Winter 1997

English 251B - Literary theory

Office hours: TTh 11:30-12:30, by appointment; Hagey Hall 255

Texts:
Raman Selden, ed. The Theory of Criticism: from Plato to the Present. Longman.
Richard Ellmann, ed. The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings by Oscar Wilde. Bantam.

Schedule:

NOTE:

Minor revisions may be made as we proceed.

Bring both texts to all classes.

Read Selden's notes to sections under discussion in class.

Week of —
Jan 6: introductions; orientations
  Representation: Plato 12, Coleridge 24, Yeats 31, Collingwood 35, Stevens 36
Jan 13: Zola 51, Auerbach 56, Brecht 66, Lodge 371, Wordsworth 86
Salome
  poetry handout
  Representation/Point of view: Auerbach 328, James 335, Booth 337
Feb 2: "The Ballad of Reading Gaol"
  ORALS (Thursday)
Feb 9: ORALS (Tuesday)
  Aesthetics, etc: Pater 249, Huysmans 251, Wilde 252, Jameson 265

ESSAY DUE

Feb 18: ****
Feb 23: The Picture of Dorian Gray
Mar 2: Structure and language: de Saussure 113, Wittgenstein 115, Austin 120
  Aristotle 350, de Saussure 351, Propp 352, Genette 364, Culler 379
Mar 9: Nietzsche 383, Derrida 386, Hartman 394
  The Importance of Being Ernest
Mar 16: Society, history, class: Williams 414, 431, Goldman 434, Marx 446, Benjamin 447, Hoggart 522, Williams 526
Mar 23: Ideology and gender: Blake 457, Althusser 459, Macherey 463, Woolf 532, de Beauvoir 533, Showalter 537, Cixous 541
  text TBA
Mar 30: ORALS
Apr 6: conclusion

ESSAY DUE
Coursework:

oral #1: 5%
essay #1 (1,000 words): 20%
oral #2: 10%
essay #2 (1250-1500 words): 30%
final: 35%

NOTE: where the schedule indicates ORALS class will not meet. Instead each student will meet with me for 15-20 minutes in order to present material prepared by the student and to respond to my questions. The idea of the oral is two-fold: to help you to prepare your essay by challenging and refining your thinking, and to encourage you to become fluent in theoretical explanation. You will be expected to participate in class discussion, group work, etc. So get talking theory both in and out of class.

Late Policy: The first essay is due after your first oral; essays will be accepted until the Friday before reading week. The second essay is due after your second oral; essays will be accepted until the last day of classes. Late essays will not receive any comments.