

**Carleton University  
Winter 2018  
Department of English**

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

**Prerequisites:** *Third year standing or permission of the Department*  
**Preclusions:** *Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3002 (no longer offered)*

**Tuesday/Thursday: 8: 35 - 9:55 a.m.**  
**Location: 501 SA**  
***Please confirm location on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Prof. Janne Cleveland**  
**Email: *janne.cleveland@carleton.ca***  
**Office: 1913 DT**  
**Phone:**  
**Office Hours: TBD**

**Course Outline:**

In this course we will examine the key theories that have influenced mainstream critical discourse from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, down through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, toward our own contemporary moment. We will explore how such theoretical frameworks as Formalism, Structuralism, Marxism, Feminism, Psychoanalysis, and Critical Race theory among others have been employed and deployed to construct meaning across textual and social landscapes. In addition to examining the historical development of these modes of thinking, emphasis will be placed on the application of theories in the production of popular discourses. In other words, we will look at what the theories are as well as how they are used to construct meaning in the social and cultural landscapes from which they emerge.

**Course Objectives:**

Throughout the course students will:

1. Encounter some of the major debates in current literary theory, including the contexts in which these emerge
2. Understand the practical value of literary criticism (i.e., examining such aesthetic questions as 'what is art?'; why is one thing art, while another is not?; how can literary criticism attempt to make sense of the world?)
3. Develop skills of critical analysis
4. Expand and hone critical reading and writing skills
5. Apply critical thinking to a broad range of representational practices in the contemporary world

## **Required Reading:**

*Literary Theory: An Anthology* (3rd Edition), Eds. Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan (2017), Blackwell Publishing

The text is available at Haven Books (Sunnyside & Bank)

## **Recommended Resource:**

John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism:  
<http://litguide.press.jhu.edu.proxy.library.carleton.ca/index.html>

## **Evaluation:**

### **Attendance/Participation 10%**

Students must come to class prepared to discuss and engage with the materials assigned. Missing more than 30% of the classes, except in the case of extreme circumstances where proper documentation is provided, will earn a failure in the course.

### **Response Papers (2 X 15% = 30%)**

Students will write 2 short critical reading responses (3 - 5 pages, double-spaced) between the beginning of the term and February 13th. Choose one reading from each of two weeks in that time frame, and respond to the ideas the author sets out. The responses will be **submitted prior to the class in which the materials are covered**. Any response papers received after the class in which the material is discussed will not be accepted. The responses must demonstrate an understanding of the materials through a critical engagement with, and analysis of, the readings. Your response should briefly summarize the article you are examining, and then consider both the content and any limits or gaps it does not address. No secondary sources are expected.

### **Take-home exam/Research Paper (10-12 pages, double spaced) 30% Due: April 26 (by 11:55 p.m. on cuLearn)**

A list of possible topics will be handed out at the beginning of the term. This is a formal research paper, and must include **7-10** secondary **scholarly** sources to support a complex thesis.

### **Paper Proposal/Annotated Bibliography 30% Due: March 15th on cuLearn by 11:55 p.m.**

This assignment is the foundation of your final paper. From the list of essay topics provided, you will present a proposal for your final research paper that includes a thesis statement (argument), and a list of annotated citations that you will use as evidence to support your argument. You must include **5 - 7** scholarly sources. Each source will be properly cited and annotated in **MLA format\***, and will contain a **brief** summary of each article used, and a careful explanation of how each resource supports your position, along with how you will use it in your paper. We will go

over how to do an annotated bibliography in class, but here are also very good resources to help you:

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

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

**Late Policy:** Assignments must be handed in on the due date at the beginning of class 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 not will be accepted. All other late assignments will be penalized **1 mark** per day for up to 7 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 completed and handed in on time. Keep a backup copy that can be submitted upon request at any time.**

### **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:** 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](#).

**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](#).

**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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

### **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
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in any academic assignment
- Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks

Plagiarism is a serious offence. When an instructor suspects plagiarism the Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties can include a final grade of "F", which will appear on the student's transcript.

The Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed at <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

## Reading Schedule\*

<b>Week 1 January 9/11</b>	Introduction to Literary Theory
<b>Week 2 January 16/18</b>	<b>Formalisms:</b> <i>Introduction; Art as Technique; The Language of Paradox</i>
<b>Week 3 January 23/25</b>	<b>Structuralism:</b> <i>Introduction; Mythologies; The Archaeology of Knowledge</i>
<b>Week 4 January 30/February 1</b>	<b>Post-structuralism:</b> <i>Introduction; The Will To Power; Semiology and Grammatology; The Postmodern Condition; Simulacra and Simulations</i>
<b>Week 5 February 6/8</b>	<b>Rhetoric:</b> <i>Introduction; How to Do Things With Words; Interpretive Communities; Distinction</i>
<b>Week 6 February 13/15</b>	<b>Psychoanalysis:</b> <i>Introduction; On Narcissism; The Uncanny; Beyond the Pleasure Principle; The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I; The Black Hole of Trauma</i>
<b>February 20/22</b>	<b>Reading Week - no class</b>
<b>Week 7 February 27/March 1</b>	<b>Political Criticism:</b> <i>Introduction; Dialectics; Wage Labour and Capital; Hegemony; Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus; The Sublime Object of Ideology</i>
<b>Week 8 March 6/8</b>	<b>Gender:</b> <i>Introduction; The History of Sexuality; Performative Acts and Gender Constitution; Female Masculinity</i>
<b>Week 9 March 13/15</b>	<b>Critical Race Theory:</b> <i>Introduction; The Social Construction of Race; The Blackness of Blackness; Borderlands/La Frontera</i> <b>Annotated Bibliography Due March 15th on cuLearn by 11:55 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 10 March 20/22</b>	<b>Colonial, Post-colonial and Transnational:</b> <i>Introduction; Situating Colonial and Postcolonial Studies; Jane Austen and Empire; Decolonising the Mind; Signs Taken for Wonders; A Small Place</i>

**Week 11 March 27/29**

**Cultural Studies:** *Introduction; The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction; The Culture Industry as Mass Deception; The Practice*

**Week 12 April 3/5**

Paper workshop

**April 10**

**Wrap up!**