

Theory & Practice of English Studies

Professor Merrill Cole
M-Cole@wiu.edu
<http://faculty.wiu.edu/M-Cole/>

English 500, Section 001
Fall Semester 2011

Office: Simpkins 109
Hours: TTh, 3:30-4:30; W, 2:00-4:00

T, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Simpkins 14

Texts

There will also be essays to download from WesternOnline. Buy the editions with the ISBNs listed below; alternative editions are not acceptable.

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*. ISBN: 0465019773
Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. ISBN: 0465097081
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*. ISBN: 0679724699
The Marx-Engels Reader. Second Ed. Ed. Robert Tucker. ISBN: 039309040X
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Seventh Ed. ISBN: 1603290249
Toni Morrison, *Playing in the Dark*. ISBN: 0679745424
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good & Evil*. ISBN: 0679724656
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet*. ISBN: 0520254066
Edward Said, *Culture & Imperialism*. ISBN: 0679750541
Slavoj Žižek. *The Sublime Object of Ideology. Second Ed.* ISBN: 1844673006

Objectives

This course provides an advanced introduction to literary theory through the careful study of texts from a variety of interpretative schools, including formalism, structuralism, poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, feminism, queer theory, Marxism, cultural studies, critical race studies, and postcolonial studies. Seminar participants will contribute regular three-page analyses of one of the essays or books under consideration. The task for the final project is to apply at least two theoretical approaches to a primary text of the student's own choosing, whether that text be a work of literature or some other English-language artifact.

English 500 aims to make graduate students conversant in the field of English Studies, not just knowledgeable about important ways of reading, but ready to put that expert knowledge into practice, to reflect critically on the reading process, and to compose effective interpretive arguments.

Requirements

This course involves seven three-page responses that summarize and analyze a reading of the student's choice. Each short essay assignment corresponds to one of the course modules. There are nine modules, as delineated below, but students will not write on the final two modules, in order to save time for the final essay. The final essay should reach ten to twelve pages, apply at least two of the theoretical approaches we've studied to the student's chosen site of investigation, and incorporate at least three critical or theoretical sources that we have not examined in class.

Everyone *must* actively participate. Lack of participation will damage and perhaps destroy your grade. This means not missing classes, completing the readings, and joining regularly in class discussion. Prepare at least four discussion topics for each session.

Please see <<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>> for student rights and student responsibilities.

Grading

Participation	25%
Short Essays	5% each
Final Essay	40%

Missing classes, or arriving late, will affect the participation grade. A student with more than one unexcused absence automatically fails the course.

Visiting My Office

Please take the opportunity to meet with me during my office hours, or by appointment, to talk about the readings, your writing, or anything about the course.

Students with Disabilities

In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I will make academic accommodations for any student who notifies me of the need. For me to provide the proper accommodation(s), you must provide me documentation from Disability Support Services. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to my attention, as I am not legally permitted to ask. Students who require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e., fire, tornado, etc.) should tell me the most appropriate procedures to follow. Please contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512.

Schedule

All articles are to be found on WesternOnline.

Introduction: Tuesday, 8/23

Module 1: Formalism & Structuralism, Tuesday, 8/30

De Saussure, Ferdinand, from *Course in General Linguistics*
 Shklovsky, Viktor, "Art as Technique"
 Brooks, Cleanth, "The Formalist Critics"
 Brooks, Cleanth, "The Heresy of Paraphrase"
 Jakobson, Roman, "Two Aspects of Language"
 Jakobson, Roman, "The Metaphoric and Metonymic Poles"
 Barthes, Roland, "The Structuralist Activity"
 Barthes, Roland, "The Death of the Author"
 Foucault, Michel, "What Is an Author?"

Module 2: Poststructuralism, Tuesday 9/13

Formalism & Structuralism Response

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *Beyond Good & Evil*
 Nietzsche, Friedrich, "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense"

Module 2: Poststructuralism, Tuesday, 9/20

Wilde, Oscar, "The Decay of Lying"
 Derrida, Jacques, "Différance"
 Derrida, Jacques, "White Mythology"

Module 3: Psychoanalysis, Tuesday, 9/27

Poststructuralism Response

Freud, Sigmund, *The Interpretation of Dreams*
 Freud, Sigmund, "Creative Writers and Daydreaming"

Module 3: Psychoanalysis, Tuesday, 10/4

Freud, Sigmund, "The Uncanny"
 Lacan, Jacques, "The Subversion of the Subject"

Module 4: Feminism, Tuesday, Tuesday, 10/11

Psychoanalysis Response

Woolf, Virginia, from *A Room of One's Own*
 Cixous, Hélène, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
 Irigaray, Luce, "This Sex Which Is Not One"
 Rubin, Gayle, "The Traffic in Women"
 Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Gender Asymmetry and Erotic Triangles"

Module 5: Queer Theory, Tuesday, 10/18***Feminism Response***Freud, Sigmund, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*Foucault, Michel, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*Module 5: Queer Theory, Tuesday, 10/26Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky, *Epistemology of the Closet*

Butler, Judith, "Imitation and Gender Subversion"

Module 6: Marxism, Tuesday, 11/1***Queer Theory Response***[Selections from] Tucker, Robert, ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader*Benjamin, Walter, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical
Reproduction"

Althusser, Louis, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"

Module 7: Cultural Studies, 11/8***Marxism Response***Žižek, Slavoj, *The Sublime Object of Ideology*

Adorno, Theodor, "Cultural Criticism and Society"

Module 7: Cultural Studies, 11/15[Selections from] Guillory, John, *Cultural Capital*

Foucault, Michel, "Truth and Power"

Williams, Raymond, from *Marxism and Literature*

Greenblatt, Steven, "Resonance and Wonder"

Module 8: Critical Race Studies, 11/29***Cultural Studies Response***Morrison, Toni, *Playing in the Dark*

Haney López, Ian F., "The Social Construction of Race"

Fisher Fishkin, Shelley "Interrogating 'Whiteness'"

Gates, Jr., Henry Louis, "The Blackness of Blackness"

Parker, Robert Dale, "Tradition, Invention, and Aesthetics in Native
American Literature"Module 9: Postcolonial Studies, 12/6Said, Edward, *Culture & Imperialism*

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Bhabha, Homi K., "Signs Taken for Wonders"

McClintock, Anne, "The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term 'Post-
colonialism.'"***Final Essays due Tuesday, December 13, by 6:00 p.m.***