

English 2350.004:

INTRODUCTION TO TEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

[July 20, 2016, this may be revised]

Dr. Stacy Alaimo

Professor of English

Fall 2016

TuTh 11:00-12:20 Room PH 302

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“All human knowledge takes the form of interpretation” (Walter Benjamin)

“My mother is a fish.” (Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*)

Course Description

“Teaches students to identify characteristics of genres, to recognize and understand critical and literary terms, and to develop and use methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting texts. Required for English and English/ Education majors” (UTA Catalog). This course, a required core course for English majors, is an introduction to different practices of analysis and interpretation, from the basic to the more advanced skills and methods of English Studies. We will begin by studying language itself as historical and cultural site; then discuss the production, media, and dissemination of particular texts. We will then work on developing everyone’s close reading skills, by analyzing and interpreting poetry, two novels, and a film. Much of the course however, will introduce students to a wide range of theoretical approaches to textual analysis and interpretation. Along with literary texts we will read theory and criticism that address the most significant questions in the Humanities as we discuss the benefits and the limitations of different critical approaches for literary and cultural analysis. Class time will consist of lecture, discussion, individual presentations, exercises, small group work, and small group presentations. Requirements include: a poetry analysis, an application

paper on one critical theory, a research paper, an individual presentation, a mid-term exam and a comprehensive final exam. Careful, thoughtful reading and active, informed participation is crucial for success in this class.

Required books, films, and other materials

Robert Dale Parker, *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*, (third edition, 2014), ISBN-13: 978-0199331161

William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (the corrected text)

Ana Castillo, *So Far From God*

A Short Guide to Writing About Film (Corrigan, any edition)

You will be required to obtain and watch Hitchcocks's film *Vertigo*. (You will need to purchase or rent this film yourself.)

Highly recommended: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Seventh Edition.

Additional readings available on the Blackboard page for our class.

Access to a computer, a printer, the internet, and a stapler.

Electronic requirements

English Department faculty are not allowed to distribute photocopies of syllabi, paper assignments, and other handouts. You will need to visit our class site on Blackboard to download the syllabus to your laptop or to print it out. Be sure to keep a copy of the syllabi, paper handouts, etc. in a folder—for when Blackboard is down or you don't have internet access. Also, be sure to check your official UTA email for information about this class (I may email you information or let you know if class is cancelled.)

Coursework Requirements

(You must complete all the assignments in order to pass the course.)

4-page poetry explication: 15%

5-page application of theory to a novel, and oral presentation of that paper: 15%

8-page research paper: 25% (all parts of the assignment must be completed)

Mid-term exam: 10%

Final exam: 25%

Participation: 10%

Course Objectives

1. To introduce many different approaches to analyzing and interpreting texts.
2. To introduce the scholarly discipline of English studies and the different modes of inquiry that dwell under that category.
3. To prepare English majors for advanced courses in the major.
4. To improve students' skills not only in analysis and interpretation, but, more generally, in reading, writing, researching, and public speaking.
5. To provide students with the opportunity to write a research paper that draws upon critical theory and literary scholarship.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students should be able to demonstrate an informed understanding of the many different approaches to analyzing and interpreting texts and films. Students should be able to explain the similarities and differences of those approaches as well as their

benefits and limitations.

2. Students should be able to demonstrate an informed understanding of the different modes of inquiry and research within English studies.
3. Students should be able to analyze and interpret texts and films employing close reading skills as well as a variety of other theories and methods that were included in the class.
4. Students should be able to perform independent research, using the MLA bibliography and other methods.
5. Students should be able to express their ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways, in both written and oral forms.
6. Students should be able to define many terms within English studies and explain the significance of those terms.
7. Students should be able to respond critically to all course material, using synthesis, analysis, comparison, contrast, critique and evaluation.
8. Students should be able to write an original, cohesive, organized research paper that draws upon at least one mode of theory and several works of literary criticism.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

4-page poetry explication: Tuesday, October 4

5-page application of theory to a novel, and oral presentation of that paper: (You will sign up for this) _____ [fill in date yourself]

8-page research paper: proposal due, Tuesday Nov. 1; 3 copies of rough draft due Tuesday Nov. 22; final paper due Tuesday November 29, (all 3 deadlines must be met to pass the class).

Mid-Term Exam: Thursday, September 29

Final exam: Tuesday, December 13, 11-1:30

Informed, active, productive, prepared participation: due every class period

Exams: The exams will contain some identifications, definitions, applications, comparisons, and other short-answer questions, as well as essay questions. Bring bluebooks, loose paper, and pens for the exam.

Papers: Paper assignments will be posted on Blackboard. All papers must be “typed,” stapled, and have a significant title. Please do NOT use plastic folders for your paper—a staple is sufficient. Always keep an extra copy of your paper for yourself in case of emergencies and always back up your drafts. All papers are due at the very beginning of the class. I will mark down papers one grade for every day that they are late, starting ten minutes after class begins. Please Note: plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished to the full extent, according to university procedures, which include suspension from UTA. Note the two solid deadlines for the research paper, all of which must be met in order to pass this course. All papers should use MLA parenthetical documentation: “like this” (Butler 33).

Presentation: You will sign up to present your 5-page application paper. Your paper and presentation are due on the day that we discuss that theory. (You may not “make up” the presentation; you must present on the day for which you sign up.) Be sure to write the date and text that you signed up for on your own syllabus—you must present on that day. Your presentation should last 10 minutes, which is how long it should take you to read a 5-page paper out loud. The presentation and the paper have three parts: 1)

brief introduction to the specific theoretical methods, questions, concepts or approaches you will use (citing their source), 2) an application of the theory to *As I Lay Dying* or *So Far From God* and 3) a concluding evaluation of the strengths and limitations of this theory. Please pay particular attention to the “primary” readings for the day—i.e., not the textbook chapters from Parker, but the essays by Freud, Marx, Sedgwick, Snitow, etc. Do NOT just summarize Parker’s chapter—that is not useful for other class members. Be sure to organize and time your presentation, in advance, so that it is exactly 10 minutes.

Participation: Your active, informed participation is crucial for your own ability to learn and for the success of the course. Carefully prepare for each class period by doing the reading in a rigorous and inquisitive manner. Keeping your own journal or notebook would be very helpful. Every day that you come to class you should have something valuable to say. You will learn more, enjoy the course more, and perform better on your written work if you actively participate in class.

Attendance/Punctuality: If you miss class four times, your course grade will suffer and if you miss five classes you will fail the course. Everyone gets three free absences; use them wisely. You do not need to tell me why you were absent—that is your own private business—just don’t miss more than three classes. Because I am in no position to verify or judge various excuses, there are no “excused absences.”

If you come in after I have marked the rolls, that will count as an absence—so come to class on time. Attending class means that your mind is actually in class with us. You need to be mentally --not just physically--here. So if you are sleeping, checking email, looking at websites, texting, or otherwise not paying attention, etc., you will be counted absent that day and you will be asked to leave. Those behaviors not only signify that you are not really in class with us but they also detract from the ability of the other students to learn. Also, you need to bring the appropriate texts and materials to class. This is crucial for English classes.

Office Hours: Office hours: T/TH: 2:00-3:15 and by appointment. Note: although I will usually be in my office during those times I may have to attend meetings, graduate student defenses, etc. Please email me to confirm that I will be in my office or to arrange an appointment at another time. My office is in 411 Carlisle Hall.

RESOURCES:

Library & Research Assistance: “University-level research requires university-level sources. Appropriate sources include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and credible news magazines and newspapers. The UTA Library <http://library.uta.edu/> offers a plethora of resources and subject specialists to help you select and locate appropriate sources. Find library staff at the Service Zone on the first floor of the UTA Central Library, by phone at (817) 272-3395, by text at (817) 727-8395, email at AskUs@uta.edu, or the chat widget on the library’s homepage, <http://library.uta.edu/>. For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit:

<http://libguides.uta.edu/>. Your librarian is **Diane Shepelwich**, dianec@uta.edu. Diane is available through email, individual or group meetings, or phone appointments. If you need help getting started with your research or course assignment or have questions along the way, please contact Diane for personalized research assistance."

Library Data Bases: Use the MLA International Bibliography for most of your research; it is the essential bibliographic tool for English Studies. If you use Project Muse or other shortcuts you will miss articles and books on your subject.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): "The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services."

For a helpful guide to MLA Formatting see:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

On plagiarism: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>;
<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054>. Please take this tutorial before writing any papers for this class:
<http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

Official UTA Policies and other syllabus information required by UTA

[Official UTA Policies in the official. Consider this section encased in quotation marks. Dr. Alaimo]

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 have outlined my specific attendance policies above: see above! Dr. Alaimo] 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.

Grade Grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. [Contact the department of English for the grade grievance procedures.]

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://wweb.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.

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/> **[Please note: If I see a gun in the classroom, the hall, or in my office I will immediately call the police. Campus carry does not mean “open carry.” Dr. Alaimo]**

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, [located at either end of Preston Hall]. 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. [If anyone needs assistance with emergency evacuation, please discuss this with me privately. Dr. Alaimo.]

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>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593. The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

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. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

Dr. Alaimo's policy: Respect your fellow students! Respect yourself! Focus! Be here!



1. **TURN OFF** all pagers, cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices while in class! You may not text message or read email or engage in any other electronic activities during class. You may not use laptops in class; the only exception is the use of laptops for accessing the PDFs, the OED or other materials in the course. [Anyone who is looking at anything other than our class materials on line will be counted absent that day and will be asked to leave the class.]

2. Arrive to class **ON TIME**. It is distracting to both the professor and the students to have someone come in late. If you come in late, you will be marked absent.

3. Always arrive **PREPARED** to work. Every day we will have work to do in class. Some days we will work in small groups. If you are not prepared then you will not be able to contribute to the class or to your small group. You may be asked to leave class if you are not prepared. Also, remember that for English classes you **MUST BRING** whatever **TEXTS** we are discussing that day to class.

3. Treat your classmates with **RESPECT**. Learn to disagree without being disagreeable. We will discuss controversial, volatile topics, so everyone needs to learn how to disagree with someone's views, beliefs, or perspectives while maintaining a sense of civility—or even compassion! This is a rare skill, but one that is necessary for an educated, humane, democratic society. Public discourse may have gone to the gutter but our class will not follow.



Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Dr. Alaimo

PDF= PDFs available on Blackboard.

Parker = *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literature and Cultural Studies*, listed by chapter number.

Always come to class prepared to discuss the readings and films. Bring your own interpretations, comparisons, analyses, and questions. Always bring the books or other readings we are discussing.

Introduction

Week One.

Thurs. August 25:

Introductory comments; Wallace Stevens, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird." Cary Nelson "Problematizing Interpretation: Some Key Questions." In-class exercises: What is interpretation?

Words and Texts

Week Two

Tuesday August 30:

Before class: Access the OED (Oxford English Dictionary) online from the UTA Library. Read the entire entry for either "Nature" or for both "Man" and "Woman." In class, briefly present two things you found that were striking or significant. For most of the class period you will be using the OED to interpret the poem "Against a Comely Coystrowne," which I will distribute in class. [Please bring your laptop to class if you have one!]

Thursday Sept. 1:

[What is a "text"? How do cultural values and technologies affect the production, the dissemination, and the stability or mutability of texts? What is the relation between "author" and "text" or between reader and text? How does the nature or status of the text affect its interpretation? How are literary texts discovered, authenticated, and deemed valuable? Should we approach oral texts differently from written ones? What is the relation between word and image in mixed media?]

Read before class and discuss in class: "Shakespeare's Text" [PDF]; Henry Louis Gates, Jr., "The Search for a Female Fugitive Slave" [PDF]; Zuni, "Sayatasha's Night Chant" [PDF]

In class we will check out: <http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/>

Modern American Poetry: <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/>

William Blake Archive <http://www.blakearchive.org/>
Shelly Jackson's "Skin," <http://www.ineradicablestain.com/skin.html>

Interpretation I: Close Reading of Poetry and Novels

Poetry

Week Three

Tuesday Sept. 6: Figurative Language and Diction.

Parker, Ch, 2, "New Criticism"

Poems: Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love," Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock;" H.D. "Oread" and "Sea Rose;" McKay, "Harlem Shadows," and "If We Must Die," and Mina Loy, untitled [Poetry PDF].

Thursday Sept. 8: Structure and Form.

"Organization of Poetry" [PDF].

Poems: Shakespeare, Sonnet 130, Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress;" Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock;" Claude McKay, "The Lynching;" H.D. "Sea Rose," Ntzoke Shange, "Advice;" Carolyn Forché, "The Colonel" [Poetry PDF].

Week Four

Tuesday Sept. 13: Sound and Rhythm.

"excerpt on rhythm, meter, and sound" [PDF]

Poems: Marlowe, "Passionate Shepherd;" Hopkins, "No Worst There is None" and "Pied Beauty," Keats, "Ode on Melancholy;" Cummings, "anyone lived in a pretty how town;" Sylvia Plath, "Daddy;" Judy Grahn, "Carol." [Poetry PDF]

The Novel

Thursday Sept 15:

Thursday: William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (first half)

Week Five

Tuesday Sept. 20:

Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (second half)

Thursday Sept 22:

Ana Castillo, *So Far from God* (first half)

Week Six

Tuesday Sept. 27:

Ana Castillo, *So Far from God* (second half)

Thursday Sept. 29: Mid-Term Exam

Interpretation Part II: Theories

Week Seven

Tuesday Oct. 4:

Poetry Explication Due at the start of class.

Please take this quick tutorial before handing in any papers for this class:

<http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

Watch excerpts from *Examined Life*, by Astra Taylor in class.

Thursday Oct. 6: Structuralism.

Parker, Ch. 1. "Introduction" and Parker, Ch. 3, "Structuralism;" Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*, V. Propp, *Morphology of the Folktale*, Stallybrass and White, "Thinking with Pigs"

Week Eight

[Dr. Alaimo will be the Wang Distinguished Professor in Residence at GWU]

Tuesday Oct. 11: Attend Library Session with UTA librarian, Diane Shepelwhich, in Central Library. Meet in room _____ in Central Library.

Recommended: Read Chapter One "Research and Writing" and Chapter Two, "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity," and browse the rest of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Thursday Oct. 13: Start research for research paper or work on your second essay.

Week Nine

Tuesday Oct. 18: Deconstruction

Parker, Ch. 4, "Deconstruction;" Roland Barthes, "From Work to Text," In class, deconstruct a Robert Frost poem.

Thursday Oct. 20: Psychoanalysis

Parker, Ch. 5, "Psychoanalysis"; Excerpt from *The Interpretation of Dreams*, [PDF].

Week Ten

Tuesday Oct. 25: Marxist Theory

Parker, Ch. 8, Marxist Theory

Marx, Excerpts [PDF].

Thursday Oct. 27: Historicism and Cultural Studies

Parker, Ch. 9, "Historicism and Cultural Studies;"

Dick Hebdige, excerpt from *Subculture: The Meaning of Style* [PDF]; Rose, excerpt from "Prophets of Rage" [PDF].

Week Eleven

Tuesday Nov. 1: Gender Theory

Parker, Ch. 6, Feminism; Ann Snitow, "A Gender Diary" [PDF]; Sara Ahmed, "Feminist Killjoys" [PDF].

Research Paper Proposal Due

Thursday Nov. 3: LGBTQ Theories

Parker, Chapter 7, "Queer Studies;" Sedgwick, excerpts from *Epistemology of the Closet* [PDF]; Halberstam, excerpts from *Female Masculinity* [PDF].

Week Twelve

Tuesday Nov. 8: Postcolonial Theory

Parker, Chapter 10: "Postcolonial and Race Studies,"

Renato Rosaldo, "Imperialist Nostalgia," [PDF]; excerpts from Fanon [PDF].

Thursday Nov. 10: Critical Race Theory

Hall, "Race: The Floating Signifier," [PDF]; Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands* [PDF]

Week Thirteen

Tuesday Nov.15: Ecocriticism, Animal Studies, Posthumanism, Disability Studies

Parker, Chapter 12, "Ecocriticism and Disability Studies," Jenny Price, *Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A.* :

http://www.believmag.com/issues/200604/?read=article_price; Sarah Jaquette Ray, "Risking Bodies." [PDF].

Research Papers

Thursday Nov. 17:

No class. Please come to my office, Carlisle 411, to discuss your research papers.

Week Fourteen

Tuesday Nov. 22: In-class research paper writing workshop. Bring three copies of a draft of your research paper to class. If you do not have a draft of your research paper ready at the start of class, you cannot pass this course. Your draft must include all parts of the paper. Suggested "reading": *MLA Handbook*.

Thursday: **Thanksgiving Break!**

Film Studies

Week Fifteen

Tuesday Nov. 29:

Research papers due at the start of class.

In class: introduction to film and visual media.

Thursday Dec. 1:

Read *A Short Guide to Writing About Film*: chapters 1-4, before class. Watch Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* before class. Apply two different theories from the class to *Vertigo* (be prepared to discuss your applications in class).

Final Exam

Thursday Dec. 6:

Discuss final exam. Bring questions about any of the texts, theories, methods, and questions of the course. Bring your copy of Cary Nelson "Problematizing Interpretation: Some Key Questions."

Tuesday, December 13, 11-1:30

Final Exam: Please bring blue books, loose paper, and pens.

EVALUATIONS: Please do electronic evaluations of the course. You should receive an email from the university with directions. Evaluations are extremely important to me, the instructor, to the department, and the university. We really appreciate your taking the time to fill out evaluations online. Thank you!
