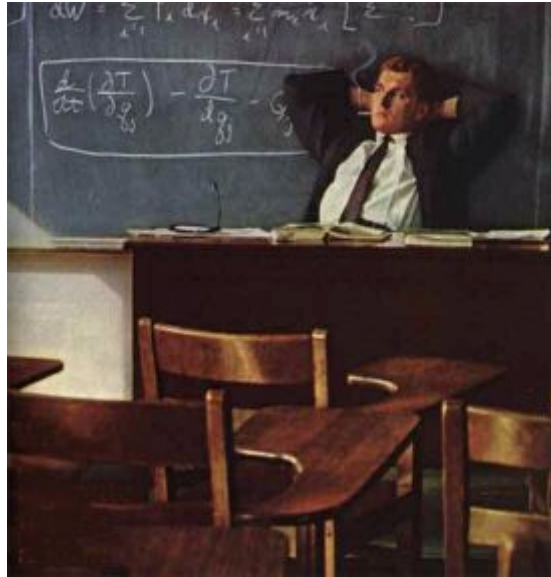


# English 382: Literary Theory



**Spring, 2006**

Instructor: Dennis Allen

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Office Hours: 2:30-3:45 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 10: Course Introduction

Thursday, Jan. 12: Introductory Lecture: Structuralism and Semiotics

### Poststructuralism and Deconstruction:

Tues., Jan. 17: Introductory Lecture

Thurs., Jan. 19: Jacques Derrida, "Semiology and Grammatology," pp. 332-339

Tues., Jan. 24: Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations," pp. 365-377

**Response 1 Due**

Thurs., Jan 26: Application Day

### Psychoanalysis:

Tues., Jan. 31: Jacques Lacan, "The Instance of the Letter..." pp. 447-454

Thurs., Feb. 2: Lacan, "The Instance of the Letter..." pp. 454-461

Tues., Feb. 7: Luce Irigaray, "Women on the Market," pp. 799-811

**Response 2 Due**

Thurs., Feb. 9: Application Day

### Marxism:

Tues., Feb. 14: Karl Marx, "Wage Labor and Capital," and "Capital," pp. 659-672

Thurs., Feb. 16: Alan Sinfield, "Cultural Materialism," pp. 743-750

Tues., Feb. 21: Alan Sinfield, "Cultural Materialism," pp. 750-762

Thurs., Feb. 23: Application Day

### New Historicism:

Tues., Feb. 28: Stephen Greenblatt, "Shakespeare and the Exorcists," pp. 592-605

Thurs., March 2: Greenblatt, pp. 605-620

Tues., March 7: Application Day

Thurs., March 9: **Midterm**

### **Spring Break**

### **Feminism, Gender Studies, and Queer Theory:**

Tues., March 21: Judith Butler, "Performative Acts," pp. 900-911

Thurs., March 23: Judith Halberstam, "Female Masculinity," pp. 935-956

Tues., March 28: Michel Foucault, "The History of Sexuality," pp. 892-899

Thurs. March 30: Application Day

### **Ethnic Studies/Postcolonial Theory:**

Tues., April 4: Toni Morrison, "Playing in the Dark," pp. 1005-1016

Thurs. April 6: Anne McClintock, "The Angel of Progress," pp. 1185-1196

**Response 3 Due**

Tues., April 11: Alan Lawson, "The Anxious Proximities..." pp. 1210-1223

Thurs., April 13: Application Day

### **Cultural Studies:**

Tues., April 18: Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art..." pp. 1235-1241

Thurs., April 20: Michel de Certeau, "The Practice of Everyday Life," pp. 1247-1257

Tues., April 25: Application Day

Thurs., April 27: Review Day

**Final:** Tuesday, May 2, 3-5 PM