English 251B, Section 02
Course Syllabus, January 2001
Tues/Thurs, 1:00-2:30, HH 139

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:30-4:00 or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
"An introduction to the theorizing of literary and non-literary texts. Emphasizing contemporary theories, the course will focus on the text, the reader, and culture." (Undergraduate Calendar)

Through the study of a broad range of readings drawn from contemporary literary, we will study the nature of representation (that is, the ways in which "life" or "reality" gets made into texts and vice-versa), the ways in which readers and writers engage with texts, and the cultural context in which texts are written and read. Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to have a basic familiarity with the key questions and debates informing contemporary literary theory.

TEXTS

Required
Raman Seldon, Ed. The Theory of Criticism, Longman.
Gerald Graff, “Disliking Books at an Early Age”
Dick Hebdige, “From Culture to Hegemony” (on reserve)
Kwame Anthony Appiah, “Race” (on reserve)
Werner Sollers, “Ethnicity” (on reserve)
Additional required readings TBA

Literary readings will be distributed in handout form or on overhead. You are responsible for keeping track of handouts.

Highly Recommended

(Note: all royalties earned from the sale of The Little, Brown Compact Handbook will go to the Department of English Scholarship Fund.)
ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

In the interest of fairness, all students will be evaluated on the basis of the following assignments. There will be no exceptions (i.e. substitute assignments, second exam sittings, etc.) without supporting documentation (usually medical) which convincingly justifies the request for special treatment.

Unless otherwise indicated, values indicated below represent percentage of final mark for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class Exam 1</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Exam 2</td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>10% of essay grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (see below)</td>
<td>sign up</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>exam week</td>
<td>30%</td>
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1. Exams

Exam #1 will consist of short-answer questions on material covered in class up to and including February 13.

Exam #2 will consist of an essay on a theoretical topic, to be written in class. You will be given a choice of essay topics one week in advance of the exam date. You will prepare an essay which chooses one of these topics and relates it to three readings from The Theory of Criticism covered in class up to and including March 6.

The Final Exam will consist of an essay and short-answer questions. It will cover the entire course.

2. Essay & Interview (1500-2000 words)

Detailed information about this assignment will be distributed in a subsequent handout. The general expectations of this assignment are outlined below.

For the essay, you have two choices of topic:

1. Choose a short primary text (no more than one page; it may be an excerpt from a longer work) and develop an analysis of this text that draws from the work of at least two theorists that we have covered in this course. Your primary text must not appear on the syllabus of any other course.

2. Choose a concept in literary theory that interests you and write an essay about that concept as it has been conceived by three theorists. In addition to discussing two theorists covered in this course, your essay must analyze the work of one additional theorist not covered in class.

Regardless of the topic that you choose, your essay must present a thesis and an organized, developing discussion.

10% of your essay grade will be based on an interview with me, in which you will orally present your essay topic, thesis, and outline. All interviews must be completed by March 23.
Evaluation
Essays will be evaluated according to the originality, interest, and level of intellectual challenge of the thesis; coherence and persuasiveness of the argument; analysis and integration of supporting evidence; and mechanics (organization, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, correct use of MLA citation format).

3. Participation (15%)
By participation, I mean your contribution to the class. You have two options to choose from to fulfill this requirement. You must declare your choice to me in writing by the end of the second week of classes.

1. Ongoing participation in class discussion. If you choose this option, you must keep a detailed journal of your contributions to class discussion throughout the term. Every week, you are required to hand in your journal entries for the week, which I will keep on file and use as a basis for arriving at your participation grade. To do so I will take into consideration evidence of the following: preparation for class through close reading of the assigned texts, effort to facilitate productive discussion in class, originality and intellectual challenge of ideas discussed in class, considerate and respectful attitude.

Journal entries are due every Friday, and can be submitted electronically. Late journal entries will not be accepted.

2. Participate in a group presentation (maximum 30 minutes). Working in groups of 3-4, you will prepare and present a reading of a primary text drawing on the ideas of one or two theorists assigned for the week of your presentation. You may choose any primary text you like so long as it is not on the syllabus of other English courses. Your presentation should include a basic reading of the primary text, a summary of the theory's key points, and an application of the theory to the text. Presentations will be evaluated on the basis of clarity, organization, and interest; intellectual challenge and originality of the analysis; ability to elicit and handle questions from the class; equal distribution of labor and group cohesiveness.

All groups must meet with me to discuss your plans in advance of the presentation date.

If you are having difficulty with any aspect of these assignments, it is important that you consult with me early on in the process.

Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline), which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

If you use secondary sources in your essays, you must use correct citation and documentation. If you are uncertain of how to use secondary sources, consult The Little, Brown Handbook. If you are still uncertain, consult with me. Incorrect citation and documentation is a form of plagiarism, a serious academic offense, and could result in academic penalty.
LATE POLICY
In order to ensure that all students receive fair and equal treatment with respect to lateness or absence, the policy for this course regarding late or missed assignments is as follows:

General Expectations: All students are expected to make their education a top priority. Requests for special treatment will be considered only if circumstances which are totally beyond the student’s control make it impossible for the student to meet his or her academic obligations without special dispensation.

Exams: Exams will not be rescheduled except in the case of documented emergencies. If a student misses a mid-term or final exam, that student will receive a grade of zero for that assignment, except in the case of documented emergencies.

Presentations: If a student misses a group presentation, that student will receive a grade of zero except in the case of documented emergencies. If an emergency arises, contact me and your group members as soon as possible. Depending on the situation, either the presentation will be rescheduled, or we will come up with an alternative means of evaluating your contribution.

All other assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated deadline date. Extensions will be considered provided the student consults with me before the deadline. The penalty for late assignments is a deduction of 3% per day or part thereof, including weekends. Assignments submitted on the deadline date, but after class has started, will be considered late. Submit assignments outside of class at your own risk. Late assignments submitted outside of class will be penalized based on the date I receive them, regardless of when they were actually submitted. Always back up your work on disk, and save hard copies of all assignments you submit. I accept no responsibility for lost assignments.

*Emergencies (usually medical) will be fairly dealt with, provided you contact me (by phone, email, or in person) within three working days of the assignment due-date, and are able to provide documentation to explain and justify the missed/late assignment. Documentation requirements for medical emergencies are outlined in the University of Waterloo calendar (p. 1:10). Students are also expected to know University and Faculty regulations regarding exams and assignments (University Calendar p. 1:9-1:11 and 9:8). Non-medical emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and must be accompanied with appropriate documentation. While I sympathize with students who encounter computer/printer malfunctions, I do not consider these to be emergencies.

I will not accept any essays at all after the last class of the term.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & READINGS

Please bring your texts to class.
Scheduled Readings are subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping track of changes.

Week 1
Jan 4: Introduction; Ice-breaker

Week 2
Jan 9: Unit I: Art
Graff (on reserve); Arnold (494-501)
Jan 11: Arnold (cont’d); James (501-502; 503-505); Lawrence (505-509); Wordsworth (86-88; 175-79)
All students must declare participation options in writing by Jan 12
Week 3
Jan 16: Mill (178-82); Keats (306-307); Plato (12-18); Yeats (31-35)
Jan 18: Zola (51-56); Auyerbach (56-59); Brecht (66-73)

Week 4
Jan 23: Pater (249-251); Huysman (251-252); Wilde (252-254); Pound (307-310)
Jan 25:

Week 5
Jan 30: Eliot (310-314); Shkovsky (274-276); Jameson (265-267)
Feb 1:

Week 6
Feb 6: Unit II: Structure
Feb 6: De Saussure (113-115; 351-353); Austin (120-122); Barthes (76-77; 318-320)
Feb 8:

Week 7
Feb 13: Jakobson (367-371); Lodge (371-375); Genette (364-366)
Feb 15: In-class Exam #1
Feb 19-23: Winter Study Break

Week 8
Feb 27: Freud (225-227); Lacan (236-238); Kristeva (238-241)
Mar 1:

Week 9
Mar 6: Nietzsche (383-385); Derrida (385-390)
Mar 8: In-class Exam #2

Week 10
Mar 13: Unit III: Culture
Mar 13: Blake (457); Althusser (459-463); Foucault (437-38); Benjamin (449-452)
Mar 15: Hebdige (on reserve)

Week 11
Mar 20: De Beauvoir (533-537); Showalter (537-541); Cixous (541-543)
Mar 22:

Week 12
Mar 27: Appiah (on reserve)
Mar 29: Sollers (on reserve)

Week 13
April 3: Review; Essay Due