

Critical Theory and Methodology

Professor: Jason Richards
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Course: ENGL 385.02
 Semester: Spring 2009
 Time: 3:30-4:45pm TR
 Room: 206 Palmer

This course examines selected developments in critical theory and their impact on the teaching and study of literature.

Required Texts

Leitch, ed., *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* = (TC)
 Bausch and Cassill, eds., *Norton Anthology of Short Fiction* (Shorter 7th ed.) = (SF)

Grading

Participation	20%
Exam 1 (3-4 pages)	10%
Exam 2 (4-6 pages)	20%
Exam 3 (4-6 pages)	20%
Research Paper (10 pages)	30%

A = 100-94; **A-** = 93-90; **B+** = 89-87; **B** = 86-84; **B-** = 83-80; **C+** = 79-77; **C** = 76-74;
C- = 73-70; **D+** = 69-67; **D** = 66-64; **D-** = 63-60; **F** < 60

Participation: While I will often begin class with a lecture, this course relies heavily on discussion. You are expected to have all the readings done for the day they are assigned and come prepared to discuss them, and you must always bring the text(s) we are discussing to class. Participation will be evaluated in terms of quantity and quality. Part of your participation grade includes quizzes, which are unannounced and given at the beginning of class. **If you are late or absent on a quiz day, you cannot make up the quiz.** Quizzes must be done on paper with clean edges. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Written Work: You are required to write three out-of-class essay examinations and one research paper for this course. You will receive handouts with instructions for each of these assignments.

Mode of Submission: Papers are due at the beginning of class. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with one-inch margins. Please use printer ink that produces a copy dark enough to be easily legible. Place your name, instructor's name, course number, and date in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. Your last name and page number should appear in the upper right-hand corner of all pages. Do not include a title page. Place your title above the text on page one and double space above and beneath it. Your title should not be underlined. Be sure to staple your paper. You may lose points for not following these guidelines.
Note: I do not accept papers by email.

Late Work: All work must be turned in on time. If you will not be in class when a paper is due, it must be in my mailbox before the deadline. A late paper will lose one percentage point for each day it is late (e.g., 84% becomes 83%, and so on).

Submission of All Work: All major assignments are integral to the goals of the course. Failure to complete any major assignment will result in a grade of F for the course.

Intellectual Honesty: All work is assumed to be the student's own and produced exclusively for the course in which it is submitted. Papers written for one course, even if revised, are not to be submitted in another without the instructor's prior approval. Borrowing of ideas or language from other sources (including published material, other student papers, the internet or other electronic resources, etc.) must be carefully documented. Students are advised against posting their work on the internet since doing so may lead to suspicion of plagiarism. Students are advised to maintain drafts of their work to verify its originality. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Honor Council, and the student if convicted will receive a grade of F in the course in addition to sanctions assigned by the Council. Carelessness in documenting sources, even if not technically plagiarism, will be penalized as the instructor deems appropriate. If you are uncertain about how or whether to document sources, consult me.

Attendance: While I expect you to attend every class, you are allowed two absences during the semester. After two absences, every additional absence will lower your final grade by one percentage point (e.g., 80% becomes 79%, and so on). If you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course. **Note: If you miss class, please don't contact me to ask what you missed. Instead, you should exchange contact information with other classmates and ask them what we covered in class.**

Tardiness: Please do not come late to class. Tardiness disrupts the flow of class and distracts other students. If you have a scheduling conflict, you are advised to drop the class. Tardiness will lower your participation grade.

Email Policy: The best way to address questions about our class is by meeting in person. I am always happy to talk with you during my office hours, by appointment, and after class. That said, I am available by email for **simple** queries. I typically respond to email once a day between 9am-6pm Monday-Friday. Here are some rules to follow when emailing:

- Email correspondence should be treated as formal communication
- Email is not the place to negotiate any kind of special request
- Email is not the place to discuss grade concerns
- Email is not the place to seek feedback on your writing; that must be done in person
- Do not email at the last minute (e.g., the night before an assignment is due) asking for help
- Do not email with a question that can be answered by our syllabus or College website
- Do not email about your absences, unless you are missing two or more classes in a row

Disability Issues: Students with documented disabilities should meet with me at the beginning of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations. Please contact the office of Student Disability Services for more information. In all cases, it is your responsibility to provide me with an official letter from SDS.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1

Jan 15: Introduction to Course

Week 2

Jan 20: Plato, *Republic*, Books VII and X (TC); Nietzsche, from *Birth of Tragedy* (TC)

Jan 22: Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (TC); Emerson, from "American Scholar" (TC)

Week 3

Jan 27: Arnold, "Function of Criticism" (TC); Ransom, "Criticism, Inc." (TC)

Jan 29: Eliot "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (TC); Wimsatt and Beardsley, "Intentional Fallacy" (TC)

Week 4

Feb 3: Marx and Engels, selections (TC 767-83); Gramsci, "Formation of Intellectuals" (TC)

Feb 5: Althusser, from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (TC)

Week 5

Feb 10: Melville, "Bartleby" (SF)

Feb 12: Benjamin, "Work of Art" (TC)

Feb 13: **First Exam Due by 3:30 (leave in my mailbox)**

Week 6

Feb 17: Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics* (TC)

Feb 19: Derrida, from *Of Grammatology* (TC)

Week 7

Feb 24: Barthes, "Death of the Author" (TC); Borges "Pierre Menard" (SF)

Feb 26: Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* (TC); Kafka, "Hunger Artist" (SF)

Week 8

Mar 3: Freud, from *Interpretation of Dreams* (TC); Faulkner, "Rose for Emily" (SF)

Mar 5: Freud, "Uncanny" (TC)

Week 9

Mar 10: Lacan, "Mirror Stage" (TC); Poe, "House of Usher" (SF)

Mar 12: Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (SF)

Mar 13: **Second Exam Due by 3:30 (leave in my mailbox)**

Week 10

Mar 17: Spring Recess

Mar 19: Spring Recess

Week 11

Mar 24: Woolf, from *Room of One's Own* (TC); Woolf, "Kew Gardens" (SF)

Mar 26: Cixous, "Laugh of Medusa" (TC); Chopin, "Story of an Hour" (SF)

Week 12

Mar 31: Gilbert/Gubar, from *Madwoman in the Attic* (TC); Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper" (SF)

Apr 2: Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (TC)

Week 13

Apr 7: Butler, from *Gender Trouble* (TC)

Apr 9: Easter Recess

Week 14

Apr 14: Du Bois, "Criteria of Negro Art" (TC); Lecture: Blackface Minstrelsy

Apr 16: Hughes, "Negro Artist" (TC); Baker, from *Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature* (TC)

Apr 17: **Third Exam Due by 3:30 (leave in my mailbox)**

Week 15

Apr 21: Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (SF)

Apr 23: Said, from *Orientalism* (TC)

Week 16

Apr 28: Bhabha, "Commitment to Theory" (TC)

Apr 30: Conferences

Week 17

May 5: **Research Paper Due by 3:30pm (leave in my mailbox)**