Course Outline

Course Website: http://artsonline.uwaterloo.ca/~wsiemerl/
(CR) = Course Reserves

Week/ Date: Topic/ Texts:

(1) Jan 8 Introduction

(2) Jan 15 Nation, Race, Ethnicity
   a) Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
      Introduction and Ch. 5 (CR)
   b) “Race, Nation, and Ethnicity”
      Kathleen Kerr in Patricia Waugh, *Literary Theory and Criticism*, Ch. 25 (CR)

(3) Jan 22 Diaspora
   a) Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora” (Ch. 9 in *Theorizing Diaspora*) (CR)
   b) Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas*, Introduction (CR)
      (Report on Ch. 7: Caribbean 124-34 only)

(4) Jan 29 Postcolonial Criticism
   a) Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, *Empire Writes Back*, Introduction (log into library account first, or use CR)
   b) Elleke Boehmer, “Postcolonialism,” in Waugh, Ch. 24(CR)

(5) Feb 5 Race
    W.E.B. Du Bois, Ch. 1 from *The Souls of Black Folk*

    Course Review

(6) Feb 12 QUIZ TEST
Feb 18-22   READING WEEK

(7) Feb 26   (Inter)textualities I:
Dionne Brand, *A Map to the Door of No Return*

(8) March 5   Memory and Trauma
   a) Freud, “Mourning and Melancholia”
   b) Roger Luckhurst, “Mixing Memory and Desire: Psychoanalysis, Psychology, and Trauma Theory,” in Waugh, Ch. 32 (CR)

(9) March 12   a) Witnessing
   Ian Baucom, *Spectres of the Atlantic* 173-8 (log into library account first, or use CR)
   b) Practice and Agency
   Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Introduction (CR)

(10) Mar 19   Hortense Spillers Visit
   “The Idea of Black Culture”

(11) Mar 26   (Inter)textualities II:
   Lawrence Hill, *The Book of Negroes*

(12) April 2   Final Discussion

April 8   ESSAY DEADLINE
ENGL 470a: Contemporary Critical Theory
Winter 2013, TUES 5:30-8:20, HH 2107
Prof. Winfried Siemerling
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-5:30; HH 222 – ext 32118

1. Goal of the Course

The aim of this course is to relate large-scale issues of postcolonial theory such as nation, diaspora, and race to critical terms concerning individuals such as the subject, subjection, melancholy, practice, agency, and hope. Students will be introduced to critical texts that explore these terms and elucidate them from a number of perspectives. In addition, you will also be asked to read two literary texts in view of possible applications of these terms, and connections between them. By the end of the class, you should be able to use the concepts under study competently with reference to the literary texts introduced in the class, to make connections to other texts and areas you are familiar with, and produce a theoretically informed in-depth analysis of one or several literary texts or a discussion of a topic in critical theory with detailed reference to literary texts.

2. Texts

a) Required Texts:

Dionne Brand, A Map to the Door of No Return (Vintage Canada)
Lawrence Hill, The Book of Negroes (Harpers Perennial)

Other required texts: available via the Course Website on Course Reserve.

b) Optional Background Texts kept on Course Reserve at Porter Library:
Patricia Waugh, ed., Literary Theory and Criticism (several chapter on CR, also available in bookstore)
Jana Evans Braziel and Anita Mannur, eds., Theorizing Diaspora
Julie Rivkin and Micheal Ryan, eds., Literary Theory: An Anthology (especially useful if you have not taken ENGL 251B)
Terry Eagleton, Literary Theory (general introduction, subjects include reception theory, structuralism and post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, political criticism)

Other Optional Background Readings are available electronically on Course Reserve/ via the course website.

3. Evaluation and Late Penalty:

15% Leading discussion in class
15% 2-page reading response paper (due for class on the corresponding topic)
25% Quiz test
30% Term paper (due April 8, approximately 2,000 words/8-10 pages)
15% Active participation in class (attendance is assumed)

The penalty for late term papers is 2% for each day.
4. Other

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.]

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.