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. In the end, I know you will find that this course will expand your understanding of literature, creating new avenues for exploration and engagement.


(RR= Rivkin and Ryan)

**January**

Th 13 Introduction to course

T 18 Formalisms; *RR*, p. 3-6; 15-21; 22-27

Th 20 Structuralism, Linguistics, Narratology; *RR*, p.53-55; 59-71; Ryan p. 1-12; Act I, *King Lear*

T 25 Structuralism, Linguistics, Narratology; *RR*, p.81-89; 90-96; Act II,III, *King Lear*; Ryan, p. 26-32

Th 27 Rhetoric, Phenomenology, Reader Response; *RR*, p. 127-130; 162-176 Act IV,V, *King Lear*

**February**

T 1 Rhetoric, Phenomenology, Reader Response; *RR*, p. 177-194; 217-221; PAPER DUE

Th 3 Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism; *RR*, p. 257-261; 266-270; *The Bluest Eye*, Autumn
T 8  Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism;  
RR, p. 278-299; 340-347; Ryan p.67-100;  
The Bluest Eye, Winter

Th 10  Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Post-modernism; RR, p. 348-354; 
365-367; The Bluest Eye; Spring

T 15  Psychoanalysis and Psychology; RR, p. 389-396; 397-414;  
Ryan, p.35-50; The Bluest Eye, Finish novel

Th 17  Psychoanalysis and Psychology; RR, p. 431-437; 441-446; 470-486

T 22  MIDTERM EXAM

Th 24  Historicisms; RR, p. 505-507; 549-566; 592-620; Ryan, p. 128-146;  
PAPER DUE

March

T  1  Political Criticism: From Marxism to Cultural Materialism; RR,  
p. 643-646; 659-664; 712-724; Ryan, p. 52-62; 64-66;

Th  3  Feminism; RR, p. 765-769; 795-811; Ryan, p. 12-25; Othello, Act I

T  8  Feminism; Ryan, p. 101-114; Othello, Acts II, III

Th 10  Feminism; RR, p. 812-825; Othello, Acts IV, V

T 15  Gender Studies; RR, p. 885-911; Ryan, p. 115-127; The Aspern Papers

Th 17  Gender Studies; RR, p. 912-921; 935-954; “My Mysterious Mademoiselle”;  
PAPER DUE

T 22  SPRING BREAK

Th 24  SPRING BREAK

T 29  Ethnic Literary and Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory; RR,  
p. 959-963;1017-1030

Th 31  Ethnic Literary and Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory; RR,  
p. 987-1016; Ryan, p. 147-159
April
T  5  Colonial, Post-colonial, and Transnational Studies; *RR*, 1126-1150; 1185-1196
Th 7  Cultural Studies; *RR*, 1233-1234; 1242-1246
T 12  Cultural Studies; *RR*, 1274-1284
Th 14  Attend UCA Literature Conference
T 19  Cultural Studies; *RR*, 1285-1307
Th 21  *Apocalypse Now*
T 26  *Apocalypse Now*; discussion
Th 28  Course wrap-up

May 2-6 Final Exams

*Grade Distribution:*
Undergraduates/Grad Students:
Short Papers: 20% each= 60%
Midterm Exam: 20% (10% for grad students)
Final Paper: 20%
Class Facilitation (Grad Students): 10%

*Short Papers:* You will submit 3 papers over the course of the semester. Papers should be 4-6 pages typed, MLA format, 12 font. I will distribute writing prompts at least a week and a half before the papers are due that will consist of at least three questions from which you may choose. My hope is that you will engage with both the primary and secondary texts, utilizing your anthology for source material, as needed.

*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. I would strongly suggest that you do at least two short papers by midterm so that you are familiar with the works going into the exam.

*Final Paper:* 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 that you find the most ripe for examination through this lens. Papers should be typed, 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. Throughout the semester I will also ask you to do impromptu writing exercises and group activities, 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 facilitation of class discussion for one class of the semester. You should see me to decide upon a day to serve as facilitator. We will then work together to develop a plan.

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.