

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English
ENGL 271.01: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism
Fall 2011

I. Locator Information:

Instructor: Micki Nyman, Ph.D.

Day and Time Class Meets: M W F 10-10:50 Lyons Science 304 E

Office Location: Williams 206

Office hours: M W 2 – 4, T R 12 – 2 and by appointment

Office Phone: 910-672-2426

Email address: mnyman@uncfsu.edu

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Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. Course Description from University Catalog:

This course will introduce students to contemporary trends in literary theory and criticism against the historical background, which contemporary theory is often a reaction against.

Methodology and format of class: This course revolves around critical theory, how ideas work and how meaning is garnered. One of our goals is to better understand the pantheon of thinkers as diverse as Aristotle, de Beauvoir, and Derrida, and theoretical origins of critical movements such as classical, Marxist, or Deconstructionist. Therefore, before every class meeting, I will give you a guiding point or focus, question, or experiential situation to help center your reading practice. The notes you take on your reading and the notes you take in class can be used to help you write your weekly informal response papers. These response papers will, in turn, guide your success on the three take-home quizzes, midterm, and final.

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Textbooks:

The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends, 3rd Ed. by David H. Richter (CT)

Literature: A Portable Anthology 2nd Ed. by Gardner, Lawn, Ridl, Schakel (L)

V. Student Learning Outcomes – Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Describe characteristics of major theoretical approaches
- 2) Apply major theoretical works to analyze a text
- 3) Arrange literary criticism movements in a historical order.
- 4) Employ the vocabulary of critical literary studies in their own interpretations and criticism of texts.
- 5) Use at least one theoretical perspective to analyze at least one text.

VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

- **Grading Scale**-This class will use the university's "10-point" scale as follows:
90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D 59 and below=F
- **Attendance and tardiness:** Attending class is the single most important habit you can get into as a university student, and that holds true for this class as well. In accordance with university policy, if you miss several classes without talking to me, I will give you an EA interim grade, which may turn into an FN (failure due to non-attendance) if you do not return to class. You are expected to be in class on time and to remain the entire class period.

Graded Assignments:

- 1) **In-class informal writing will help you to understand concepts gleaned from course material and to think critically to them in relation to selected literary works, including poetry, stories, plays, films.**
- 2) **Take-Home-quizzes will allow you to practice applying theoretical principles to literature.**
- 3) **The Take Home Midterm and Take-Home Final will assess your applications of theory to literature.**
- 4) **Quizzes, Midterm, and Final will be passed out in class and then available on our Class Blackboard cite. You may turn in completed work either electronically on our class Blackboard cite through Turn-it-In or in person to me in class. Work will be graded for how well you respond to the writing prompts and how clearly you write. Rubrics will be provided for all work.**

2. Break down of Grade:

Your grade will be based on the following percentages:

1- Weekly Informal Response Papers	20% (In Sum)
2- Three Take-Home Quizzes (10% each)	30%
3- Take-Home Midterm Exam	20%
4- Take-Home Final Exam	30%

Electronic devices: Cell phones, smart phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are a distraction to our learning process, and some can be used to aid academic dishonesty. Therefore, they must be turned off and *stowed out of sight* for the duration of class time. If there is some sort of emergency that requires you to be accessible during class, set your phone to silent and excuse yourself quietly if it should ring. I should never see or hear a phone in the classroom for any reason.

Academic Dishonesty: According to the FSU Code of Student Conduct, a student violates the Academic Dishonesty Policy if he or she *attempts* to cheat or plagiarize, *cheats* (receiving unauthorized aid or assistance on any form of academic work), *plagiarizes* (copies the language structure, ideas and/or thoughts of another without giving appropriate recognition and/or adopting it as one's own original work), *falsifies* (unauthorized changing of grades or conduct involving any untruth, spoken or written, regarding any circumstances related to academic work), or *aids and abets* others to cheat or plagiarize. Penalties include failing the course, suspension, and expulsion, and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible.

VII. Academic Support Resources – Students are encouraged to use Smarthinking, the Writing Lab, University College Learning Support Center, and are invited to come see me in my office for additional help during office hours or by appointment.

Disabled Student Services—In accordance with Section 504 of the 193 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 1st Floor); 910-672-1203

VIII. Teaching Strategies: Large and small group activities, individual and group projects, reflections, structured overview, demonstration, discussion, Internet research, on-line discussion board.

IX. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule : Read material from CT and LPA before class meetings

Date	Topic (s) and Required Reading		
8/19	Course expectations and Overview, Introduction to Critical Theory		
8/22	Classical Tradition	Plato, 25-49;	
8/24		Aristotle CT 55-81	
8/26		Christine de Pisan CT 124-131, Aphra Behn CT 189-197	
9/2		Writing: informal versus formal	
9/5		Labor Day No class meetings	
9/7		Sophocles, Oedipus Rex LPA 733-776	(R 1 due)
9/9	Enlightenment	Immanuel Kant CT 241-274	
9/12		Mary Wollstonecraft CT 275-284	(R 2 due)
9/14		Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House, LPA 899-957	
9/16	African-American Tradition	W.E.B. DuBois CT 565-574	
9/19		Paul Laurence Dunbar LPA 548, Claude McKay 569, Jean Toomer 573, Langston Hughes LPA 575-7	(R 3 due)
9/21		Barbara Smith CT 1600-1610 Gwendolyn Brooks LPA 593-4, Allison Joseph 728-730, Thylis Moss 705-6,	
9/23	Modern Tradition	Sigmund Freud CT 497-532, Hemingway CT 200-4	
9/26		Virginia Woolf CT 596-610, Kate Chopin LPA 66	(R 4 due)
9/28	Heteroglossia	M. Bakhtin CT 575-595, A.Walker LPA 368-375 Assign Quiz 1	
9/30		Simone de Beauvoir CT 673-8, Susan Sontag 738-745 C. Perkins Gilman LPA The Yellow Wallpaper 70-83	
10/3	Marxist Criticism	Georg Lukás CT 1217-1232,	(Q 1 Due)
10/5		Walter Benjamin CT 1233-249	
10/7		L. Althusser 1263, Fredric Jameson 1290-1306 (Assign MidTerm)	
10/10	Structuralism	F. de Saussure CT 848-58, C. Lévi-Strauss 859-68 (R5 due)	
10/12		Roland Barthes CT 868- 881	
10/14	Deconstruction	Michel Foucault CT 904-914	(MidTerm Due)
10/17		No Class (Midterm Break)	
10/19		Jacques Derrida CT 914-949	
10/21		Finish Film on JD	(R6 due)
10/24		P. de Man CT 882-903, J. Baldwin LPA 250-276,	(Assign Q 2)
10/26		Gabriel García Márquez LPA 294-299, C. Ozick 290-294	
10/28	Psychoanalytic Theory	Jacques Lacan CT 1122-1154	(Q 2 Due)
10/31		Laura Mulvey CT 1172,	(R7 due)
11/2	Feminist Literary Criticism	Julia Kristeva CT 1563 , Sylvia Plath LPA 631-634	
11/4		Film: Nowhere in Africa	
11/7	Postcolonial Theory	G. Spivak 1836-	(R8 due)
11/9		Chinua Achebe CT 1783-, Toni Morrison 1791-,	
11/11		Edward Said CT 1801-1813,	(A. Q 3)
11/14		Homi Bhabha 1875-1889	(R9 due)
11/16	Cultural Criticism	CT 1320-1339, Michel Certeau CT 1342-1365	(Q3 Due)
11/18		Amy Tan LPA Two Kinds 405-414, Zoë Wicomb 391-404	
11/21	Ethnic Studies	H. Louis Gates Jr. CT 1890-1905, A.Wilson LPA Fences 1105-63	
11/23	Postmodernism	Jameson CT 1955-65 J-François Lyotard 1933-35 b.Hooks 2008-11	
11/28		Baudrillard CT 1935- Linda Hutcheon 1991-2004	
11/30		Donna Haraway CT 1966-1989 (Excerpts from GWDT) (R10 due)	
12/2	Final Class Meeting	Peer- Review	Distribute T-H Final
12/5-12/9	Final Exam Due		

X. Bibliography

Cuddon, J.A. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. New York: Penguin, 1998.

Dobie, Ann B. *Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism*. U.S.A.: Wadsworth/Cengage, 2011.

Waugh, Patricia. *Literary Theory and Criticism*. London: Oxford UP, 2006.