Syllabus

English 4366/5366 Literary Theory and Criticism
Spring 2012
Dr. Mary Ruth Marotte
Office: Irby 428
Office hours:  MWF 8:15-9,10-11 am; TTH 8:15-11:30 am
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Welcome to Literary Theory and Criticism! This course will investigate the principles and practices of several major theoretical schools of thought within the Twentieth-century, including Formalism and New Criticism, Structuralism, Deconstruction, Poststructuralism, Psychoanalytic criticism, Feminism and Gender Studies, Marxism, New Historicism, Ethnic and Cultural Studies. This course will require you to do a good amount of reading, often difficult reading. You may find some of the texts rather complicated and perhaps even impenetrable. Please push on through. The course does not require that you understand every text you read, but it does ask you to engage with it.


January
Th 12 Introduction to course
T 17 Formalisms; RR, p. 3-6; Shklovsky, 15-21; Brooks, 22-27
Th 19 Structuralism, Linguistics, Narratology, RR, p.53-55; de Saussure, 59-71; Ryan p. 1-4, 29-38
T 24 Structuralism, Linguistics, Narratology; RR, Barthes, p.81-89; Foucault, p. 90-96
Th 26 Rhetoric, Phenomenology, Reader Response; RR, p. 127-130; Austin, 162-176; King Lear; Ryan, p. 4-8; 39-40
T 31 Rhetoric, Phenomenology, Reader Response; RR, Fish, p. 217-221; King Lear; Ryan, p.46-54

February
Th 2 Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism; RR, p. 257-261; Nietzsche, p. 266-270; King Lear; Ryan, p.62-81
T 7 Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism; RR, p. 278-299; King Lear
Th 9 Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism; RR, Johnson, p.340-347; King Lear; Ryan p. 101-103
T 14 Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism; RR, Cixous, p. 348-354; The Bluest Eye
Th 16 Psychoanalysis and Psychology; RR, p. 389-396; The Bluest Eye; RR Freud, p. 397-414; Lacan, 441-446; Ryan, p. 93-101

T 21 Historicisms, RR, Foucault, p. 549-566; The Bluest Eye
Historicisms; RR, p. 505-507;

Th 23 Historicisms; RR, Greenblatt, p. 592-620; The Bluest Eye
Ryan, p. 115-120; Ryan, p.159-161; 161-170

T 28 Political Criticism: From Marxism to Cultural Materialism; RR, p. 643-646; Marx, p.659-664; Ryan, p. 120-123

March
Th 1 Midterm Exam

T 6 Feminism; RR, p. 765-769; Irigaray, p. 795-811; Ryan, p.131-136

Th 8 Feminism; RR, Gilbert & Gubar, p. 812-825; Ryan, p. 136-145

T 13 Gender Studies; RR, p. 885-888; Butler, p. 900-911, "My Mysterious Mademoiselle" (handout)

Th 15 The Aspern Papers; Ryan, p. 149-152; p. 170-173

T 20 Spring Break

Th 22 Spring Break

T 27 Working Girl; Ryan, p.126-130

April
Th 29 Working Girl

T 3 Ethnic Literary and Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory; RR, p. 959-963; Gates, p. 987-1016; Ryan, p.178-182

Th 5 Attend/Present, UCA Graduate Literature Conference

T 10 Ethnic Literary and Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory; RR, 1017-1030; Jamaica Kincaid, "A Small Place"

Th 12 Colonial, Post-colonial, and Transnational Studies; RR, Thiong’o, p. 1126-1150; Spivak, p. 838-860; Ryan, p. 194-197; 207-208

T 17 Cultural Studies; RR, 1233-1234; Horkheimer and Adorno, p.1242-1246; Fiske, 1274-1284

Th 19 Course wrap-up
T 24 Grad Students--presentations of papers

Th 26 Presentations

Grade Distribution:
Undergraduates/Grad Students:
Short Papers: 60%
Midterm Exam: 20% (10% for grad students)
Final Paper: 20%
Lecture (Grad Students): 10%

Short Papers: You will submit 6 (10% of your grade each) short papers over the course of the semester. Papers should be 2-3 pages typed—no more, no less. You should not use outside sources in these paper but rather explore your own analysis of the literary school of thought and/or the literary work we are studying on any given day. These papers should stimulate classroom discussion and examine where you are having difficulty, need further clarification, or where you are particularly identifying with or at odds with a critic. For these short papers you should pose a question or two to yourself about the assigned reading, and try to formulate a response to the questions posed. Certainly it is fine if you have questions of your own, but you should do your best to analyze (not summarize) what you have read. I would suggest that you make a tentative schedule for yourself so that you do not wait until the end of the semester to tackle six papers.

Midterm Exam: The midterm will cover all of the theories and literature that we have covered from the first day of class up to mid-semester, and it will be mostly short answer. I would strongly suggest that you do at least three short papers by midterm so that you are thoroughly familiar with the works going in to the exam.

Final: You will choose one of the works of literature we have studied this semester and examine this text through a particular theoretical lens. You are to take on the role of formalist, phenomenological, cultural, psychoanalytic, feminist or whatever critical perspective you have become most fascinated (or challenged) by in your readings; then, choose the literary work or film that you find the most ripe for examination through this lens. Papers should be 8-10 pages, with 4-6 outside sources. MLA FORMAT REQUIRED. Graduate Students: 12-15 pages, 6-8 outside sources.

Participation: Participation and attendance are mandatory. This will be a reading and writing intensive course, and in order to keep up, you must be present and actively engaging with me and your peers. You have three excused absences, and then I reserve the right to drop you from my course. Also, you must be in the classroom promptly at 12:15 pm. Tardiness is rude and disruptive, and even as I will remain cordial to you and appear to tolerate your tardiness, know that I abhor it thoroughly. Throughout the semester I will also ask you to do impromptu writing exercises, so you must be present and ready to discuss when class starts. Graduate Students: Naturally, more is expected of you, with regard to participation and in your written responses. Ten percent of your grade will be the development and successful implementation of a lecture and the facilitation of class discussion for part of one class of the semester. You should see me to decide upon a day to serve as lecturer/facilitator. We will then work together to develop a plan.
TURN OFF AND PUT AWAY YOUR CELL PHONE WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN CLASS.

Disclaimer: I have the right to change any reading at any time, so come to class in order not to be muddled and confused if, indeed, something changes.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism does not refer only to flagrant copying; it includes also the uncredited use of any phrases, quotations, or ideas. Please be sure to cite any outside sources which you use. That said, I will not tolerate cheating in this class. If you are caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating, you will immediately lose two letter grades off your final grade. If the assignment in question a major assignment, you will automatically fail the course.

Conferences: These are difficult texts. If you are unsure about the reading, want feedback on an weekly writing, or would like to talk about a text or idea, please come to my office for a conference. If you can't make it to my office hours, feel free to make an appointment with me.

University Policy and Disabilities: If you have any questions about a university policy, including Academic policies and the Sexual Harassment policy, please see the Student Handbook. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3135.