

Department of English & Writing Studies
Contemporary Theory and Criticism
English 2201G (001)
Winter 2020

Instructor: Nigel Joseph
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Course Date/Time: Tues: 11:30-1:30 pm
Thurs: 12:30-1:30 pm

Office hours: University College 1423
Wednesday 4:30-6:30 pm

Course Location: University College 3220

Antirequisites: [English 2236F/G](#), the former English 2210F/G.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

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 course builds on the historical foundations of [English 2200F/G](#) to concentrate on important issues in contemporary literary theory and criticism. [English 2200F/G](#) is recommended as preparation for [English 2210F/G](#). For students planning to take [English 3888E](#), [English 2200F/G](#) and [2210F/G](#) are strongly recommended.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Think, speak and write clearly and coherently about the major critical ideas, themes, assumptions, and vocabularies of various contemporary theories;
- Use a range of critical and theoretical perspectives to examine contemporary social, political, economic, and technological aspects;
- Write research essays that use secondary source materials effectively and present complex arguments in a clear, well-organized manner.

Course Materials

Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader, 3rd edn., edited by David Lodge and Nigel Wood. **This is a required text**, and is available at the Book Store. This text is also accessible electronically at Weldon.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

In class test 1: 10%
In class test 2: 15%
Assignment 1: 15%
Assignment 2: 15%
Final exam: 40%
Participation: 5%

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/Student%20Information.html>.

Late assignments: A penalty of one mark per day (including weekends) will be imposed for late essays beginning the first day after the deadline. No essays will be accepted after the tenth day. Essays submitted after that day will be accepted only on (a) humanitarian grounds, or (b) medical grounds, for which written proof must be provided to the Office of the Academic Dean. No essay will be accepted after the last day of classes unless (a) or (b) above apply, or the student has received prior permission from the instructor. **Late essays not handed in at class may be dropped off in the mailbox outside the English department office.** All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. Essays should be placed in an envelope and addressed to the professor.

Use of laptops in the classroom: I have no objection to laptop use in general; however, if you are using laptops to text friends, to view material unrelated to the course, or in a manner that is distracting and offensive, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Attendance and participation: The UWO calendar states: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class... in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning is given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course..."

Participation: Active participation in the classroom is encouraged. I am also available for discussion or queries during my office hours or by e-mail.

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

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.

Timetable

Jan 7, 9, 14	Introduction; Jameson's "Postmodernism and Consumer Society"
Jan 16, 21, 23	Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir
Jan 28, 30	Lacan In class test Jan 28
Feb 4, 6, 11	Derrida, Foucault
Feb 13, 25	Foucault, Barthes ("The death of the author") Assignment 1 due Feb 13
Feb 27, March 3, 5	Lyotard, Baudrillard In class test March 3
March 10, 12, 17	Eco, Irigaray
March 19, 24, 26	Fish, Kastan Assignment 2 due March 24
March 31, April 2,	Rose