thurs. / 11:35am to 12:55pm**

**Location:**

*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor: Professor Jody Mason**

**Email: [jody.mason@carleton.ca](mailto:jody.mason@carleton.ca)**

**Office: 1903 Dunton Tower**

**Phone: 613.520.2600 x8907**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-2pm and by appointment**

“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.

## **II. Texts**

All course texts can be purchased at Haven Books, which is located at 43 Seneca Street (Sunnyside Ave. and Seneca). Their phone number is 613-730-9888, and they are open Monday to Saturday, 10am-6pm. You need the 2011 Bedford edition of *Heart of Darkness* because we will be using the critical essays in this edition. You may purchase the Richter anthology if you would like to own a good theory text; otherwise, you may use the digitized readings on Ares, which you can locate in CU Learn.

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (Manchester UP, 2009: ISBN 0719079276)

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

Optional: Richter, David H., ed. *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends* (Bedford, 2006): ISBN 0312415206)

## **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.

**Précis / Analysis of Theoretical Essay: 25%**

**Essay: 35%**

**Participation: 5%**

**Final Exam: 35%**

**1. Précis of Theoretical Essay: 25%**

On Tuesday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, you will submit a three-page précis in MLA format. Specific instructions will be posted on CU Learn following the first class. This paper should conform to academic conventions: i.e., it must follow MLA format (e.g., double-space throughout, 12-point font, parenthetical citation, Works Cited, etc.), and have correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**2. Essay: 35%**

This essay is due on Tuesday, Dec. 3. 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 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.

**3. Participation: 5%**

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.

Twice during the term, there will be a very brief pop quiz in class. This quiz will be based on the assigned reading and will cover theoretical and critical terms. Each quiz will be worth 2.5% of your final grade (and will represent half of the final participation grade).

**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](http://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](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc)>).

## **V. Academic Accommodations**

*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 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/midterm 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 Nov. 9, 2012 for the Fall term and March 8, 2013 for the Winter 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>.*

## **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. 5: Introduction—What Is English?  
Introduction to the course, course materials, assignments

Tuesday, Sept. 10: Liberal Humanism and the History of English Studies  
Barry, Chapter 1

Thurs. Sept. 12: Classic Texts in Literary Theory  
Aristotle, *Poetics* (Ares; Richter, pp. 59-81)

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Liberal Humanism and the History of English Studies  
Barry, Chapter 1 and Aristotle, (from) *Poetics* (Ares; Richter, pp. 59-81)  
Thursday, Sept. 19: Classic Texts in Literary Theory  
Arnold, *The Function of Criticism at the Present Time* (Ares; Richter, pp. 415-29)

Tuesday, Sept. 24: Structuralism  
Barry, Chapter 2  
Thursday, Sept. 26: Structuralism  
de Saussure, *Nature of the Linguistic Sign* (Ares; Richter, pp. 842-44)

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Poststructuralism and Deconstruction  
\*Précis of Aristotle due in class  
Barry, Chapter 3  
Thursday, Oct. 3: Poststructuralism and Deconstruction  
Derrida, *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences* (Ares; Richter, pp. 915-26)

Tuesday, Oct. 8: Postmodernism  
Barry, Chapter 4  
Thursday, Oct. 10:  
Lyotard, *Defining the Postmodern* (Ares; Richter, pp. 1933-35)

Tuesday, Oct. 15: Psychoanalytic Criticism  
Barry, Chapter 5  
Thursday, Oct. 17: Psychoanalytic Criticism  
Freud, "The Dream-Work" (Ares; Richter, pp. 500-09)

Tuesday, Oct. 22: Feminism / Gender  
Barry, Chapter 6  
Thursday, Oct. 24: Feminism / Gender  
Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa" (Ares; Richter, pp. 1643-55)

Fall Break (No Classes): Oct. 28-Nov. 1

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Marxism  
Barry, Chapter 8  
Thursday, Nov. 7: Marxism  
Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (Ares; Richter, pp. 1233-49)

Tuesday, Nov. 12: New Historicism / Cultural Materialism  
Barry, Chapter 9  
Thursday, Nov. 14: New Historicism / Cultural Materialism  
Greenblatt, (from) *The Power of Forms in the English Renaissance* and "King Lear and Harsnett's 'Devil Fiction'" (Ares; Richter, pp. 1443-47)

Tuesday, Nov. 19: Postcolonialism  
Barry, Chapter 10  
Thursday, Nov. 21: Postcolonialism  
Said, (from) *Orientalism* (Ares; Richter, pp. 1801-14)

Tuesday, Nov. 26: *Heart of Darkness*—Using Theory  
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*  
Thursday, Nov. 28: *Heart of Darkness*—Using Theory  
Smith, "'Too Beautiful Altogether': Ideologies of Gender and Empire in *Heart of Darkness*" (Bedford edition of *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 189-204)  
Miller, *Heart of Darkness Revisited* (Bedford edition of *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 231-44)

Tuesday, Dec. 3: *Heart of Darkness*—Using Theory  
\*Essay due in class  
Brown, "Cultural Psychosis on the Frontier: The Work of the Darkness in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*" (Bedford edition of *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 350-66)  
Thursday, Dec. 5: Wrap-up and review session for final exam

**\*Final exam to be held during exam week (Dec. 11-22): Date TBA (do not arrange travel plans until this date is confirmed)**