

**ENGL 382—CONTEMPORARY LITERARY THEORY**  
MWF 12:30-1:20 PM  
220 Hodges Hall

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### TEXTS

All readings for this course are posted to the eCampus page for this course (<http://ecampus.wvu.edu>). You are responsible for bringing either a print or a digital copy of the assigned material to each class session.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance at all sessions, with assigned reading completed. You are allowed three (3) unexcused absences without penalty; thereafter, each unexcused absence will result in a 2% deduction from your course grade.
- Quizzes on the assigned material, daily with exceptions. These cannot be made up and will be recorded as a “zero” in the event of an unexcused absence. Collectively, approx. 15% of course grade.
- Midterm exam, most likely objective (i.e., no long essay questions). Approx. 15% of course grade.
- Two (2) short papers (approx. 4-5 pp. each, typed double-space) responding to the assigned material. Deadlines will be staggered; you will sign up shortly after the semester begins. Each paper approx. 15% of course grade.
- Final exam, cumulative. Approx. 20% of course grade.
- Your overall contributions to class discussion, effort, attitude, improvement, etc. will constitute the remaining 20% of your course grade.

### WVU STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University Academic Standards Policy (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification>). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#academicintegrity>)

### WVU STATEMENT ON APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

“Use of technology in the classroom should always be directly related to class activities and/or course learning outcomes. Inappropriate technology use can be an impediment to learning and a distraction to all members of the class. As such, inappropriate use of technology in the classroom may be considered a disruption of the class and constitute a violation of the WVU Student Conduct Code and could potentially result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Use of technology in the classroom when specifically

prohibited by the instructor may also constitute a violation of WVU's Academic Integrity policy."—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#tech>)

### **WVU STATEMENT ON COVID-19**

“WVU is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Should campus operations change because of health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic or other campus-wide emergency, it is possible that this course will move to a fully online delivery format. If that occurs, students will be advised of technical and/or equipment requirements, including remote proctoring software.

“In a face-to-face environment, our commitment to safety requires students, staff, and instructors to observe the social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines set by the University at all times. While in class, students will sit in assigned seats when required and will wear PPE according to current University guidelines. Students who fail to comply may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for sanctions.

“COVID related absences fall under the University attendance policy found here: <http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#Attendance>. As detailed in the policy, a student who becomes sick or is required to quarantine during the semester should notify the instructor. The student should then work with the instructor to develop a plan to complete the course learning outcomes while he or she is absent.” —WVU Teaching and Learning Commons ([https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements# covid\\_syllabus](https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements# covid_syllabus))

### **WVU STATEMENT ON INCLUSIVITY (adopted 2/11/2013)**

“The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>). More information is available at the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (<https://diversity.wvu.edu>).”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#inclusivity>)

### **WVU STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH**

“Mental health concerns or stressful events can adversely affect your academic performance and social relationships. WVU offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns that you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services (CCPPS) website: <https://carruth.wvu.edu/>

“If you are in need of crisis services, call the CCPPS main number 24/7: (304) 293-4431. Crisis services are also available through text: Text WVU to 741741 for support 24/7 from a trained Crisis Counselor.”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#mentalhealth-maincampus>)

### **WVU STATEMENT ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

“West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence (BOG Rule 1.6). It is important for you to know that

there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator (<http://titleix.wvu.edu/what-is-title-ix/who-is-the-title-ix-coordinator>). If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the Carruth Center, 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), 304-292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline).

For more information, please consult WVU’s Title IX Office (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/resources-offices>).”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#sexualmisconduct>)

### **WVU STATEMENT ON USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

“Unless I notify you otherwise, content-generating AI (such as GPT-3, ChatGPT, and Bard) is not to be used in this course. I will clearly state if, when, and how it is permissible for you to use these tools. When allowed, you must clearly identify writing, text, or media generated by AI and show how AI tools were used in the process of creating a final product. Any attempt to treat AI output as your own work or failing to identify AI-generated work will be treated as academic dishonesty. All students should think critically about the appropriate use of AI to achieve learning goals.

“Forms of writing assistance that utilize artificial intelligence (AI) to proofread your own written work (such as spellcheck or Grammarly) are acceptable, and do not require my permission.”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements/artificial-intelligence-syllabus-statements>)

### **WVU STUDENT ADVOCACY CENTER**

“Part of the Campus and Community Life, a Division of Student Life, the Student Advocacy Center is comprised of the Senior Associate Dean of Student Life who serves as the Student Advocate, Student Legal Services, the Off-Campus Housing Office, Commuter Student Programs, Non-traditional Student Assistance, and the Student HelpLine. The goal of the Center is to assist students with non-academic questions and concerns and to make the proper referrals when necessary.

“Questions are answered daily about many concerns that students may have. The Advocacy Center is designed to simplify procedures and to help students cut through red tape by finding answers to questions and helping to familiarize our students with campus policies and procedures. We specialize in problem solving and helping our students be better informed about making the decisions they need to make, whether these decisions involve classes or any other aspect of university life.

“The Student HelpLine number is 304-293-5555.

“Someone is available to take calls during regular business hours. After hours, you may leave a message and someone will return your call during the next business day.”—WVU Office of Campus and Community Life (<https://campuslife.wvu.edu/student-advocacy>)

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

1	W	8/16	Introduction
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## 1. Structuralism

1	F	8/18	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>
2	M	8/21	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>
2	W	8/23	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i> Glossary entries on <b>structuralism, semiotics, signifier and signified, langue and parole, syntagmatic and paradigmatic</b>
2	F	8/25	Structuralism application

## 2. Deconstruction

3	M	8/28	Jacques Derrida, “Différance”
3	W	8/30	Jacques Derrida, “Différance”
3	F	9/1	Jacques Derrida, “Différance” Glossary entries on <b>poststructuralism, différance, logocentrism, phonocentrism</b>
4	M	9/4	<b>LABOR DAY—NO CLASS</b>
4	W	9/6	Deconstruction application

## 3. Marxism

4	F	9/8	Karl Marx, from <i>The German Ideology</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital”, <i>Capital</i>
5	M	9/11	Karl Marx, from <i>The German Ideology</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital”, <i>Capital</i>
5	W	9/13	Karl Marx, from <i>The German Ideology</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital”, <i>Capital</i> Glossary entries on <b>Marxism, capital and capitalism, use value and exchange value, commodity, commodity fetishism</b>
5	F	9/15	<b>ROSH HASHANAH—NO CLASS</b>
6	M	9/18	Marxism application

## 4. Biopolitics

6	W	9/20	Michel Foucault, “The Panopticon”
6	F	9/22	Michel Foucault, “The Panopticon” Glossary entries on <b>panoptic, panopticon and carceral</b>
7	M	9/25	<b>YOM KIPPUR—NO CLASS</b>
7	W	9/27	Biopolitics application
7	F	9/29	Review, etc.
8	M	10/2	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>

## 5. New Historicism

8	W	10/4	Stephen Greenblatt, "Resonance and Wonder"
<b>8</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>10/6</b>	<b>FALL BREAK—NO CLASS</b>
9	M	10/9	Stephen Greenblatt, "Resonance and Wonder"
9	W	10/11	Stephen Greenblatt, "Resonance and Wonder"
9	F	10/13	Stephen Greenblatt, "Resonance and Wonder" Glossary entry on <b>New Historicism and Cultural Materialism</b>
10	M	10/16	New Historicism application

## **6. Psychoanalysis**

10	W	10/18	Sigmund Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i>
10	F	10/20	Sigmund Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> Glossary entry on <b>repression</b>
11	M	10/23	Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage"
11	W	10/25	Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage"
11	F	10/27	Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage" Glossary entries on <b>mirror stage</b>
12	M	10/30	Psychoanalysis application

## **7. Feminist, Gender, and Queer Theory**

12	W	11/1	Hélène Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
12	F	11/3	Hélène Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa" Glossary entries on <b>feminism, gender and sex, écriture féminine, phallogentrism and phallogentrism</b>
13	M	11/6	Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"
13	W	11/8	Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"
13	F	11/10	Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution" Glossary entries on <b>performativity, queer theory</b>
14	M	11/13	Feminism and Gender Theory application

## **8. Critical Race Studies**

14	W	11/15	bell hooks, "Postmodern Blackness"
14	F	11/17	bell hooks, "Postmodern Blackness" Glossary entries on <b>race and ethnicity, Critical Race Theory, intersectionality</b>
	<b>M</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>FALL RECESS—NO CLASS</b>
	<b>W</b>	<b>11/22</b>	<b>FALL RECESS—NO CLASS</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>11/24</b>	<b>FALL RECESS—NO CLASS</b>

15	M	11/27	Critical Race Studies application
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### **9. New Materialism**

15	W	11/29	Jane Bennett, from <i>Vibrant Matter</i>
15	F	12/1	Jane Bennett, from <i>Vibrant Matter</i> Glossary entries on <b>things and thing theory, ecocriticism</b>
16	M	12/4	New Materialism application
16	W	12/6	Review, etc.
<b>EXAM</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>ENGL 382 FINAL EXAM 2:00-4:00 PM</b>