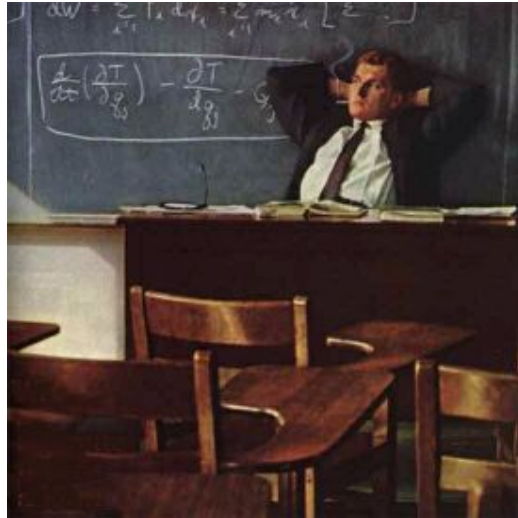


English 382: Literary Theory



Spring, 2008

Instructor: Dennis Allen

Office: 110 Colson

Office Hours: 1:30-2:20 T/Th and by appointment

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Course Purpose: This course is intended to provide you with an overview of the schools of literary theory that are currently used to analyze literary and cultural texts, ranging from post-structuralism to Gender Theory and Cultural Studies.

Course Requirements: Course grades will be based on a midterm (35%), a final exam (35%), and three two page response papers (30%).

The Response Papers: Should consist of a two page typed analysis of an essay from the course reading assignments. These should not summarize the reading but should engage it intellectually. In other words, a response to a particular essay should do one or more of the following: critique the essay, apply it to a literary or cultural text, or relate it to previous reading in the course. Also, if an essay proves exceptionally difficult, your response paper on that essay could present some focused, specific questions on points that you did not understand.

Attendance: You are allowed three absences. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.

Text: Rivkin, Julie and Michael Ryan, eds. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*, Second Edition (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004)

Assignments:

Tues., January 15: Course Introduction

Thursday, Jan. 17: Ferdinand de Saussure, "Course in General Linguistics," pp. 59-71

Poststructuralism and Deconstruction:

Tues., Jan. 22: Rivkin and Ryan, "Introduction: Introductory Deconstruction," 257-261

Thurs., Jan. 24: Jacques Derrida, "Semiology and Grammatology," pp. 332-339

Tues., Jan. 29: Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations," pp. 365-377

Response 1 Due

Thurs., Jan 31: Application Day

Psychoanalysis:

Tues., Feb. 5: Jacques Lacan, "The Instance of the Letter..." pp. 447-454;

Rivkin and Ryan, "Introduction: Strangers to Ourselves: Psychoanalysis," pp. 389-396

Thurs., Feb. 7: Lacan, "The Instance of the Letter..." pp. 454-461

Tues., Feb. 12: Luce Irigaray, "Women on the Market," pp. 799-811

Response 2 Due

Thurs., Feb. 14: Application Day

Marxism:

Tues., Feb. 19: Karl Marx, "Wage Labor and Capital," and "Capital," pp. 659-672
Thurs., Feb. 21: Day off

Tues., Feb. 26: Alan Sinfield, "Cultural Materialism," pp. 743-750
Thurs., Feb. 28: Alan Sinfield, "Cultural Materialism," pp. 750-762

New Historicism:

Tues., March 4: Stephen Greenblatt, "Shakespeare and the Exorcists," pp. 592-605
Thurs., March 6: Greenblatt, pp. 605-620

Tues., March 11: Application Day
Thurs., March 13: **Midterm**

Feminism, Gender Studies, and Queer Theory:

Tues., March 18: Judith Butler, "Performative Acts," pp. 900-911
Thurs., March 20: Handout (to be determined)

Spring Break

Tues., April 1: Michel Foucault, "The History of Sexuality," pp. 892-899
Thurs. April 3: Application Day

Ethnic Studies/Postcolonial Theory:

Tues., April 8: Toni Morrison, "Playing in the Dark," pp. 1005-1016
Thurs. April 10: Anne McClintock, "The Angel of Progress," pp. 1185-1196
Response 3 Due

Tues., April 15: Alan Lawson, "The Anxious Proximities..." pp. 1210-1223
Thurs., April 17: Application Day

Cultural Studies:

Tues., April 22: Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art..." pp. 1235-1241
Thurs., April 24: Michel de Certeau, "The Practice of Everyday Life," pp. 1247-1257

Tues., April 29: Application Day
Thurs., May 1: Review Day

Final: Friday, May 9, 8-10 AM