English 251B
Criticism 2
Winter 2007
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Shannon Hartling
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Office Hours: TBA

This course offers and introduction to critical theory and its relationship to the study of literature. We will emphasize twentieth-century theory and focus upon the text, the reader, and culture.

Required text:
David Lodge, ed.  
*Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader* (Second Edition)

You will also be responsible for material I present or hand out to the class. Material from student presentations will not be on the exam, although you may find student handouts helpful study aids.

**Method of Instruction**
This course will be taught via lectures and augmented by student presentations and class discussion. Aside from the required texts, we will read material brought in by myself or by other students. All students are required to come to class having read the material assigned for that day and prepared to engage in an informed discussion of that material.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Throughout term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
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<td>Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>April exam period</td>
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**Quizzes**
Two short quizzes will involve a selection of definitions and short answer questions relating to all of the work studied in class to that date. No aids will be permitted. No alternate arrangements for the quizzes can be made without appropriate documentation.

**Group Presentation**
Working in small groups (of approx. 3 students), you will present an analysis of a literary or non-literary text, based on critical theories currently under discussion. The group presentations will be approximately 15 minutes in length, followed by a short discussion period, and will be comprised of the following: a handout to the class; the presentation itself, which will incorporate a short (max. 5 min.) recap of the critical theory involved, an analysis of the text itself, with a one-page synopsis of the presentation, handed in to me; and an annotated bibliography. Each group must meet with me beforehand in order to clarify the focus of their presentation.
**Essay**
The essay will be roughly 5-6 pages (1250-1500 words) in length and will deal with application of one of the schools of theory we have learned to a literary or non-literary text. You may make use of the critical school you have focused on for your seminar, although you are not bound to that school. You may not focus your analysis on the same literary or non-literary text. You must append the text, or segment of text, that is the focus of your analysis to your essay.

**Exam**
The exam will be held during the April exam period. It will involve definition and short answer, and either an analysis of a text provided for the purpose of the test or an essay question. No aids will be permitted. No alternate arrangements for the exam can be made without appropriate documentation.

**Late Policy**
Late essays and assignments will be penalized by 3% per school day unless I grant an extension prior to the due date, or appropriate documentation accompanies the extension request. Absolutely no essays will be accepted, barring agreed-upon extensions or documented emergencies, after April 06.

**Avoidance of Academic Offenses**
Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at [http://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPolicies/policy71.htm](http://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPolicies/policy71.htm)). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, [http://wwwadm.uwataerlooinfosecPolicies/policy70.htm](http://wwwadm.uwataerlooinfosecPolicies/policy70.htm).

If you have any questions about academic offences, consult with the Arts Faculty Web page, “Avoiding Academic Offences” [http://arts.uwaterloocaartsugradacademicresponsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloocaartsugradacademicresponsibility.html), or consult with me.
Class Schedule and List of Readings
(schedule subject to change)

Jan. 03: Syllabus
Jan. 08: Introduction to theoretical schools
Jan. 10: Saussure: The object of study
Jan. 15: Bakhtin: From the prehistory of novelistic discourse
Jan. 17: Roman Jakobson: The metaphoric and metonymic poles
Jan. 22: Barthes: The death of the author

**Jan. 24: Quiz #1**
Jan. 29: Iser: The reading process: a phenomenological approach
Jan. 31: Fish: Interpreting the *Variorum*
Feb. 05: Lacan: The insistence of the letter in the unconscious
Feb. 07: Irigaray: The bodily encounter with the mother
Feb. 12: Derrida: Structure, sign and play in the discourse of the human sciences
Feb. 14: Abrams: The deconstructive angel

**Feb. 19-23: Reading Week**
Feb. 26: Foucault: What is an author?

**Feb. 28: Quiz #2**
March 05: Showalter: Feminist criticism in the wilderness
March 07: Schweickart: Reading ourselves: towards a feminist theory of reading
March 12: Jameson: The politics of theory: Ideological positions in the postmodernism debate
March 14: Eagleton: Capitalism, modernism and postmodernism
March 19: Said: Crisis [in orientalism]
March 21: Sedgwick: The beast in the closet
March 26: Greenblatt: The circulation of social energy
March 28: Eco: *Casablanca*: Cult movies and intertextual collage
April 02: Review; essays due