

## **ENGL 5300--001: Theory and Practice in English Studies**

**Instructor:** Dr. P. Ingram

**Semester:** Fall 2015

**Office:** 410 Carlisle

**Class Time & Room:** T 2-4:50, CAR 212

**Office Hours:** R—1-3pm and by appointment

**Email:** pingram@uta.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** English 5300 is a core course of the graduate program in English. This course introduces a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches to English studies, which serve as a foundation for subsequent courses. Along with interpretive methods, the course also includes an introduction to research methodology in the profession.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- To develop knowledge of some of the key concepts in critical and literary theory in order to participate in a discourse appropriate to a graduate student of English.
- To understand the historical and philosophical tradition from which these theories developed in order to identify the methods, assumptions, and aims of each theoretical movement.
- To hone analytical and critical *thinking* skills in order to evaluate the implications and contributions of a given theorist or their work.
- To improve analytical and critical *writing* skills in order to apply sophisticated and complex critical ideas to literary or cultural texts.
- To learn research skills to aid in the formulation of ideas and the writing of advanced theses and dissertations.

### **TEXTS:**

#### **Required:**

Birns, Nicholas. *Theory after Theory: An Intellectual History of Literary Theory from 1950 to the Early Twenty-First Century*. 2010

Leitch, Vincent B. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. Second Edition.

#### **Recommended:**

Childers and Hentzi, eds. *The Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism*.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Reading preparation: 25%

Journal/Conference Assignment Paper 1-2 pages 5%

Final Paper Bibliography and Abstract: 10%

Presentation of Final Paper: 25%

Final Paper: 35%

**Grading Scale:**

A= 90-100      D= 60-69

B= 80-89      F= 59 and below

C= 70-79

**Papers****Reading Preparation (1-2 pages, 20 points each, 13 in total)**

For each essay from the Leitch Norton Anthology, you will prepare 10 points for discussion. These will comprise 5 questions and 5 critical observations. The questions can be informational (ie. What does Foucault mean by x?), but you need also to include questions related to the reading's premise (ie. What are the implications of this theory/idea/claim for this group of people, field of study, etc.?). You must demonstrate that you have attempted to engage with the text.) I DO NOT want to read 5 questions that suggest you don't understand anything.) The 5 critical observations will identify the key points of the essay and/or an analysis of the content presented therein. You need to cite a page number related to your question or comment. Your paper should demonstrate that you have read the entire article, not just the first few pages. **These are due via BB every Monday by 12pm.** I will use your questions and observations as the basis for our discussion on Tuesdays.

**\*\*\*\*\*Late papers will be penalized by one point for every hour they are late\*\*\*\*\***

**Journal/Conference Assignment Paper 1-2 pages (Due anytime during the semester)****Journal Review**

This assignment requires you to contact a member of the UTA English faculty that works in your (projected) area of interest. Make an appointment to see them during their office hours and ask them about their field and the key journals in that field. Be sure to email them in advance with your question, so they are prepared. This doesn't have to be a long meeting, but it will give you a chance to ask some questions.

**Conference Abstract**

Find a conference(s) in your field and submit an abstract. It doesn't matter if your paper is accepted or not. The idea is to encourage you to start thinking about research questions and the profession. If you don't have a field, then look for conferences that interest you. The best place to start is <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/> **This is a great resource for all fields of study within the humanities.**

**The paper**

Write down the information you received from your journal inquiry and your conference search and include the abstract of the paper you submit.

## **Final Paper Project is divided into three assignments:**

### **Paper (Due 12/15) 35%**

15-20 pages, double-spaced.

You will present a reading of one of the following texts employing one, or a combination, of the literary lenses we've studied in the course. You will need a strong thesis that goes beyond an obvious reading of the text.

Margaret Atwood, *Handmaid's Tale*;

J.M. Coetzee *Disgrace*;

Jeffrey Eugenides, *Middlesex*;

Mat Johnson, *Loving Day*;

Hilary Mantel, *Station Eleven*.

### **Bibliography and Abstract (Due 11/3) 10%**

The bibliography should include 8-10 sources and a two-paragraph abstract detailing the thesis of the paper, the points of the argument, and your theoretical methodology.

### **Oral Presentation (Due 12/8) 25%**

You will present your paper to the class on the last day in a **15-minute presentation**.

You should not read your paper, but rather present the argument of the paper and how you applied the theory to your text. There will be a short Q&A period after each presentation.

## **PLAGIARISM**

In both oral and written communication, the following guidelines for avoiding plagiarism must be followed:

1. Any words quoted directly from a source must be in quotation marks (for a written assignment and referenced for an oral presentation) and cited.
2. Any paraphrasing or rephrasing of the words and/or ideas of a source must be cited.
3. Any ideas or examples derived from a source that are not in the public domain or of a general knowledge must be cited.

### **4. All papers and presentations must be the student's own work.**

Students who are confused about what constitutes plagiarism should meet with me.

Academic Honesty is expected of all students. Cheating and plagiarism are violations of academic honesty. Any student caught violating the academic honesty code will be failed for the entire semester and the matter will be reported, with documentation, to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or earlier if accommodations are needed immediately. Bring a copy of all relevant paperwork to the

meeting. If you do not have a notification for accommodations but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office for Students with Disabilities, 102 University Hall, 2-3364.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	ASSIGNMENT DUE/CLASS ACTIVITIES Subject to change when necessary
Week 2 T 9/01	Introduction to the Course Birns, <i>Theory after Theory</i> Preface, "Beyond the Resolved Symbolic"
Week 3 T 9/8	<b>Materialism and Ideology</b> Birns, Chapter One—Foucault: Deconstructing Categories
Week 4 M 9/14	<b>Reading Preparation for both of tomorrow's essays due by 12pm.</b>
T 9/15	Foucault, "Discipline and Punish" (Leitch 1490-1502) and Foucault, "History of Sexuality" (Leitch 1502-1521)

Week 5 M 9/21	<b>Reading Preparation for both of tomorrow's essays due by 12pm.</b>
T 9/22	Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (Leitch 1335-1361), Williams, "Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory" (Leitch 1423-1437)
Week 6 T 9/29	<b>Texts and Readers</b> Birns, Chapter Two—Derrida: Deconstructing Hierarchies
Week 7 M 10/5	<b>Reading Preparation for both of tomorrow's essays due by 12pm.</b>
T 10/6	De Man, "Semiology and Rhetoric" (1365-1378), Jauss, "Literary History as a challenge to Literary Theory" (Leitch 1406-1420)
Week 8 T 10/13	<b>Gender and Language</b> Birns, Chapter Three—Deconstructing Gender: Feminist Theory
Week 9 M 10/19	<b>Reading Preparation for both of tomorrow's essays due by 12pm.</b>
T 10/20	Mitchell and Rose, Introductions I&II to <i>Feminine Sexuality</i> on BB
Week 10 M 10/26	<b>Reading Preparation for "Gender Trouble" due by 12pm.</b>
T 10/27	Birns, Chapter Six—Deconstructing Normativity: Queer Theory Judith Butler, "Gender Trouble" (2540-2553)
Week 11 T 11/3	<b>Centers and Margins</b> Birns, Chapter Four—Deconstructing Privilege: Anti-Racist Theory <a href="#">Bibliography and Abstract of Final Paper Due</a>
Week 12 M 11/9	<b>Reading Preparation for both of tomorrow's essays due by 12pm.</b>
T 11/10	bell hooks, "Postmodern Blackness" (2509-2516), Lisa Lowe, "Work, Immigration, Gender" (2519-2535)
Week 13 T 11/17	Birns, Chapter Five, Deconstructing Centrality: Post-Colonial Theory
Week 14 M 11/23	<b>Reading Preparation for both of tomorrow's essays due by 12pm.</b>
T 11/24	Said, "Orientalism (1866-1888), Fanon, "Fact of Blackness" pdf on BB
Week 14	<b>Future Theory</b>

T 12/1	Birns, Chapter Seven, Theory in the Twenty-First Century
Week 15 T 12/8	Last Day of Class Student Presentations of Final Projects
T 12/15	Final Paper Due

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.