

ENGL 4150

M, W 3: 30-4:50

Classroom: LANG 114

My Office: LANG 408D; My Email: mrja@unt.edu

Office Hours: M, W 10:00-12:00 and by Appointment

Introduction:

This course aims to introduce you to the major critical approaches available for analysis and appreciation of literary works. The terms theory and literature themselves are not free of controversy and have been defined in numerous, often conflicting, ways. This course will apprise you of the major debates in the field of literary theory and their impact on the critical reading of literature in particular and the real-life culture in general.

We will also discuss the politics and poetics that constitute what we perceive as literary and the role of the academy and popular culture in defining and refuting any hard boundaries. In today's world, literary theory is increasingly in constant embrace with the culture, and this course will take into account the overlaps and the disjunctures between the critical and the cultural theory.

Discussed also will be the role of literature in defining or articulating the world around us, and, in certain cases, the role of literature in normalizing the hegemonic drive of the powerful. Such an approach to literary theory will make us question our own privileged place in the university setting and, in the world, and help us articulate personal goals of becoming politically aware and culturally diverse world citizens. Throughout this course, we will attempt to relate our in-class activities to the world of the lived experience beyond the university campus.

This is a demanding and writing-extensive course, so please come prepared for a challenging and mentally stimulating experience.

Required Texts:

Class Reader [To be provided by the Instructor]

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, 2nd Edition.

Handouts:

- [Brief description of various critical approaches.](#)
- Example: [New Criticism.](#)

Suggested Text

The Norton Anthology for Literary Theory and Criticism. 3rd Edition [Please get it if you are serious about literary studeis]

Videos:

- [Recorded Lectures on Terry Eagleton's Book](#).

Course Policies and Requirements:

You are expected to come prepared for class: This involves reading the assigned texts, listening carefully to your peers, and contributing your views in a collegiate and stimulating way. **Attendance is mandatory.**

Distribution of Points:

Weekly Quiz	100 Points
Group Presentation	300 Points
Class Participation	100 Points
Mid Term Paper	200 Points
Term Paper	300 Points
Total	1000 Points

YOU MUST FINISH ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THE COURSE

Weekly Quiz (100 Points)

Each week you will be given a quiz about the assigned readings during the first fifteen minutes of class. You will not be given extra time if you are late and there will be no make up quizzes if you miss one. The questions will mostly be meant to ascertain whether or not you have read the assigned materials.

Mid-Term Paper (200 Points)

The Mid-term paper will be due in the 8th week of the course. The paper should be from 6-8 pages and MUST apply some theoretical insights to a literary text. A handout containing the detailed instructions about the paper will be provided in class.

Group Presentations (300 Points)

In the first week, your class will be divided into small groups who will then choose their presentation topics. I will provide detailed instructions later.

Class Participation (100 Points)

As this is a seminar based on a discussion format, your thoughtful participation is essential to the success of the class. I encourage collegiate, open, and thought-provoking class discussions. Remember, we are all here to learn, so let us share our ideas and knowledge to make this class into a dynamic learning experience.

Term Paper: (Guide) (300 Points)

The final term paper will be due on the last day of class. The paper should be 12-15 pages, with a clearly defined thesis and a coherent argument using one or two of the theoretical approaches discussed in class. I would encourage you to choose your topic early and do extensive research. I will be available to assist during all stages of your research and composition process.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend the class regularly. You will be in the danger of failing the course if you miss more than TWO class sessions.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is against the law, and will result in automatic failure in the course. Simply stated, plagiarism is when you try to pass anyone else's work as your own or if you turn in your own work written for another class.

Please review UNT Policy on [Academic Integrity](#) for details.

ADA

If you have a disability, please contact the campus ADA office and bring me the necessary documentation. I will try my best to accommodate you if you need any special instruction or assistance.

SENATE BILL 11 ("CAMPUS CARRY"). Students must read UNT's policy on concealed handguns on campus, which I've posted on Blackboard (or see <http://campuscarry.unt.edu/untpolicy>.) Here I note that 1) only licensed persons may legally carry handguns on campus, and 2) this right only authorizes the licensed carrying of "handgun[s], the presence of which is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person." Per policy, if a gun is "partially or wholly visible, even if holstered," it's not legal on campus, whether or not it's licensed. I report all illegal activities to the UNT police, regardless of their nature.

"ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS." All students should be aware of UNT's guidelines for responding to "active shooter situations" (see <http://emergency.unt.edu/get-prepared/Active-Shooter>).

Grading Scale:

A 900-1000

B 830-899

C 739-829

D 600-738

F Less than 600 Points

Important Note: If at any stage in this course you feel like I could tweak my teaching practices to make it a better learning experience for you, please come and talk to me. If you are not comfortable talking in person, you can leave me a typed anonymous note with your suggestions in my mailbox in the English main office.

Weekly Schedule:

(Note: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor retains the right to change it as and when necessary)

Week 1

Introduction to the course

Eagleton: Intro and Chapter 1

Reading:

Eagleton: Chapter 2

Brooks (1213), Wimsatt (1217), Ransom (961), Frye (1301); Arnold "Functions of " (695)

Week 2

Discussion:

Eagleton: Chapter 2

Brooks (1213), Wimsatt (1217), Ransom (961), Frye (1301); Arnold

Reading:

Eagleton Chapter 3

Saussure (Whole selection 845); Jakobson (Whole Selection 1141)

Week 3

Discussion:

Eagleton Chapter 3

Saussure (Whole selection 845); Jakobson (Whole Selection 1141)

Reading:

Eagleton, Chapter 4

Althusser (1332); Barthes (1316); Foucault (1469) Derrida (1680)

Week 4

Discussion:

Eagleton, Chapter 4

Althusser (1332); Barthes (1316); Foucault (1469) Derrida (1680)

Reading:

Eagleton, Chapter 5

Freud (807); Lacan (1156); Butler (2536); Kristeva (2067); Cixous (1938); Zizek (2402)

Week 5

Discussion:

Eagleton, Chapter 5

Freud (807); Lacan (1156); Butler (2536); Kristeva (2067); Cixous (1938); Zizek (2402)

Reading:

Eagleton, Conclusion and Afterword

Marx (647); Derrida "Specters of Marx (1734); Horkheimer and Adorno (1107)

Week 6

Discussion:

Eagleton, Conclusion and Afterword

Marx (647); Derrida "Specters of Marx (1734); Horkheimer and Adorno (1107)

Reading:

Said (1861); Spivak (2110); Bhabha (2351); Gates Jr (2427); Hooks (2507)

Week 7

Revision of all readings covered so far

Week 8

Mid Term Paper Due

Reading:

Achebe (1610); Anderson (1913); Fanon (1437); Hardt and Negri (2615)

Week 9

Discussion:

Achebe (1610); Anderson (1913); Fanon (1437); Hardt and Negri (2615)

Reading:

Robin Goodman

Habermas (entire selection)

Week 10

Discussion

Habermas and Goodman

Reading:

Robin Goodman

Habermas (entire selection)

Week 11

Discussion:

Robin Goodman

Habermas (entire selection)

Reading:

Anzaldua (2096); Rich (1588); Rubin (2373); Sedgwick (2464)

Week 12

Discussion:

Anzaldua (2096); Rich (1588); Rubin (2373); Sedgwick (2464)

Reading:

Smith (2221); Zimmerman (2328); Halberstam (2635); Huffer (Handout)

Week 13

Discussion:

Smith (2221); Zimmerman (2328); Halberstam (2635); Huffer (Handout)

Assignment:

Final Paper Workshops

Week 14 & 15

Revision and Paper workshops.