

**ENGL 5300: The Theory and Practice of English Studies**  
**Thursday 2.00-4.50pm**  
**212 Carlisle**

**Professor J. Fay**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3 pm, and by appointment

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### **Course Description**

This course provides a forum for beginning graduate students to encounter, define, and think through the question of methodology in contemporary English studies. Students will become familiar with the major “schools” of critical theory, including formalism, structuralism, psychoanalysis, feminism, deconstruction, Marxism, post-colonial theory, ethnic studies, and post-humanism. We will read extracts from the writings of philosophers and literary critics along with essays that explain, interpret, and contextualize the relationships between these primary theoretical texts. This strategy will enable us to gain a sense of “critical theory” not as a monolithic concept but as a diverse body of writings with a rich and specific intellectual genealogy.

### **Texts (All required)**

Eagleton, Terry. *Marxism and Lit Criticism*

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish*

Freud, Sigmund. *Civilization and its Discontent*

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Shakespeare, William. *King Lear*

Viramontes, Helena. *Under the Feet of Jesus*

\* *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*

\*Reader (available at Bird's Copies from 8/25/17)

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will be able to define both literary theory and literary criticism, and explain the emergence of these two fields as a discipline of study.
- Students will be able to explain and account for the rise of literary theory in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and describe the place of theory in contemporary English and cultural studies.
- Students will be able to provide a brief overview of the major tenets, practitioners, and ideas stemming from the following critical and theoretical movements and/or schools: Russian formalism, structuralism, semiotics, psychoanalysis, Marxism, poststructuralism, ethnic studies, post colonialism, feminism, gender theory, and post-humanism.

- Students will be able to identify and discuss some of the viewpoints opposed to the practice of literary criticism.
- Students will gain practice giving in-class presentations, writing exams and papers, and conducting research.

#### **Requirements/Assessment:**

1. Presentation and leading class discussion. Once during the semester, each student will be responsible for crafting a sustained critical assessment of the week's readings and leading discussion. Students will present:
  - A. The principal points or arguments in the primary work.
  - B. A brief assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the readings for the week.
  - C. A few questions and problematic issues raised by the readings.
2. A mid-semester exam.
3. Four short "practicum" assignments.
4. A research paper (between 10 and 15 pages).
5. Mini-conference paper.

Because of the participatory nature of the seminar, you should make every effort to attend all class sessions. I expect you to come to class prepared to analyze and discuss the readings. Non-attendance or non-participation may constitute grounds for grade reduction or failure at the discretion of the instructor.

10%	Presentation and leading class discussion
25%	Exam
20%	Practicum Assignments [All assignments must be submitted]
35%	Final Essay
10%	Mini-conference paper

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will evaluate attendance as outlined in the previous section. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising

Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**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>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**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 <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**Course Schedule**  
 N = Norton Anthology  
 R = Reader/Blackboard

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>August 24</b>	<b>Introduction to Course</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the class</li> <li>• Introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Western Theory</li> <li>• Grant Webster (R. Selection from <i>The Republic of Letters</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>August 31</b>	<b>Formalism</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleanth Brooks (N. 1213-1229)</li> <li>• Mikhail Bahktin (R. <i>Dialogic Imagination</i>)</li> <li>• T.S. Eliot (N. 951-61)</li> <li>• William Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Sept 7</b>	<b>Structuralism</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ferdinand de Saussure (N. 845-866)</li> <li>• Roland Barthes (N. 1316-1319 &amp; 1322-1326)</li> <li>• David Holdcrofts (R. Saussure: Signs, Systems, and Arbitrariness)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Sep 14</b>	<b>Psychoanalysis</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sigmund Freud (N. 807-845)</li> <li>• Sigmund Freud, <i>Civilization and Its Discontent</i></li> <li>• Jacques Lacan (N. 1156-1169)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Sep 21</b>	<b>Marxism 1</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karl Marx (R. <i>German Ideology</i>)</li> <li>• Louis Althusser (N. 1332-1334) &amp; (R. Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses)</li> <li>• Gyorgy Lukacs (N. 905-921)</li> <li>• Helena Viramontes, <i>Under the Feet of Jesus</i> (Section One)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Sep 28</b>	<b>Marxism 2</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terry Eagleton, <i>Marxism and Literary Criticism</i></li> <li>• Walter Benjamin (N. 1046- 1071)</li> <li>• Helena Viramontes, <i>Under the Feet of Jesus</i> (Finish Book)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Oct 5</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Research Practices</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Readings</li> <li>• Digital Humanities Presentation/ Visit to Archives</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Post Structuralism 1</b>	<b>Due Practicum Assign 1</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friedrich Nietzsche (<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>)</li> <li>• Gianni Vattimo (R. "How Nietzsche is to be Read" &amp; "The Will to Power...")</li> <li>• Gregory Castle (R. Post Structuralism)</li> <li>• Jacques Derrida (N. 1680-1688) and (R. "Différance")</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>Post Structuralism 2</b>	<b>Due Practicum Assign 2</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michel Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i></li> <li>• Michel Foucault (N. 1469-1475 and 1502-1521)</li> </ul>	

<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Nov 2</b>	<b>Ethnic Studies 1</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toni Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i></li> <li>• Henry Louis Gates (N. 2427-2438)</li> <li>• Ramon Saldivar (R. Selections from <i>Chicano Narrative</i>)</li> <li>• Americo Paredes (R. Selections from <i>The Hammon and the Beans</i>)</li> <li>• John Guillory (R. <i>The Canons as Cultural Capital</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Nov 9</b>	<b>Post Colonialism</b>	<b>Due Practicum Assign 3</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward Said (N. 1861- 1888)</li> <li>• Roberto Fernández Retamar (R. <i>Caliban: Notes Toward a Dis. of Culture</i>)</li> <li>• Frantz Fanon (N. 1437-1439) (R. <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Feminism/Gender Studies</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judith Butler (N. 2526-2553)</li> <li>• Gloria Anzaldúa (N. 2095-2109)</li> <li>• Simone De Beauvoir (N. 1261-1273)</li> <li>• Gayle Rubin (N. 2373-2402)</li> <li>• Annamarie Jagose (R. <i>Queer Theory: An Introduction</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Nov 23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Additional Readings. Catch up on Readings for weeks 8-12</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Post Humanism</b>	<b>Due Practicum Assign 4</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna Haraway (N. 2187- 2220)</li> <li>• Jane Bennett, (R. <i>Vibrant Matter</i>)</li> <li>• Michael Marder (R. <i>Dust</i>)</li> <li>• Film: <i>The Day of the Triffids</i> (1962) [Full movie on youtube]</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Mini Course Conference</b>	

**Final Papers Due Thursday Dec 14th**

- Tips:**
- There are NO dumb questions in this class. Ask questions if you do not understand.
  - Be patient with yourself. Expect to have to re-read sections of these texts.
  - Mark the readings as you move through them.
  - Come and talk to me about any difficulties you may have with the readings.