



## Department of English & Writing Studies

### History of Theory and Criticism English 2200F (650) Fall 2013

**Instructor:** Dr. Gord Barentsen

#### Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): English 2235A/B.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

#### Course Description

This online course aims to provide students with a solid introduction to some of the key issues and debates surrounding thinking about the arts, and literature in particular, from Plato up to the early twentieth century. Thus, while the course readings trace something of a historical trajectory, the course also aims to come to an understanding of some of the most crucial and contentious issues throughout and across the tradition: the charge that literature is a "lie," the question of beauty, the role of the author, gender, and so forth.

#### Course Materials

*The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, 2nd ed., Ed. Vincent Leitch et. al. (New York: Norton, 2010). ISBN 978-0-393-93292-8.

#### **Additional Resources:**

- *Undergraduate Introduction to Critical Theory* (Dino F. Felluga, Purdue University): <http://www.purdue.edu/guidetothetheory>
- *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*. Ed. Michael Groden and Martin Kreiswirth: <http://www.press.ihp.edu/books/guide/> (available through the Weldon Library website)
- *Literary Sources - Theory* (Jack Lynch, Rutgers University): <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/theoryhtml>
- *Voice of the Shuttle-Literary Theory* (Alan Liu, University of California, Santa Barbara): <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2718>
- *Literary Theory and Literature Online* (both available through the Weldon Library website)
- Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.
- Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009.

### Methods of Evaluation

Discussion (online)	Ongoing	10%
Midterm (online)	October 18	20%
Essay	November 25	35%
Final Exam	TBA	35%

This is an online distance studies course consisting of twelve (12) units. You should read one unit per week for each full week of the semester. Each Unit will officially begin at 9AM on the Monday of that week and end at 11:59PM on Sunday.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

### **Evaluation Details:**

Your contributions to **class discussion** will constitute your participation grade for the course. During each unit, you must make meaningful contributions to that week's discussion board: you should pose questions, try to answer questions asked by others, share observations, and so forth. I expect you will make **at least two contributions per week**; however, more than anything, I am looking for **quality over quantity** here. Your responses should be thoughtful, original, and relevant: don't simply repeat arguments others have made unless you are bringing something new to the discussion. I will unlock each topic at the start of the relevant unit; I will also be locking topics once the unit is over, so please make your contributions before this point if you want to receive credit for them.

The following **general guidelines for written work** apply to your **midterm** and the **essay**:

- Late **essays** will be penalized at a rate of 2% per day (including weekends). Late **midterms** will not be accepted without valid reason.
- Assignments must be typed and formatted in accordance with the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition).
- Assignments will be graded based on the quality and clarity of your writing, the sophistication and persuasiveness of your arguments, and your use of **direct textual evidence** to support your claims. In general, all written work will be evaluated in accordance with Western University's Department of English grading criteria (see the course homepage and/or the undergraduate English website).

The **midterm** will be a take-home assignment that you must submit online. I will distribute the midterm on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. You will have until Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM to complete the midterm. Late midterms cannot be accepted, so be sure to give yourself enough time to submit it online. The test will consist of one (1) short essay question. Please see the Midterm information document in the Assignments folder of the homepage for more information.

The **essay** should be 2500 words in length (approx. 10 pages, double-spaced, using standard margins and 12-point font) and must demonstrate your ability to analyze and synthesize course readings and secondary sources. The paper must focus on one reading from the syllabus, and

should provide a critical analysis of that text. It should also demonstrate your ability to situate this work within the larger critical context of literary theory addressed in the course; thus, it should also reference two to three other readings as secondary sources. You can use other texts from the anthology, scholarly journal articles, chapters from books, or books. There is an Essay information document in the Assignments folder of the homepage that you can consult for more information.

The **final exam** will be cumulative. You will write the exam in person at an approved exam center. The date is set by the registrar, but I will endeavor to give you more information as soon as it's available. The exam will consist of three parts. For more information, see the Final Exam information document in the Assignments folder of the homepage.

**Timetable:**

(all page numbers are from the *Norton Anthology*)

**Unit One (week of Sept. 9)**

Introduction - What is literary theory? (1-33)

**Unit Two (week of Sept. 16)**

Plato, from *Republic* Book X (64-77)

**Unit Three (week of Sept. 23)**

Aristotle, *Poetics* (88-115); Horace, *Ars Poetica* (122-33)

**Unit Four (week of Sept. 30)**

Sidney, from *The Defence of Poesy* (254-83); Pope, from *An Essay on Criticism* (349-62)

**Unit Five (week of Oct. 7)**

Kant, from *Critique of Judgement* (411-50); Hegel, from *Phenomenology of Spirit*, from *Lectures on Fine Art* (541 -55)

**Unit Six (week of Oct. 14)**

Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (496-504); Wordsworth, *Preface to Lyrical Ballads* (559-79)

**Midterm assigned; due October 18th at 11:59PM**

**Unit Seven (week of Sept. 21)**

Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (695-714)

**Unit Eight (week of Sept. 28)**

Marx and Engels, from *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (651-55); from *The German Ideology* (655-56); from *The Communist Manifesto* (657-60); from *Capital Vol. 1* (663-74)

**Unit Nine (week of Nov. 4)**

Baudelaire, from *The Painter and Modern Life* (680-90); Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense" (764-74), from *The Birth of Tragedy* (774-85)

**Unit Ten (week of Nov. 11)**

Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams* (814-24), from "The 'Uncanny'" (824-41)

**Unit Eleven (week of Nov. 18)**

Woolf, from *A Room of One's Own* (896-905); de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex* (1265-73)

**Unit Twelve (week of Nov. 25)**

Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (955-61); Brooks, from *The Well-Wrought Urn* (1217-29); Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy," "The Affective Fallacy" (1232-61)

**Essay due: November 29th at 11:59PM**

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The necessary form and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.