

Carleton University

Fall 2018

Department of English

ENGL 2005A: *Theory & Criticism*

Prerequisites: 2nd year standing, or permission of the Department

Time/Days: Monday 2:35 - 5:25 p.m.

Location: SA 517

confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Janne Cleveland

Email: Janne.Cleveland@carleton.ca

Office Hours: TBD or by appointment

Office: 1913 DT

Course Outline:

This course is designed to be a practical guide on how to use a variety of literary theories as tools of interpretation. By looking at some key developments in literary theory we will consider questions such as how does a text impart meaning to the reader? What is the role of the author, the reader, and/or the critic in creating the meaning of a text? What constitutes a 'text'? What tools do we need to begin to answer these questions? What are the uses and limits of those tools? We will explore such theoretical frameworks as Structuralism/Poststructuralism, Marxism, Feminism, Psychoanalysis, Cultural Theory, Critical Race Theory, Human/Animal Theory, and Postcolonialism. We will be making use of textual, as well as visual, materials in order to explore how these theories function in the construction of meaning. At the beginning of the course students will choose one of the literary texts from the list below as their object of study on which to focus throughout the course. Each class will pair a literary example with the theory under study, in order for students to practice applying theory to a particular object of study.

Course Objective:

By the time students have completed this course, they will have gained an understanding of what theory is, knowledge of particular theories that have been developed for the specific purpose of studying literature, and how to apply these theories with confidence. Through practical writing exercises, students will have the opportunity to apply the theories studied and improve their critical skills in reading, analysis, and writing. Ultimately, students will be able to produce their own academic, scholarly research paper that directly applies one theoretical framework to a literary object of study.

Literary texts from which to choose for the focus of your final paper:

The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock by TS Eliot (poem)

Recitatif by Toni Morrison (short story)

King Lear by William Shakespeare (play)

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (novel)

Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti (poem)

Everyday Use by Alice Walker (short story)

Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut (novel)

Fifteen Dogs (novel)

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett (play)

Young Goodman Brown by Nathaniel Hawthorne (short story)

Required Reading:

Course pack available at Haven Books (Seneca & Sunnyside)

Highly Recommended:

Composition handbook (e.g. *The Broadview Guide to Writing*)

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:

NOTE: All assignments will be submitted electronically on cuLearn. Hard copies will NOT be accepted.

Interpretive Analysis 20%

Due: September 16 (11:55 p.m.)

This assignment will use visual objects (which will be provided) on which to produce an analysis. We will discuss the assignment requirements in detail in class.

Reading responses (30%)

Students will choose one reading per class, assigned in weeks 2 - 5, upon which to write a **2-page** response, for a total of **four** responses. The best **3 of 4** responses will be counted in your grade. This assignment is not simply summarizing the reading. For full marks you will need to

briefly summarize the key points, and then critically engage with the material by noting the importance/significance of the theory under discussion in the article by considering and commenting on both the benefits and limits you observe in the author's position in these articles. These reading responses **must** be submitted online on cuLearn **prior** to class. Responses submitted after the class in which the materials have been discussed will **not** be accepted.

This is a formal writing assignment, and must be presented in proper MLA format, double-spaced, with your ID clearly visible. Please submit your assignment in **doc or docx format**, with your name in the subject (i.e., Janne, reading response 1).

NOTE: The purpose of these assignments is NOT to make you anxious about how "right" you get your responses, but to help you develop a practice of close reading and critical thinking; the focus here is more on "how" you arrived at your analysis rather than "what" you've come up with (although that is important; just less so).

Annotated Bibliography/Thesis Assignment 15%

5 - 7 pages, double-spaced, 12pt New Times Roman Font, MLA format

Due: November 12 (11:55 p.m.)

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

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

Essay topics will be posted on cuLearn prior to the beginning of the term.

Take-home Exam/Research Essay 25%

8 - 10 pages (excluding Works Cited page), double-spaced, 12pt New Times Roman Font, MLA format

Due: Last day of the formally scheduled exam period, and for this reason NO extensions are possible (December 21, 12:00 p.m. [**noon**])

This is a formal research and writing assignment, the primary focus of which is to present a complex **critical analysis** of one of the texts listed on the syllabus, using a theoretical interpretive strategy studied in the course. This is an exercise in applying theory to your object of study. You will need to state clearly the theoretical framework you are using to build your argument in your introduction, and then demonstrate throughout your paper an understanding of the theory you are deploying. Your paper should include a complex thesis/argument, along with **6 - 8** scholarly secondary sources as evidence to support your position. Scholarly sources include journal articles found in the library database published by University journal presses, chapters from books on your topic, chapters from anthologies on your subject. Websites of lecture notes from other professors are **not** considered published material (that is they are not vetted by an

editorial board of peers), and **will not be accepted** as scholarly sources. You must correctly use MLA format for in-text citations as well as your Works Cited page. Information on MLA formatting can be found in the MLA Handbook (7th edition) in the reference section of the library, or on this website:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in an automatic failure of your paper. There will be no extensions of the deadline, except in extreme cases with accompanying documentation to support your request. Late papers will be penalized 1 mark per day (not one letter grade) up to 7 days. Any papers submitted after 7 days following the deadline will not be accepted. **Failure to submit a paper will result in a failure of the course.**

Attendance and Participation 10%

It is important to attend all classes, and come prepared to discuss the readings assigned. Non-attendance can result in failure of the course. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student in the class, as I do not give lectures twice.

Late Policy

Assignments must be submitted online through cuLearn on the due date and time indicated in order 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 submitted on time. Keep a backup copy that can be submitted upon request in the event of a lost or misplaced assignment.**

All assignments will be submitted electronically on cuLearn

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.

NOTE: All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to pass the course. Failure to hand in all assignments may result in a grade of "F". Assignments submitted after the course has ended will NOT be accepted.

REQUEST FOR 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

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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.

The policy can be found at: <http://carleton.ca/fass/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Sept-2017.pdf>

Class Schedule*

September 10	Introduction: reading the syllabus What is theory? Some introductory thoughts
September 17	Historicisms: White. "Structure of Historical Narrative"; Barthes. "The Death of the Author"; Foucault, "What is an Author?"
September 24	Structuralism/Poststructuralism: Saussure. from "Course in General Linguistics"; Foucault. "Las Meninas"; Lyotard. "What is Postmodernism?"
October 1	Materialism/Marxism: Althusser. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"; Marx. "Wage Labor and Capital"
October 8	Thanksgiving - no class

October 15	Psychoanalysis: Freud. "The Unconscious"; Lacan. "The Mirror Stage"
October 22	Fall reading week - no class
October 29	Feminisms/Gender Butler. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"; Halberstam. from "Female Masculinity"
November 5	Queer Theory: Foucault. "We Other Victorians"; Rich. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence"
November 12	Postcolonial/Critical Race Theory Loomba. Introduction to <i>Colonialism/Postcolonialism</i> ; Appadurai. "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy"
November 19	Cultural Theory De Certeau. "Walking the City"; Hebdige. "The Function of Subculture"
November 26	Human/Animal Studies McDonell. "The Animal Turn, Literary Studies, and the Academy"; Latour. "On Actor Network Theory"
December 3	Paper workshop (and wrap up)

***Subject to change - regularly consult cuLearn for updates**