

**Carleton University  
Fall 2015  
Department of English**

**ENGL 3605A : Modern and Contemporary Literary Theory**

*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*

**Monday, Wednesday/ 4:05-5:25pm**

**Location: *please confirm location on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Rob Holton**

**Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2308**

**Email: [robert\\_holton@carleton.ca](mailto:robert_holton@carleton.ca)**

**Office: 1919 Dunton Tower**

**Office Hours: TBA**

*\*Preliminary Outline- Subject to change*

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 TBA.**

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.

Reading may include essays by

Matthew Arnold  
 Harold Bloom  
 Viktor Shklosky  
 Cleanth Brooks  
 Hans-Georg Gadamer  
 Theodor Adorno  
 Virginia Woolf  
 Simone de Beauvoir  
 Elaine Showalter  
 Ferdinand de Saussure  
 Roland Barthes  
 Michel Foucault  
 Jacques Lacan  
 Judith Butler  
 bell hooks  
 Edward Said  
 Stephen Greenblatt

## **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 that cannot be resolved directly by 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. For more information please go to:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

### **Academic Accommodation**

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 above.

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](mailto: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).