

English 485  
Fall 2004  
MW 3:00-4:15  
210 Palmer

Professor Marshall  
316 Palmer x3980  
marshall@rhodes.edu  
Office hours: MW 2:00-3:00,  
TR 1:00-2:00 & by appt.

### Senior Seminar: Critical Theory and Methodology

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

#### TEXTS:

David H. Richter, ed., *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends*. 2d ed. (R)  
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*, ed. Susanne L. Wofford,  
1994. (H)  
Sigmund Freud, *On Dreams* (Norton, 1990).  
Paul Auster, *The Book of Illusion* (Picador, 2003).  
Ali Smith, *Hotel World* (Random House, 2001).

#### REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Participation 10%

Since this class is a seminar, each member's participation is vital to the overall disposition and accomplishment of the group. Your participation grade will be based on the regularity and quality of attendance and contributions to discussion. Comments that help to advance discussion and that enable all class members to contribute are highly valued.

Presentation and paper 15%

At least once during the term, each student will make a presentation in class on an assigned reading; eligible readings are listed below. A good presentation should recap the major arguments of the reading, share a sense of what you found difficult or troubling in the reading, and provide a tentative sense of why the reading is significant. Presentations should last 10 to 15 minutes. A short essay (1250-1500 words) will be due one week after the presentation; you should meet with me before and/or after your presentation to discuss the reading and your plans for engaging with it.

Symposium 15%

Working in small groups, students will lead class discussion of contemporary fiction by Auster and Smith. The goal of group presentations is to use theoretical perspectives and class readings to promote a multifaceted encounter with the text.

Three essay / examinations 60%

You will be assigned topics on which to write papers due on Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 10.

Please refer to the statement of Expectations and Policies of the Department of English for other relevant guidelines.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS: All writing and reading assignments are due on the date listed. Always bring the appropriate text to class.

8/25 Introduction

8/30 Wordsworth, "Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*" (R)

- 9/1 Plato, *Republic*, Book X (R)  
Henry James, "Art of Fiction" (R)
- 9/6 Labor Day – no class
- 9/8 Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (R)  
Poovey, "For What It's Worth . . ." (handout)
- 9/9 *English department forum on "The Future of Criticism" at 4:30 pm in the Orgill Room*
- 9/13 Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy" (R)  
Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (R)
- 9/15 Fish, "Interpreting the *Variorum*" (R)  
Fetterly, "Introduction to *The Resisting Reader*" (R)
- 9/20 De Saussure, "Nature of the Linguistic Sign" (R)  
Barthes, "From Work to Text" (R)
- 9/22 Foucault, "What is an Author?" (R)
- 9/27 O'Hara, "Lentrichia's Frankness" (reserve)
- 9/28 *Attend lecture by Professor Dan O'Hara of Temple University at 7:30 pm in the Orgill Room*
- 9/29 Wofford, "A Critical History of Hamlet" (H)
- Essay/Exam #1 due Friday, Oct. 1, at noon*
- 10/4 Culler, from *On Deconstruction* (reserve)
- 10/6 Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" (R)  
"What is Deconstruction?" (H)
- 10/11 Freud, *On Dreams*
- 10/13 Adelman, "Man and Wife Is One Flesh" (H); "What is P/A?" (H)
- 10/18 Fall break – no class
- 10/20 Lacan, "The Mirror Stage" (reserve)  
Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (R)
- 10/25 Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (reserve)
- 10/27 Marx, "Consciousness Derived . . ." and "On Greek Art . . ." (R)  
Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (R)
- 11/1 Williams, from *Marxism and Literature* (R)  
Jameson, from *The Political Unconscious* (R)

11/3 Bristol, “Funeral-Bak’d Meats” (H); “What is Marxist Criticism?” (H)

*Essay/Exam #2 due Friday, Nov. 5, at noon*

11/8 Woolf, “Shakespeare’s Sister” (R)  
Gilbert and Gubar, from *Infection in the Sentence* (R)  
Irigaray, “This Sex Which Is Not One” (R)

11/10 Showalter, “Representing Ophelia” (H); “What is Feminist Criticism?” (H)

11/15 Sedgwick, from *Epistemology of the Closet* (R)  
Butler, “Imitation and Gender Insubordination” (R)

11/17 Said, from the Introduction to *Orientalism* (R)

11/22 Gates, “Writing, ‘Race,’ and the Difference It Makes” (R)

11/24 Thanksgiving

11/29 Symposium on Auster, *Book of Illusions*

12/1 Auster symposium, part 2

12/6 Symposium on Smith, *Hotel World*

12/8 Smith symposium, part 2

*Essay/Exam #3 due Friday, Dec. 10, at noon*