ENGL 4150 - 001  Literary Criticism

Thursday: 6:30-9:20 PM.

Lang 104

Office Hours: TR 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Office 408E, Language Building

Final paper Packets due on May 10, (NOON) 2012. My office Lang 408E or English Office. Should include:

- Final paper
- Mid-term (graded)/ Proof of review submission.
- Discussion Leader Response (2 pages)
- Respondent (1 Page)

Introduction:
This course aims to introduce you to the major critical approaches available for analysis and appreciation of literary works. The terms theory and literature themselves are not free of controversy and have been defined in numerous, often conflicting, ways. This course will apprise you of the major debates in the field of literary theory and their impact on the critical reading of literature in particular and the real-life culture in general.

We will also discuss the politics and poetics that constitute what we perceive as literary and the role of the academy and popular culture in defining and refuting any hard boundaries. In today’s world, literary theory is increasingly in constant embrace with the culture, and this course will take into account the overlaps and the disjunctures between the critical and the cultural theory.

Discussed also will be the role of literature in defining or articulating the world around us, and, in certain cases, the role of literature in normalizing the hegemonic drive of the powerful. Such an approach to literary theory will make us question our own privileged place in the university setting and in the world and help us articulate personal goals of becoming politically aware and culturally diverse world citizens. Throughout this course, we will attempt to relate our in-class activities to the world of the lived experience beyond the university campus.

This is a demanding and writing-extensive course, so please come prepared for a challenging and mentally stimulating experience.
Required Texts:

*The Norton Anthology of Literary Theory and Criticism*


Handouts:

- Brief description of various critical approaches.
- Example: New Criticism.

Videos:

- What is Literature Part 1
- What is Literature Part 2
- New Criticism

Course Policies and Requirements:

You are expected to come prepared for class: This involves reading the assigned texts, listening carefully to your peers, and contributing your views in a collegiate and stimulating way. *Attendance is mandatory.*

Distribution of Points:

- Discussion Leader 200 Points
- Respondent 100 Points
- Class Participation 100 Points
- Mid Term exam 300 Points
YOU MUST FINISH ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THE COURSE

Discussion Leader: (200 Points)
Each one of you will be asked to lead discussions on assigned readings on rotation basis. The rotation will be decided in an alphabetic order. Your role as discussion leader will involve the following:

- An oral presentation covering the assigned text in detail. (100 Points).
- A written response (minimum two double-spaced pages) submitted on the same day. (100 Points).

I will calculate your final grade in this assignment by taking the average score on your performance throughout the course.

Discussion Respondent: (100 Points)
For all discussion leadership assignments, I will also assign one of you (in reverse alphabetical order) the role of responding to the discussion leader. It will be up to you to contact your corresponding discussion leader, get a copy of their plan/notes and then develop a response to that for presentation during class. The respondent role will be graded in a fashion similar to that of the discussion leader role.

Mid-Term Exam: (Take-Home Mid Term Questions)
The Mid-term will be an in-class essay exam administered in the 8th week.

Class Participation:
As this is a seminar based on a discussion format, your thoughtful participation is essential to the success of the class. I encourage collegiate, open, and thought-provoking class discussions. Remember, we are all here to learn, so let us share our ideas and knowledge to make this class into a dynamic learning experience.

Term Paper: (Guide)
The final term paper will be due on the last day of class. The paper should be 12-15 pages, with a clearly defined thesis and a coherent argument using one or two of the theoretical approaches discussed in class. I would encourage you to choose your topic early and do extensive research. I will be available to assist during all stages of your research and composition process.

Attendance:
You are expected to attend the class regularly. You will be in the danger of failing the course if you miss more than TWO class sessions.

Cheating and Plagiarism:
Review UNT policy on Academic Integrity HERE.
Avoid at all costs!!!

ADA
Please contact me and bring me the necessary documentation if you would like me to make extra arrangements of for any disabilities.

Grading Scale:
A 900-1000
B 830-899
C 739-829
D 600-738
F Less than 600 Points
Weekly Schedule:

(Note: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor retains the right to change it as and when necessary)

Week 1
Introduction to the course
Eagleton: Intro and Chapter 1

Reading:
Eagleton: Chapter 2
Brooks (1213), Wimsatt (1217), Ransom (961), Frye (1301); Arnold "Functions of " (695)

Discussion Leaders: Preston L, Ellen, Brittany
Respondents: Kendra, David, Patrick

Week 2
Discussion:
Eagleton: Chapter 2
Brooks (1213), Wismatt (1217), Ransom (961), Frye (1301); Arnold

Reading:
Eagleton Chapter 3
Saussure (Whole selection 845); Jakobsonb (Whole Selection 1141)

Discussion Leaders: Evan, Michael, Anna
Respondents: Parker, Sarah, Moriah

Week 3
Discussion:
Eagleton Chapter 3
Saussure (Whole selection 845); Jakobsonb (Whole Selection 1141)

Reading:
Eagleton, Chapter 4
Althusser (1332); Barthes (1316); Foucault (1469) Derrida (1680)

Discussion Leaders: Jessica, Jack, Dylan
Respondents: Katelin, Paris, Alexandra

Week 4
Discussion:
Eagleton, Chapter 4
Althusser (1332); Barthes (1316); Foucault (1469) Derrida (1680)

Reading:
Eagleton, Chapter 5
Freud (807); Lacan (1156); Butler (2536); Kristeva (2067); Cixous (1938); Zizek (2402)

Discussion Leaders: Sara, Courteny, Monique
Respondents: Arianna, Jose, Reynee

Week 5
Discussion:
Eagleton, Chapter 5
Freud (807); Lacan (1156); Butler (2536); Kristeva (2067); Cixous (1938); Zizek (2402)
Reading:
Eagleton, Conclusion and Afterword
Marx (647); Derrida "Specters of Marx (1734); Horkheimer and Adorno (1107)

Discussion Leaders: Steven, Christopher, Deva
Respondents: Preston B, Jonathan

Week 6
Discussion:
Eagleton, Conclusion and Afterword
Marx (647); Derrida "Specters of Marx (1734); Horkheimer and Adorno (1107)

Reading:
Said (1861); Spivak (2110); Bhabha (2351); Gates Jr (2427); Hooks (2507)

Discussion Leaders: Kendra, David, Patrick, Caryn
Respondents: Preston, Ellen, Brittany

Week 7
Revision of all readings covered so far

Week 8
Mid Term

Reading:
Achebe (1610); Anderson (1913); Fanon (1437); Hardt and Negri (2615)

Discussion Leaders: Parker, Sarah, Moriah
Respondents: Evan, Michael, Anna

Week 9
Discussion:
Achebe (1610); Anderson (1913); Fanon (1437); Hardt and Negri (2615)

Reading:
Robin Goodman
Habermas (entire selection)

Discussion Leaders: Katelin, Paris, Alexandra, Jonathan
Respondents: Jessica, Jack, Dylan

Week 10
Discussion
Habermas and Goodman

Reading:
Robin Goodman
Habermas (entire selection)

Discussion Leaders: Arianna, Jose, Reynee
Respondents: Sara, Courteny, Monique

Week 11
Discussion:
Robin Goodman
Habermas (entire selection)
Reading:
Anzaldua (2096); Rich (1588); Rubin (2373); Sedgwick (2464)

Discussion Leaders: Steven, Christopher, Deva, Preston B
Respondents: Chelsea, Caryn

Week 12
Discussion:
Anzaldua (2096); Rich (1588); Rubin (2373); Sedgwick (2464)

Reading:
Smith (2221); Zimmerman (2328); Halberstam (2635); Huffer (Handout)

Discussion Leaders:
Respondents:

Week 13
Discussion:
Smith (2221); Zimmerman (2328); Halberstam (2635); Huffer (Handout)

Assignment:
Final Paper Workshops

Week 14 & 15

Revision and Paper workshops.