

**ENGL 382—Contemporary Literary Theory**  
MWF 11:30 AM-12:20 PM  
G10 Woodburn Hall

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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 (see “Policy on Mobile Devices”, below).

**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.

**POLICY ON MOBILE DEVICES**

Put them away. I like mine, too, but we can all do without them for fifty minutes at a stretch. Texting, tweeting, e-mailing, web browsing and like activities during class are disrespectful and disruptive, and will result in your being marked absent for the day. I can see you. For urgent communications, please leave the room. Only hard copies of the assigned readings are permitted in class (see “Texts”, above).

## 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, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. 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 at <http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/#Dishonesty>. 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 me before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#13>)

## WVU INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

“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 (<https://carruth.wvu.edu>; 24-hour hotline, 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431) and locally within the community at the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC) (<https://www.rdvic.org>; 24-hour hotline, 304-292-5100 or 304-292-4431. For more information, please consult WVU's Title IX Office (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/confidential-resources>).”—WVU Teaching and Learning Commons (<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#7>)

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week	Day	Date	Assignment DUE (available on eCampus)
1	W	8/15	Introduction

### I. Structuralism

1	F	8/17	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>
2	M	8/20	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>
2	W	8/22	Ferdinand de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i> Felluga on <b>structuralism, semiotics, signifier and signified, langue and parole, syntagmatic and paradigmatic</b>

2 F 8/24 Structuralism application

## 2. Deconstruction

3 M 8/27 Jacques Derrida, “Différance”

3 W 8/29 Jacques Derrida, “Différance”

3 F 8/31 Jacques Derrida, “Différance”

Felluga on **poststructuralism, *différance*, logocentrism, phonocentrism**

4 M 9/3 **LABOR DAY—NO CLASS**

4 W 9/5 Deconstruction application

## 3. Marxism

4 F 9/7 Karl Marx, from *The German Ideology*, “Wage Labor and Capital”, *Capital*

5 M 9/10 **ROSH HASHANAH—NO CLASS**

5 W 9/12 Karl Marx, from *The German Ideology*, “Wage Labor and Capital”, *Capital*

5 F 9/14 Karl Marx, from *The German Ideology*, “Wage Labor and Capital”, *Capital*  
Felluga on **Marxism, capital and capitalism, use value and exchange value, commodity, commodity fetishism**

6 M 9/17 Marxism application

6 W 9/19 **YOM KIPPUR—NO CLASS**

## 4. New Historicism

6 F 9/21 Stephen Greenblatt, “Resonance and Wonder”

7 M 9/24 Stephen Greenblatt, “Resonance and Wonder”

7 W 9/26 Stephen Greenblatt, “Resonance and Wonder”

Felluga on **New Historicism and Cultural Materialism**

7 F 9/28 New Historicism application

8 M 10/1 Review, etc.

8 W 10/3 **MIDTERM EXAM**

## 5. Psychoanalysis

8 F 10/5 Sigmund Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams*

9 M 10/8 Sigmund Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams*

9 W 10/10 Sigmund Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams*

Felluga on **repression**

9 F 10/12 **FALL BREAK—NO CLASS**

10 M 10/15 Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage”

10 W 10/17 Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage”

10 F 10/19 Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage”

Felluga on **mirror stage**

11	M	10/22	Jacques Lacan, from “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”
11	W	10/24	Jacques Lacan, from “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”
11	F	10/26	Jacques Lacan, from “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”
12	M	10/29	Psychoanalysis application

## **6. Feminism and Gender Theory**

12	W	10/31	Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”
12	F	11/2	Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”
13	M	11/5	Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa” Felluga on <b>feminism, gender and sex, écriture féminine, phallogocentrism and phallogocentrism</b>
13	W	11/7	Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution”
13	F	11/9	Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution”
14	M	11/12	Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” Felluga on <b>performativity, queer theory</b>
14	W	11/14	Feminism/queer theory application

## **7. Critical Race Theory**

14	F	11/16	bell hooks, “Postmodern Blackness”
	<b>M</b>	<b>11/19</b>	<b>NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING RECESS</b>
	<b>W</b>	<b>11/21</b>	<b>NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING RECESS</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>11/23</b>	<b>NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING RECESS</b>
15	M	11/26	bell hooks, “Postmodern Blackness” Felluga on <b>race and ethnicity, Critical Race Theory, intersectionality</b>
15	W	11/28	Critical Race Theory application

## **8. New Materialism**

15	F	11/30	Jane Bennett, from <i>Vibrant Matter</i>
16	M	12/3	Jane Bennett, from <i>Vibrant Matter</i> Felluga on <b>things and thing theory, ecocriticism</b>
16	W	12/5	Review, etc.
<b>EXAM</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM 11:00 AM-1:00 PM</b>