Engl 5300-001: Intro to Lit Theory/Crit Dr. Luanne Frank (522 Carlisle) lfrank@uta.edu

Fall 2013: 6 p.m. Th Office Hrs: T 5PM, Th 9PM (in classrm & appt)

Dept. of English 203 Carlisle

**Tentative Thumbnail Course Description**

The following is an introductory graduate course in Literary Theory. It follows on two introductory undergraduate courses examining related material. Like those, it is designed to acquaint students with the range, depth, and variety of theories that have influenced literary studies most strongly since, and including, the late eighteenth and early and late nineteenth centuries, and to provide students an opportunity to acquaint or re-acquaint themselves with the conventions of the research paper.

The course’s intentions are l) to direct students to the work of specific theorists; 2) to encourage students to recognize the ***nature of*** the work of these theorists and then to familiarize themselves closely with it; and 3) to provide students with an opportunity to ***produce*** the sort of criticism that these theorists have either themselves produced or have influenced. That is, by the course’s end, students will have had the opportunity a) to become acquainted with selected theorists through passive reading; b) to understand, through summarizing in writing, the major points made by the selected theorists; c) to make use of--in writing, in long, one-page papers--these theorists’ methods as means of elucidating a literary work of each student’s choice; and d) to recognize and correct such infelicities of punctuation, grammar, style, and usage as their and their classmates’ papers may expose. The final paper, which can run to five pages, functions as an abbreviated research paper.

**TEXTS**  (Brackets [ ] = on library reserve)

Leitsch, Vincent B. *Norton Anthol of Criticism and Theory*. New York: Norton, 2010.

Foucault, Michel. *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*. New York: Vintage, 1973. (Les Mots et les Choses, 1966).

Freud, Sigmund. *The Interpretation of Dreams*, tr. John Strachey. New York: Basic Books, 2010 (*Die Traumdeutung*. 1900 [1899]).

Baldick, Chris. *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004 (or another perhaps already in your possession).

Turabian, Kate. *Manual for Writers of Theses, Term Papers, and Dissertations*. Chicago: Chicago UP, 1996. Or: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. New York: MLA, 2009.

[Auerbach, Eric. “Odysseus’s Scar,” pp. 3-21. *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1968 (Gn. 1947/Engl.1953).]

[Bruss, Elizabeth. Ch. 1: “Suddenly, An Age of Theory,” pp. 3-32. *Beautiful Theories*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1982.]

[Keuls, Eva. Ch. 1:”Introduction,” pp. 1-15. *The Reign of the Phallus*. New York: Harper, l985 or Berkeley: U. of Cal. P, 1993.]

[Lotman, Jurij and Boris Uspensky. *The Semiotics of Russian Culture*. Ann Arbor: U of Mich P 1972. ]

[Lovejoy, Arthur O. *The Great Chain of Being*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1936.]

[Neumann, Erich. *The Great Mother*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1955.]

[Pater, Walter. “Preface,” pp. xxix-xxxiii; Sandro Botticelli,” pp. 33-40; “Conclusion,” pp. 150-153. *The Renaissance*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1986 (1873).

**Tentative Schedule**

Names in **bold** here indicate the theorist or theorists assigned. Page numbers of their selections appear in bold by their names in the anthology’s index. This symbol: [ ] indicates a theorist indispensable to the field but whose work is not assigned for examination; { } encloses a name important in the field and not present in the anthology or available on reserve. For papers listing more than one theorist, write on but one, the one of your choice.

Section 1: Reader-Focused Backgrounds & Foregrounds.

Readings for this section: **Pater**, [Wilde], Nietzsche, **Iser** {Holland,}

Fish, Tompkins**.**

August 22 Introductory Overview & first readings: ([Bruss] Pater).

August 29 Paper # 1: Pater/Iser & review papers.

Section 2: Formalism: Forebears; Offspring: Semiotics & Structuralism.

Readings for this section; **Kant**, **Wimsatt & Beardsley**, Brooks, Eichenbaum, **Saussure**, {Peter Steiner,} **Lotman-Uspensk**y, Levi-Strauss, Barthes.

September 5 Paper # 2 : Saussure/Lotman-Uspensky

September 12 Paper # 3 Kant

Section 3: Historicism, Marxism & its Critical/Theoretical Voices. Readings: **Hegel**, {Trotsky,} **Lukacs**, Gramsci, Benjamin, Adorno, **Jameson**, Althusser, Williams.

September 19 Paper # 4 : Marx/Lukacs/Jameson

September 26 Paper # 5: Hegel

Section 4: Beginnings of Deconstruction

Reading: Nietzsche.

October 3 Paper # 6: Nietzsche

Section 5: Textual explication. Stylistics. Philological greats.

**Auerbach** (Said’s intro)***,*** Spitzer, Curtius. Reading: Auerbach, *Mimesis.*

October 10 Paper # 7: Auerbach

Section 6: The Psychoanalytic Tradition.

Readings: **Freud**, [Jung,] **Neumann**, {Bodkin,} Frye, **Lacan**, Deleuze/Guattari, Mulvey.

October 17 Paper # 8: Freud (handwritten in class)

October 24 Paper # 9: Jung/Neumann

Section 7: The Deconstructive, Hermeneutic, Post-Structuralist

Movements

Readings: **Heidegger**, Gadamer (**Palmer**), **Poulet**, **Foucault**, **Derrida**

October 24 Paper # 10: Heidegger

October 31 Paper # 11: Gadamer

November 7 Paper # 12: Foucault

November 14 Paper # 13: Derrida

Section # 8: Gender- and Ethnicity-Focused Criticism & Theory Readings: **Keuls**, **Hurston**, MacKinnon, Sedgwick, Haraway, Bordo, Spivak, **Said**, **Gates.**

November 21 Final paper: Keuls; Hurston, or other chosen from above lists.

November 28 Thanksgiving Holiday

December 5 Final examination: 8:15PM