

Carleton University
Fall 2014
Department of English
Course and Section No: ENGL 3605A
Course Title: Modern and Contemporary Literary Theory
Location: SA409 Time: T/R 13:05-14:25
Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3002 (no longer offered).
Prerequisite: 1.0 credit of ENGL at the 1000 level and third-year
standing or permission of the department
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This course will cover some of the major debates in modern literary theory including formalism, marxism, feminism, structuralism (and post-structuralism), psychoanalysis, historicism and postcolonialism. The impact of these theoretical positions on problems of aesthetics (“What is art?”), interpretation (“What does it mean?”) and evaluation (“Is it good?”) will be the focus of discussion.

Required Texts

We will be reading articles that are available online, through cuLearn and on Ares. In addition, selections from the *Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (JHGLTC) will introduce some of the general topics. This is available online through the library.

Evaluation

Short essay (7+ pages)	20%	Major essay (10+ pages)	35%
Scheduled Exam	35%	Attendance & Participation	10%

The final deadline for all essays is December 8.

Please note: while both the short essay and the final essay must be submitted by the final day of classes, you are strongly encouraged to submit work—particularly the short essay—earlier in the term. If you leave everything to the end, you will be trying to deal with two essays and a final exam—as well as work in your other courses—all at the same time.

- The essays should analyze one or two of the course readings in terms of a specific idea raised there.
- Secondary sources are required for both essays
- The essay topics must be cleared with me well before submission.
- The essays should follow MLA format.
- The participation mark will reflect both attendance and participation. In my experience, there is a close correlation between poor attendance and poor marks.
- If an assignment is lost, misplaced, or not received, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. Please see the statement on Academic Integrity in the Undergraduate Calendar. You are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is. If you are in any doubt, consult me.

Academic 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 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 in this course, please check the PMC website for details.

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>.

Course Schedule

JHGLTC refers to the *Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*, which is available online through the library.

- Sept.4 Introduction
- Sept.9 Arnold “The Study of Poetry” (cuLearn)
- Sept.11 Harold Bloom. *The Western Canon*. “An Elegy for the Canon.” (Ares)
Terry Eagleton. *Literary Theory*. “What is Literature?” (Ares)
- Sept.16 Viktor Shklovskii. *Theory of Prose*. “Art as Device.” (Ares)
- Sept.18 Cleanth Brooks “The Formalist Critics” *The Kenyon Review* Vol.13 No.1,
Winter, 1951 (JSTOR)
JHGLTC. “New Criticism”.
- Sept.23 Hans-Georg Gadamer. “Schleiermacher, Hegel, and the Hermeneutical Task.”
(Ares)
- Sept.25 *JHGLTC*. “Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels”.
Walter Benjamin. “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction.”
(Ares)
- Sept.30 Walter Benjamin continued.
- Oct.2 Theodor Adorno “Commitment.” *New Left Review* 87-88. Sept./Dec. 1974
(Library online)
- Oct.7 Marxism concluded.
JHGLTC. “Feminist Theory and Criticism: 1. From Movement Critique to
Discourse Analysis.”
- Oct. 9 Virginia Woolf – from *A Room of One’s Own* (Ares)
Simone de Beauvoir – from *The Second Sex* (Ares)
- Oct 14 Elaine Showalter. *Women Writing and Writing about Women*. “Toward a
Feminist Poetics.” (Ares)
- Oct. 16 Ferdinand de Saussure. *Course in General Linguistics*. pp 65 -78. (cuLearn)
- Oct. 21 Roland Barthes. *Image, Music, Text*. “The Death of the Author.” (Ares)
- Oct. 23 *JHGLTC*. “Foucault, Michel”. “The Order of Discourse” (Ares)
- Nov.4 Etienne Balibar. “Literature as an Ideological Form: Some Marxist
Propositions” (Ares)
- Nov.6 Jacques Lacan. *Écrits*. “The Mirror Stage” (Ares)
- Nov.11 Catching up
- Nov.13 Jacques Derrida. *Writing and Difference*. “Structure, Sign, and Play in the
Discourse of the Human Sciences.” (Ares)
- Nov.18 Judith Butler. *Bodies That Matter*. “Gendered and Sexual Performativity.”
(Ares)
- Nov.20 Bell Hooks. *Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics*. “Postmodern
Blackness.” (Ares)
- Nov.25 *JHGLTC*. “Postcolonial Cultural Studies: 1. Origins to the 1980s.”
Edward Said. *Culture and Imperialism* “Two Visions in Heart of Darkness.”
(Ares)
- Nov.27 Stephen Greenblatt. “Resonance and Wonder.” *Bulletin of the American
Academy of Arts and Sciences*. Vol. 43 No. 4 Jan.1990.
- Dec.2 Catching up
- Dec.4 Finish, Review and Exam Talk. Essay deadline.