

ENGL 382—CONTEMPORARY LITERARY THEORY
MWF 11:30 AM–12:20 PM
G25 Brooks Hall

Prof. Adam Komisaruk
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Office Hours: MT 2:30–4:00 PM + by appointment

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TEXTS

- Dino Franco Felluga, *Critical Theory: The Key Concepts* (Routledge)
- All other readings are posted to the eCampus page for this course (<http://ecampus.wvu.edu>). You are responsible for downloading the .PDF files, printing them (I recommend multiple pages per sheet) and bringing them with you every day. The use of screens is not permitted in class.

REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance at all sessions, with assigned reading completed and in hand. 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#10>)

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 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#4>)

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 (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/staff>). 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#7>)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

WEEK	DAY	DATE	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	W	8/21	Introduction

1. Structuralism

1	F	8/23	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>
2	M	8/26	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>
2	W	8/28	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i> Felluga on structuralism, semiotics, signifier and signified, langue and parole, syntagmatic and paradigmatic
2	F	8/30	Structuralism application
3	M	9/2	LABOR DAY—NO CLASS

2. Deconstruction

3	W	9/4	Jacques Derrida, “Différance”
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3	F	9/6	Jacques Derrida, “Différance”
4	M	9/9	Jacques Derrida, “Différance” Felluga on poststructuralism, différence, logocentrism, phonocentrism
4	W	9/11	Deconstruction application

3. Marxism

4	F	9/13	Karl Marx, from <i>The German Ideology</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital”, <i>Capital</i>
5	M	9/16	Karl Marx, from <i>The German Ideology</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital”, <i>Capital</i>
5	W	9/18	Karl Marx, from <i>The German Ideology</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital”, <i>Capital</i> Felluga on Marxism, capital and capitalism, use value and exchange value, commodity, commodity fetishism
5	F	9/20	Marxism application

4. New Historicism

6	M	9/23	Stephen Greenblatt, “Resonance and Wonder”
6	W	9/25	Stephen Greenblatt, “Resonance and Wonder”
6	F	9/27	Stephen Greenblatt, “Resonance and Wonder” Felluga on New Historicism and Cultural Materialism
7	M	9/30	ROSH HASHANAH—NO CLASS
7	W	10/2	New Historicism application
7	F	10/4	Review, etc.
8	M	10/7	MIDTERM EXAM
8	W	10/9	YOM KIPPUR—NO CLASS
8	F	10/11	FALL BREAK—NO CLASS

5. Psychoanalysis

9	M	10/14	Sigmund Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i>
9	W	10/16	Sigmund Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i>
9	F	10/18	Sigmund Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> Felluga on repression
10	M	10/21	Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage”
10	W	10/23	Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage”
10	F	10/25	Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage” Felluga on mirror stage
11	M	10/28	Jacques Lacan, from “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”
11	W	10/30	Jacques Lacan, from “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”
11	F	11/1	Jacques Lacan, from “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”
12	M	11/4	Psychoanalysis application

6. Feminism and Gender Theory

12	W	11/6	Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”
12	F	11/8	Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”
13	M	11/11	Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa” Felluga on feminism, gender and sex, écriture féminine, phallogocentrism and phallogocentrism
13	W	11/13	Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution”
13	F	11/15	Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution”
14	M	11/18	Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” Felluga on performativity, queer theory
14	W	11/20	Feminism/queer theory application

7. Critical Race Theory

14	F	11/22	bell hooks, “Postmodern Blackness”
	M	11/25	THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS
	W	11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS
	F	11/29	THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS
15	M	12/2	bell hooks, “Postmodern Blackness” Felluga on race and ethnicity, Critical Race Theory, intersectionality
15	W	12/4	Critical Race Theory application

8. New Materialism

15	F	12/6	Jane Bennett, from <i>Vibrant Matter</i>
16	M	12/9	Jane Bennett, from <i>Vibrant Matter</i> Felluga on things and thing theory, ecocriticism
16	W	12/11	Review, etc.
EXAM	R	12/19	FINAL EXAM 11:00 AM–1:00 PM