



AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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

Instructor: Dr. Rita Dirks Heath
Office Hours: 12:00 – 13:00 T/Th,
or by appointment
Class Time: 13:00-14:15 T/Th

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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

January	5	Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism;
	7	Linguistics, Formalism, and Structuralism; Shklovsky, "Art as Technique" and Ejxenbaum, "The Theory of the Formal Method";
	12	Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics" (31-37)
	14	Bakhtin, "From the Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse"
	19	Bakhtin, cont'd
	21	Eco, " <i>Casablanca</i> : Cult Movies and Intertextual Exchange"
	26	Deconstruction
February	2	Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the

		Human Sciences”
	4	MIDTERM
	9	Psychoanalysis
	11	Lacan, “The Insistence of the Letter of the Unconscious”
	23	Cixous, “Sorties”
	25	Politics, Ideology, and Cultural History
March	2	Marx & Engels, “The German Ideology”
	4	Feminism
	9	Irigaray, “The Bodily Encounter with the Mother”
	11	Queer Theory
	16	Sedgwick, “The Beast in the Closet”
	18	Reader-Response and Hermeneutics
	23	Iser, “The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach”
	25	Postcolonialism
	30	Said, “Crisis [in orientalism]”
April	1	Ecocriticism
	6	Buell, “Place”
	8	Review for exam; Essay due

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. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
6. Grade distribution and assignments:

Essay 1 (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

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

The last day to enter a course without permission and/or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty is January 15, 2010.

The last day to withdraw from a course voluntarily or to change to audit without academic penalty is March 12, 2010.

We are 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 and the Student Handbook 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.