

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
18 Agassiz Circle
Buffalo, NY 14214

COURSE OUTLINE

Program:	Humanities
Course Number:	ENG 460
Course Title:	Literary Theory and Criticism: English Seminar
Credits:	3
Prerequisites:	This course is restricted to English and Secondary Education majors. Other majors may enroll with special approval from department chairs.

A. Catalog Description of Course

A study of the history of literary theory and criticism from New Criticism through contemporary theoretical developments. Over the course of the semester, students will apply theoretical approaches to the analysis of literary works and other forms of creative expression. Students will also explore the relationship of literary theory and criticism to the construction and revision of literary canons.

B. Goals

- to widen students' consciousness of varieties of theoretical approaches to literature
- to encourage close reading and discussion of theoretical texts and their implications, and to build students' close reading skills generally
- to engage students in applying theoretical approaches in their writing about and discussion of literature

C. Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify major theoretical approaches and discuss their importance
- analyze current theories' relationships to longstanding literary and intellectual traditions, as evidenced by both class discussion and written work
- discuss and interpret works studied, as demonstrated through written essays

which show sensitivity to texts and problems engaged and to issues raised by theory

D. Outline of Course Content

- I. Why is theory important?
- II. Humanist and Anti-humanist Theories: The Problem of Meaning
- III. Theory and the Human Subject: Practical Consciousness and the Unconscious
 - a. New Criticism
 - b. Psychoanalytic Criticism
 - c. Reader Response Criticism
- IV. Theory and Language: The Human Subject Displaced
 - a. Structuralist Criticism
 - b. Post-Structuralist Criticism
 - c. New Historical and Cultural Criticism
- V. Theory and Politics: The Relationship between Culture and Ideology
 - a. Marxist Criticism
 - b. Feminist Criticism
 - c. Postcolonial and African American Criticism
 - d. Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism

E. Suggested Texts

Davis, Robert, ed. Contemporary Literary Criticism: Literary and Cultural Studies. New York: Longman, 1998.

Eagleton, Terry. Literary Theory, An Introduction. Oxford: Basil Blackwood, 1983.

Tyson, Lois. Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide. New York: Garland, 1999.

Other texts provided by instructor.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction

lecture, discussion, class presentation, close reading, videos, slides

E. Instructor References

Ashcroft, Bill, et al. The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial

Literatures. New York: Routledge, 1989.

Bakhtin, M.M. The Dialogical Imagination. Trans. Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist. Austin: U of Texas, 1981.

Barrett, Michelle. Women's Oppression Today: Problems in Marxist Feminist Analysis.
London: Verso, 1980.

Barthes, Roland. Mythologies. 1957. Trans. Annette Lavers, New York: Nill and Wang, 1972.

—. The Pleasure of the Text. Trans. Richard Miller. New York: Hill and Wang, 1975.

Baudrillard, Jean. America. Trans. Chris Turner. New York: Verso, 1999.

—. Simulations. Trans. Paul Foss, Paul Patton and Philip Beitchman. New York: Semiotext(e), 1983.

Benjamin, Walter. Illuminations. Trans. Harry Zohn. New York: Schocken, 1978.

Blonsky, Marshall, ed. On Signs. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins UP, 1985.

Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble. New York: Routledge, 1990.

Campbell, Joseph. The Hero with a Thousand Faces. Third Edition. Princeton, NJ: Princeton, 1973.

Derrida, Jacques. Of Grammatology. Trans. Gayatri Chakravotry Spivak. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins UP, 1978.

—. Positions. Trans. Alan Bass. Chicago, 1981.

Donovan, Josephine. Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism. New York: Continuum, 1991.

Dreyfus, Hubert L. and Paul Rabinow. Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics. Chicago: U of Chicago, 1983.

Eagleton, Terry. After Theory. New York: Basic Books, 2003.

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- Eagleton, Terry and Drew Milne. Marxist Literary Theory. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.
- Eco, Umberto. Travels in Hyperreality. Trans. W. Weaver. London: Picador, 1987.
- Fanon, Frantz. The Wretched of the Earth. Trans. Constance Harrington. New York: Grove, 1963.
- Fiedler, Leslie. What Was Literature?: Class Culture and Mass Society. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982.
- Fillingham, Lydia Alice. Foucault for Beginners. New York: Readers and Writers, 1993.
- Foucault, Michel. This is Not a Pipe. Trans. James Harkness. Berkeley: U of California, 1983.
- . The Order of Things. New York: Vintage, 1973.
- Freud, Sigmund. The Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud. Trans. A.A. Brill. New York: Modern Library, 1966.
- Gates, Henry Louis. The Signifying Monkey. New York: Oxford UP, 1988.
- Gates, Henry Louis, ed. "Race, Writing, and Difference." Critical Inquiry. Vol. 12, no.1 (Autumn 1985).
- Hegel, G.W.F. The Phenomenology of Spirit. Trans. A.V. Miller. New York: Oxford, 1977.
- Jameson, Fredric. Postmodernism, Or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism. Durham: Duke UP, 1991.
- Kant, Immanuel. Critique of Judgment. Trans. J.H. Bernard. New York: Hafner, 1951.
- Kaufman, Walter, ed. Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre. Trans. Walter Kaufman. New York: Meridien, 1975.
- Kristeva, Julia. Julia Kristeva Interviews. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.
- Lyotard, Jean-Francois. The Postmodern Condition. Trans. Geoff Bennington and Brian Massumi. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota, 1984.
- Malcolm X. February 1965: The Last Speeches. New York: Pathfinder, 1995.

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. The Marx-Engels Reader. Robert Tucker, ed. New York: Norton, 1978.

Said, Edward. Orientalism. New York: Vintage, 1978.

Sarup, Madan. An Introductory Guide to Post-Structuralism and Postmodernism. Athens, GA: U of Georgia Press, 1993.

Selden, Raman, et. al., eds. A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory. London: Prentice, 1985.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics. New York: Routledge, 1988.

Sturrock, John, ed. Structuralism and Since: From Levi-Strauss to Derrida. New York: Oxford, 1979.

West, Cornell. The Ethical Dimensions of Marxist Thought. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1991.

Williams, Raymond. Marxism and Literature. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1977.