



AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

EN 390 Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (3) Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Rita Dirks Heath
Office Hours: 13:00 – 14:15 W/F,
or by appointment
Class Time: 14:30 – 15:45 W/F

Office: Room L2067
Office Phone: 410-2000, ext. 5900
Class Location: L2084
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Course Description

This course introduces the various theories of literary interpretation. Students examine theoretical arguments which have shaped the interpretation of literature over the last hundred years. We will begin the course by studying the history of modern literary theory and criticism. By examining major theoretical movements such as Structuralism, Deconstruction, Reader-Response, and Feminism the course aims to equip students with the tools of critical analysis.

Required Text

Lodge, David, and Nigel Wood, eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Third Edition. Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd., 2008.

Recommended Texts

Macey, David. *The Penguin Dictionary of Critical Theory*. London/New York: Penguin, 2000.

Makaryk, Irena R. ed. *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Literary Theory: Approaches, Scholars, Terms*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2000.

Course Schedule

September	8	Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism;
	10	Linguistics, Formalism, and Structuralism; Shklovsky, "Art as Technique" and Ejxenbaum, "The Theory of the Formal Method";
	15	Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics" (141-147)
	17	Bakhtin, "From the Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse"
	22	Bakhtin, cont'd
	24	Eco, "Casablanca: Cult Movies and Intertextual Exchange"
	29	Deconstruction

October	1	Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"
	6	MIDTERM
	8	Psychoanalysis
	13	Lacan, "The Insistence of the Letter of the Unconscious"
	15	Cixous, "Sorties"
	22	Politics, Ideology, and Cultural History
	27	Jameson, "Postmodernism and Consumer Society"
	29	Feminism
November	3	Irigaray, "The Bodily Encounter with the Mother"
	5	Queer Theory
	10	Sedgwick, "The Beast in the Closet"
	12	Reader-Response and Hermeneutics
	17	Iser, "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach"
	19	Postcolonialism
	24	Said, "Crisis [in orientalism]"
	26	Ecocriticism
December	1	Buell, "Place"
	3	Your choice of one: Kristeva, "The Ethics of Linguistics"; Žižek, "Fantasy as a Political Category: A Lacanian Approach"; Baudrillard, "Simulacra and simulation"; Lyotard, "What is Postmodernism?"; Spivak, "The Post-Colonial Critic"; Foucault, "What is an Author?"; Eagleton, "The Rise and Fall of Theory"
	8	Review for exam; Essay due
	13	FINAL EXAM, 13:00 -16:00

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion.
2. Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.
3. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted to the instructor.
4. Students may not submit work done for another class.
5. Respectful conduct towards all learners in the classroom is a non-negotiable right and privilege.
6. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
7. Grade distribution and assignments:

Essay (2500 words)	20%
Presentation	20%
Midterm	20%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Grading Scale

96-100	A+	
91-95	A	Excellent
86-90	A-	
82-85	B+	
75-81	B	Good
72-74	B-	
68-71	C+	
63-67	C	Satisfactory
60-62	C-	
56-59	D+	
50-55	D	Minimal Pass
0-49	F	Failure

Important Notes

***Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal.
Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.***

The last day to enter a course without permission and/or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty is Friday, November 12, 2010.

Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.