**Engl 4356.001: Literary Criticism and Theory II**

**Spring 2014**

Instructor: Dr. Luanne Frank

Department: English (203 Carlisle)

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Office Hours: TTh 7PM- (in classroom) & appt.; W 9PM- (in 301 Preston) & appt.

Time and Place of Class meetings: Preston 207

Working Title of Course: “The Theory Behind the Theory.”

Course Content:

The present course is the second half of a once-required two-semester introduction to the sector of literary studies falling under the rubric of criticism and theory. This sector became increasingly important in the twentieth century, to the point that, from earlier being but perfunctorily acknowledged and even scorned for threatening to displace literature itself as the chief focus of literary studies, it became recognized as indispensable, then required, first of graduate students only, then of undergraduates. At UTA the undergraduate requirement initially took the form of a single survey course. Two are now required for English majors, as well as a third, 4399, focusing on a single theorist or set of theories.

The first half of the two-semester survey requirement offered by the present instructor moves relatively chronologically, focusing on the best-known of the methodologies that largely defined literary criticism from the end of the nineteenth through much of the twentieth century, such as impressionism (Pater), History of Ideas (Lovejoy), Freudian and Jungian psychoanalysis (Freud, and Neumann [on Jung]), semiotics (Saussure, Lotman, Uspensky), Marxist-derived theory (Lukacs, Jameson), hermeneutics (Gadamer via Palmer), and post-structuralism (Foucault). Readings were a mixture of relatively “pure” theory on the one hand (Pater, Freud) and applied theory on the other (Neumann, Lotman, Uspensky, Lukacs, Jameson, Gadamer, Foucault).

The present half of the two-semester sequence moves more strictly chronologically and, rather than view some methodologies as applied by the original theorists’ *followers* (the last of the lists above), focuses all but exclusively *on* the grounding theorists themselves--on what one might call “the theory behind the theory.” Of course even the so-called *grounding* theorists have themselves been dependent on important, enabling forerunners (Hegel on Herder, Marx on Hegel, Jung on Freud, Heidegger on Nietzsche and Dilthey among others). But they are still considered major grounding sites of burgeoning methodologies enabled by them and associated with their names.

The theory behind the theory is almost inevitably philosophy, as the anthology for the course emphasizes with its inclusion of large-sized examples of the thinkers whose work is key to different streams of what comes after them. Hume, for example, will, for our purposes at least, inaugurate a certain skepticism that will startle Kant and weave its way along underneath idealism to emerge in post-structuralism in the twentieth century; Burke will influence Kant and everyone thereafter who is interested in the beautiful as it relates to the sublime; Kant will enable phenomenology (Husserl) and thus the New Criticism, structuralism, and semiotics. Hegel (leaning on Herder) will inspire all later historicist thinkers whether spiritually or materially inclined, one of the most influential of these being Marx, as Marx will not fail to influence everyone after him concerned with the economic basis of literature, and so on down the line.

The way learning will take place in the course will be for us to read the assigned theorist at home before the date beside which the theorist’s name appears on the syllabus; then read as much as possible of the assigned material together in class, clarifying as much of it as possible; and thereafter at home summarize it briefly in our own words for 3/4 of a one-page paper, double-spaced, and using it to understand, in the final 1/4 of the same one-page paper, an aspect of a literary work of the student’s choice, to which it is applicable. Each paper will be read aloud in class.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Close, concrete acquaintance with the theoretical material covered by the course and the ability, demonstrated through in-class practice in written papers, of using it to elucidate literary works to which it is pertinent and applicable.

Required Texts:

Vincent Leitsch,. *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (New York: WW Norton, 2010) Sigmund Freud. *Interpretation of Dreams*, tr. James Strachey (New York:

Martin Heidegger. *Parmenides*, André Schuwer & Richard Rojcewicz (Bloomington: Indiana

UP, 1992).

**List and Due Dates of Assignments**

Details of course procedures follow immediately below this schedule of assignments

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Spring, 2014, Preston 207 Office: 522 Carlisle. Hrs. TTh 7:00PM (in classroom) & appt

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

January 14 Hume Intro & 392-405

16 Burke Intro & 454-60

21 Paper #1 Hume and/or Burke

23 Review papers

28 Kant Intro & 411-28

30 Kant 429-50

February 4 Kant

6 Paper # 2 (Kant)

11 Hegel Intro & 541-7

13 Hegel 547-55

18 Marx Intro & 651-63

20 Paper # 3 (Hegel)

25 Marx 663-74

March 4 Marx

6 Nietzsche 764-74

10- 14 Spring break

18 Paper # 4 (Marx)

20 Nietzsche 774-85

25 Paper # 5 (Nietzsche)

27 Freud Ch 7 (28: Last day to drop)

April 6 Freud

8 Heidegger, *Parmenides*

13 Paper # 6 (Freud)

15 Heidegger

20 Heidegger

22 Thanksgiving

27 Paper # 7 (Heidegger)

29 Derrida Intro & 1688-97 **Texts:**

Leitch, *Norton Anthol of Theory & Criticism*

May 4 Derrida Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams, tr. Strachey*

11 Exam: Paper #8 (Derrida) Heidegger, *Parmenides*

**Description of Procedures followed in this Course**