

Senior Seminar: Critical Theory and Methodology  
 English 485 (sec. 2; crn 19047); fall 2008  
 Professor Shaffer (313 Palmer; phone: \*3976)  
 Palmer 203: TR 12:30-1:45pm  
 Office Hours: TR 1:45-3 pm (and by appointment)

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

TEXTS:

Bausch/Cassill, eds. Norton Anthology Short Fiction 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (B)  
 Freud, Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis (F)  
 Marx, Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings (M)  
 Richter, ed. Critical Tradition 3r<sup>d</sup> ed. (R)  
 Library Reserve Reading (L)

CLASS POLICY:

Written work submitted late will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per 24-hour period. One unexcused absence per semester is allowed; two or more will negatively affect your final grade. Failure to complete any major assignment or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade in the course. All work for this class must be done in strict compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.

REQUIREMENTS:

Three out-of-class essay examinations: 60%  
 10-page research essay: 20%  
 Participation, attendance, presentations, quizzes: 20%

Reading and writing assignments are due on the class dates listed below. Bring the appropriate text to class each day.

day	Date	comment
Thursday	<b>August 28</b>	Course Introduction
Tuesday	<b>September 2</b>	Melville, "Bartleby" (B)
Thursday	4	Joyce, "Araby" (B)
Tuesday	9	Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (B)
Thursday	11	Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper" (B); Kafka, "Hunger Artist" (B)
Tuesday	16	Wimsatt and Beardley, "Intentional Fallacy" (R); Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (R)
Thursday	18	Shklovsky, "Art as Technique" (R)
Tuesday	23	Rosenblatt, "Literature: A Performing Art" (L); Fish, "Is There a Text in This Class?" (L)
Thursday	25	Fish (L); Phelan, "Dialogue with Fish" (R)
Tuesday	30	No Class
Thursday	<b>October 2</b>	de Saussure, "Nature of the Linguistic Sign" (R); Levi-Strauss,

		"Structural Study of Myth" (R); <b>First Exam Due</b>
Tuesday	7	Barthes, "Death of the Author" (R); Gass, "Medium of Fiction" (L)
Thursday	9	No Class
Tuesday	14	Midterm Conferences
Thursday	16	Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" (R)
Tuesday	21	Fall Break
Thursday	23	Derrida (R)
Tuesday	28	Freud, <i>Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis</i> (F)
Thursday	30	Freud (F)
Tuesday	<b>November 4</b>	Freud, selections (R); Holland, "The Question: Who Reads What How?" (R); Bloom, "Meditation upon Priority" (R) <b>Second Exam Due</b>
Thursday	6	Marx, <i>Communist Manifesto</i> (M)
Tuesday	11	Marx (M); Marx, selections (R)
Thursday	13	Bakhtin, "Response" (L); Bakhtin, from <i>Discourse in the Novel</i> (R)
Tuesday	18	Bakhtin, "Epic and Novel" (L)
Thursday	20	Achebe, "An Image of Africa" (R); Deleuze and Guattari, "What is a Minor Literature" (R)
Tuesday	25	Woolf, selection (R); de Beauvoir, selection (L)
Thursday	27	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday	<b>December 2</b>	Fetterley, "The Resisting Reader" (R); Fetterley on Faulkner's "Emily" (L); Ozick, "Literature and the Politics of Sex: A Dissent" (L) <b>Research Essay Due</b>
Thursday	4	Gilbert and Gubar, "Infection in the Sentence: The Woman Writer and the Anxiety of Authorship" (R)
Tuesday	9	Moi, "Dialogue with Gilbert and Gubar" (R)
Fri-Wed	12-17	<b>Third Exam Due</b>

Day	Date	Topic
Thursday	August 28	Course Introduction
Friday	September 1	Melville, "Pierrot" (R)
Thursday	4	Love, "A Study" (R)
Friday	5	Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (R)
Thursday	11	Glenn Feldman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (R); Kafka, "Hungry Artist" (R)
Friday	16	Wittgenstein and Derrida, "Intentional Fallacy" (R); Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (R)
Thursday	18	Sartre, "Nausea" (R)
Friday	23	Rosenblatt, "The Poet as Performer: A Performance Art" (L); Parry, "The Poet as Performer" (L)
Thursday	25	Fish, "The Poet as Performer" (R)
Friday	30	No Class
Thursday	October 1	de Saussure, "The Sign" (R); Levi-Strauss

Professor Shaffer

Writing Assignment Instructions

1. Double-space your essay. Use one-inch margins on the right, left, bottom, and top of each page. Use a normal font size (12). Title your essay and number your pages.
2. Be sure that your essay has an identifiable thesis.
3. Substantiate your argument with textual evidence.
4. Use the present tense in your essay whenever possible.
5. Avoid plot-summary whenever possible.
6. Avoid contractions whenever possible.
7. Carefully proofread your work before turning it in.
8. Put your name on the back of the last sheet of your essay, and staple (rather than clip) the pages together.
9. Pledge your work under the Rhodes Honor Code.
10. Always keep an extra copy of your essay in safe-keeping.