English 382: Literary Theory

Spring, 2008

Instructor: Dennis Allen
Office: 110 Colson
Office Hours: 1:30-2:20 T/Th and by appointment
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Course Purpose: This course is intended to provide you with an overview of the schools of literary theory that are currently used to analyze literary and cultural texts, ranging from post-structuralism to Gender Theory and Cultural Studies.

Course Requirements: Course grades will be based on a midterm (35%), a final exam (35%), and three two page response papers (30%).

The Response Papers: Should consist of a two page typed analysis of an essay from the course reading assignments. These should not summarize the reading but should engage it intellectually. In other words, a response to a particular essay should do one or more of the following: critique the essay, apply it to a literary or cultural text, or relate it to previous reading in the course. Also, if an essay proves exceptionally difficult, your response paper on that essay could present some focused, specific questions on points that you did not understand.
Attendance: You are allowed three absences. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.


Assignments:

Tues., January 15: Course Introduction

Poststructuralism and Deconstruction:


Response 1 Due
Thurs., Jan 31: Application Day

Psychoanalysis:


Response 2 Due
Response 2 Due
Thurs., Feb. 14: Application Day

Marxism:
Thurs., Feb. 21: Day off


New Historicism:

Thurs., March 6: Greenblatt, pp. 605-620

Tues., March 11: Application Day
Thurs., March 13: Midterm

Feminism, Gender Studies, and Queer Theory:

Thurs., March 20: Handout (to be determined)

Spring Break

Tues., April 1: Michel Foucault, "The History of Sexuality," pp. 892-899
Thurs. April 3: Application Day

Ethnic Studies/Postcolonial Theory:
   Response 3 Due

Tues., April 15: Alan Lawson, "The Anxious Proximities..." pp. 1210-1223
Thurs., April 17: Application Day

Cultural Studies:


Tues., April 29: Application Day
Thurs., May 1: Review Day

Final: Friday, May 9, 8-10 AM