

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

Contemporary Theory and Criticism
English 2210F (001)
Fall 2013

Instructor: Jonathan Boulter

Date/Time: Monday 11:30am-1:30pm,
Wednesday 11:30am-12:30pm

Location: Talbot College 341

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 2236F/G.

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.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Explain the various theoretical and rhetorical approaches to literature, with specific attention both to their concepts, their historical, cultural and intellectual contexts, and their application to different texts;
- Develop further their ability to analyze texts critically, and formulate and produce essays which have an effective thesis with a clear, well-articulated intent, and a logical argument supported by adequate evidence from the text(s) under discussion.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism. Second Edition. Leitch, Ed.

Methods of Evaluation

Essay 1: 5 pages (October 28, 2013)	15%
Essay 2: 10-12 pages (December 4, 2013)	25%
Test: 1 Hour (November 18, 2013)	15%
Class Participation	10%
Final Examination	35%

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>.

Timetable:

September

9 Introduction

11 Introduction, **Formalism, Structuralism/Semiotics**

16 Saussure: from *Course in General Linguistics*

18 Levi-Strauss: from *Tristes Tropiques*

23 White: "The Historical Text as Literary Artifact"

25 Barthes: from *Mythologies*

30 **Hermeneutics/Phenomenology**

October

2 Heidegger: "Language"

7 Sartre: from "What is Literature?"

9 Iser: "Interaction between Text and Reader"

14 **Poststructuralism**. Introduction: Plato's Legacy: from *Phaedrus*

16 Nietzsche "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense"

21 Barthes: "The Death of the Author"

23 Derrida: from *Dissemination*

28 Derrida **Essay One Due**

30 Deleuze and Guattari: from *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*

November

4 Foucault: "What is an Author?"

6 **Psychoanalysis**: Introduction

11 Freud: from "The Uncanny"; "Mourning and Melancholia" (Handout)

13 Lacan: "The Mirror Stage"

18 **Test**

20 Bloom: from *The Anxiety of Influence*. **Reading Popular Culture**

25 Benjamin: "The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility"

27 Adorno and Horkheimer: from "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception"

December

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4 Review. Essay Two Due

Assignments:

Essays: All sources must be documented according to the MLA Handbook. Essays will be submitted in class.

Extensions and Late Penalties: Extensions will not be granted. Late essays will be penalized 2% per day including weekends. After seven days the essay will be given a grade of zero.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade 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 UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.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

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.