

INGL 6415 Introduction to Literary Criticism & Theory

Professor: Maritza Stanchich, Ph.D.

Time/Place: Mondays 5:30-8:50 p.m. (with 10 minute break)

Office hours: 2:30-4:30 p.m. Mondays in department office, or by appointment

Email: work-related messages only at <mstanchich@gmail.com>

Course Description: Analysis of Literary Theory and Criticism across a broad range of movements, including Deconstruction and PostStructuralism, Feminist Theory, Queer Theory, Marxism, PostColonialism, Psychoanalysis, Cultural Studies, Race and Ethnicity, Postmodernism, from the classical period to the present.

Course Requirements:

Weekly response papers: One-page, single-spaced (that is a minimum and maximum length) responses to the reading are due in class in every week (any exceptions will be announced, probably toward end of semester when final papers are underway), and to be exchanged with one of your classmates during the first 10 minutes of class. A good response paper is highly focused and written succinctly. You may use a citation from the text/s, but keep them short and to a minimum. Pick a specific concern about the reading, such as a key concept, and explore it. Avoid generalities, sweeping statements (“Throughout history...”), clichés, over personalizing (Why I related to it), or book review modes (summarizing or broad quality assessments). If you have several good ideas, then pick one over the others. I will not accept response papers of more than one page (except by a few lines). If your response is two pages long, edit it to one. This should develop clearer, more concise writing.

Presentations: You will be responsible for one oral presentation on a select theme or angle focusing on assigned text/s, which you will commit to in advance on a sign-up sheet. The presentations are open in terms of the angle you wish to explore, but should be both comprehensive and focused regarding that week’s assignments. It should be a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes (it is crucial not to take more than half the entire class time). A strong presentation includes: contextualizing the work within that week’s critical readings, the course readings and discussions so far, as well as your own knowledge base. The presentation should focus on a particular concept (or keyword), angle, theme, concern or section from that week’s readings, include a close reading of a select citation to support your discussion or for further analysis, and some historical context, researched if needed, or further information on the author or the work. Any additional outside research or handouts are optional, but not required. NOTE: You do not have to submit a response paper on the week when you make a presentation.

Papers: A final research paper of a minimum of 10-15 pages and a maximum of 25 pages (can include bibliography) will be due at the end of the semester applying a theoretical framework to primary text/s. Please choose one theorist or critic or movement from our anthology and apply to primary text/s of your choice. You may select a theorist or framework we have already studied, or pick and read different additional critic/s. The paper will also require at least three sources of outside research, a minimum of two citations from key primary/literary or secondary/critical text/s being analyzed, and at least one citation from outside research. I will pass out guidelines with clear steps to take as the due date approaches.

Teaching strategies: Class meetings will consist of analysis and discussion of reading assignments, and conceptual understanding of related issues. Visual and audio materials will be incorporated as needed and available. ***NOTE:** In a preplanned fashion, classes may be held outside the assigned classroom, for example to see films at a screening room, to hold a discussion outside, or for a class trip to a museum. Also, 11.25 contact hours of the 45-hour course can be covered with alternative methods, such as online.

- Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimiento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a.

Methods of Evaluation:

- Attendance and punctuality: 15 percent
- Class participation: 15 percent
- Response papers: 20 percent
- Oral presentation: 20 percent
- Final paper: 30 percent

- Attendance: I apologize for having to state this on a graduate syllabus, but past experience warrants it. Three absences can result in a C grade. Five absences fail the class. A maximum of three absences are allowed. Even if you have more than four legitimate, excused absences, you should consider dropping the class to retake it later. It is up to you to manage your excused or unexcused absences.

- Proper Internet Use: I doubly apologize for stating this on a graduate syllabus, but plagiarism has become a rampant problem. **PLAGIARISM WILL EARN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE AND CAN RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE UPR SYSTEM.** If you copy or paraphrase anything from the internet or any source, cite it properly.

- Late assignments: I will accept late weekly written responses no more than one week after the due date in my mailbox or in class. I cannot regularly accept late assignments more than one week late, nor can I accept many assignments at the end of the semester. Also weekly response papers should be submitted in hard copy. As for final papers, I am open to extending final paper deadlines a few days...just let me know.

- My grading system for weekly responses is to use √, √+ or √-, according to your level of fluency and analytical proficiency. Works that receive a √- may be resubmitted.

- Please note: For students with disabilities, there will be differentiated methods of evaluation. *Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales.*

Required Texts: *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, second edition

Course Outline

Week 1–March 12: Introduction to course, introductions to each other. Review syllabus and take note of *key words* for each reading. I will also post the full syllabus on Moodle.

- Screening of “Examined Life: Philosophy is in the Streets” (dir. Astra Taylor, Zeitgeist films, 2008).

Week 2–March 19: Introduction to Norton’s Theory and Criticism AND Terry Eagleton’s Literary Theory: An Introduction AND Chapter 1: The Rise of English (will post a PDF copy over email and on Moodle for those still awaiting book)

- Sign up for weekly presentation on date of readings of your choice.

Week 3 –March 26: Plato and Aristotle (all selections unless otherwise noted throughout)

Week 4–April 2: Kant and Hegel

Week 5–April 9: Marx and Cultural Materialism: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Louis Althusser, Raymond Williams, Slavoj Zizek

Week 6–April 16: Psychoanalysis: Freud, Lacan, Saussure

Week 7–April 23: Poststructuralism and Deconstruction: Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida

Week 8–April 30: Cultural Studies: Antonio Gramsci, Walter Benjamin, Stuart Hall, Dick Hebdige

- Guidelines for final paper to be handed out and reviewed

Week 9–May 7: Feminist Theory, Gender Studies, Queer Theory: Hélène Cixous, Adrienne Rich, Donna Haraway, Judith Butler

Week 10–May 14: Postmodern Theory: Jean Baudrillard, Frederic Jameson, Deleuze and Guattari AND on the Modern: Charles Baudelaire, Pierre Bourdieu

- Final paper topics due

Week 11–May 21: Postcolonial Theory: Edward Said, Franz Fanon, Gayatri Spivak, Homi Bhabha, Paul Gilroy

Week 12–May 28: NOTE: Last Class Meeting to be held online: Race and Ethnicity: Henry Louis Gates, Gloria Anzaldúa, bell hooks AND Globalization: Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri

- No response paper due
- No presentations this week
- Introductions and bibliography to final paper due via email with subject INGL6415 Intro

Week 13 –June 4: (Friday schedule)

- Will have returned intros and bibliographies with comments via email

Between June 4 and June 11: Final papers due via email with subject heading: INGL6415 Final paper

Final grades available online after June 18