

<p>ENGL 5300: 001 The Theory and Practice of English Studies Monday 6.00-8.50pm TH 118</p>
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Professor J. Fay

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10a.m.-noon, 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)

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 20th 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. Relevant background to the primary work.
 - B. The principal points or arguments in the primary work.
 - C. A few questions and problematic issues raised by the readings designed to foster discussion.
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 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.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) 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.*

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 or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or 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, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

Course Schedule

N = Norton Anthology

R = Reader/Blackboard

Week 1	August 27	Introduction to Course and Formalism	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the class • Introduction to 20th Century Western Theory • Cleanth Brooks (N. "The Well Wrought Urn") • Mikhail Bakhtin (R. <i>Dialogic Imagination</i>) • T.S. Eliot (N. "Tradition and the Individual Talent") • William Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> 	
Week 2	September 3	Labor Day holiday—no class	
Week 3	September 10	Structuralism	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferdinand de Saussure (N. Full extract from "Course in General Linguistics") • Roland Barthes (N. "Photography and the Electoral Appeal" and "The Death of the Author") • David Holdcroft (R. Saussure: Signs, Systems, and Arbitrariness) 	
Week 4	September 17	Psychoanalysis	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sigmund Freud (N. From "The Interpretation of Dreams" and from "The Uncanny") • Sigmund Freud, <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> • Jacques Lacan (N. "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience") 	
Week 5	September 24	Marxism 1	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karl Marx (R. <i>German Ideology</i>) • Louis Althusser (R. Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses) • Helena Viramontes, <i>Under the Feet of Jesus</i> 	
Week 6	October 1	Marxism 2	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Eagleton, <i>Marxism and Literary Criticism</i> • Walter Benjamin (N. "The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility") • Helena Viramontes, <i>Under the Feet of Jesus</i> 	
Week 7	October 8	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 8	October 15	Post Structuralism 1	Practicum Assignment 1 DUE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friedrich Nietzsche (<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>) • Gregory Castle (R. Post Structuralism) • Jacques Derrida (R. "Différance") 	
Week 9	October 22	Post Structuralism 2	Practicum Assignment 2 DUE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> 	

Week 10	October 29	Research Practices	Practicum Assignment 3 DUE
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- No Readings
 - Digital Humanities Presentation/ Visit to Archives
- AND**

Required event substituting for class meeting on 11/13
Hermanns Lectures: Thursday/Friday 1-2 November 2018

THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER

5-7.30pm Reception and Panel for Graduate Students: Academic Careers with a UTA PhD
(location TBA)

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER (Sixth Floor UTA Library)

9am Bridgitte Barclay (Associate Professor and incoming Chair of English, Aurora University, IL), "Gender and Environmental Speculative Fiction" (introduced by Ken Roemer)

10am Sandi Hubnik (Associate Professor and Chair of English, Tarrant County College - South), "Leaving Home without Leaving Home" (introduced by Kevin Gustafson)

11am-1pm lunch break

1pm Kim Bowers (Associate Professor and Chair of English, University of Saint Francis), "Listen! This is a Life" (introduced by Stacy Alaimo)

2pm Christy Tidwell (Associate Professor of Humanities, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology), "New Developments in Ecohorror" (introduced by Stacy Alaimo)

5-7pm "First Friday" reception (Lovers Lane)

Four of UTA's distinguished English PhDs return to talk about research, teaching, intellectual life, and their professional experience as career faculty members. In addition to the four Hermanns lectures, the four speakers will conduct a roundtable on academic life for graduate students (and others interested), on the evening of Thursday 1 November.

Majors looking toward grad school, MA and PhD students, and postdoctoral Lecturers, often wonder about career futures in academic life - what kinds of work are entailed, what kinds of teaching they'll do, what research agendas they can envision. The 2018-19 Hermanns Lectures offer a chance to get practical perspectives on these questions, share experiences, and celebrate some of our success stories.

Week 11	November 5	Ethnic Studies	Practicum Assignment 4 DUE
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- Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
- Henry Louis Gates (N. "Talking Black: Critical Signs of the Times")
- Ramon Saldivar (R. Selections from *Chicano Narrative*)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Guillory (R. <i>The Canons as Cultural Capital</i>)
Week 12	November 12	Post Colonialism
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward Said (N. "Orientalism") Frantz Fanon (R. "Black Skin White Masks" and N. <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>)
Week 13	November 19	Thanksgiving Class cancelled
Week 14	November 26	Feminism/Gender Studies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judith Butler (N. "From Gender Trouble") Gloria Anzaldúa (N. "Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza") Simone De Beauvoir (N. "From the Second Sex") Gayle Rubin (N. "From Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality") Annamarie Jagose (R. <i>Queer Theory: An Introduction</i>)
Week 15	December 3	Post Humanism
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna Haraway (N. From "A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s") Jane Bennett, (N. "From <i>Vibrant Matter</i>") Michael Marder (R. Dust) Film: <i>The Day of the Triffids</i> (1962) [Full movie on youtube]
Week 16	Date TBA	Mini Course Conference

Final Papers Due Thursday Dec 13th

- Tips:**
- There are NO stupid 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 or just to talk about your ideas.