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2019

English 345: Literary Theory and Criticism syllabus

Molly Desjardins

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Literary Theory and Criticism
English 345-001
Fall 2019

TuTh 9:30-10:45
CAND 1045

molly.desjardins@unco.edu
Ross 1180b
Student Hours: TuTh 12:30-1:30 & by
appt.

Dr. Molly Desjardins

Required Text:

Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism: literarytheory.pressbooks.com

Requirements:

- Reliable internet access, a current UNCo email account, PressBooks account, Gmail account, and an updated browser.
- Basic computer and internet literacy skills (this includes the ability to work with a browser, send and receive emails with attachments, use a search engine, and create and modify documents in MS Word).
- Ability to plan:
 - Technical difficulties occur in school and in life. However, **technical difficulties do not excuse late or incomplete assignments, and I will not accept them as an excuse.** In school and in life, it is important that you learn how to respond to technical difficulties so that they do not affect your work. Plan ahead:
 - Locate access to another computer and the internet (e.g. the university library or a local library that provides access to computers).
 - Save your work to Dropbox or the like or go old school and get a USB Flash drive.
 - Do not submit your work at the last minute. Submit it early in case you experience trouble.
- Openness to question your own assumptions and entertain other points of view.

Disability Resources

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) to request accommodations.

Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80.

Students can learn more here: www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center

Food Insecurity and Basic Needs

Research shows that college students experience food insecurity at higher rates than the American household rate, and that food insecurity can negatively impact academic performance and persistence. In recognition of this problem, UNC offers assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on-campus food pantry. The Bear Pantry is located in University Center 2166A, and is open for regular hours throughout the semester. Please visit www.unco.edu/bear-pantry for more information.

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is also urged to contact Student Outreach and Support (SOS) for assistance. SOS can assist students during difficult circumstances which may include medical, mental health, personal or family crisis, illness or injury. SOS can be reached at sos@unco.edu or via phone at 970-351-2796.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the Office of Community Standards and Conflict Resolution.

Title IX

The University of Northern Colorado is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware all UNC faculty and most staff members are “responsible employees,” which means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, they must share that information with the Title IX Coordinator, Larry Loften. Larry or a trained staff member in the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at UNC as well as your options for pursuing

a process to hold accountable the person who harmed you. You are not required to speak with OIEC staff regarding the incident; your participation in OIEC processes are entirely voluntary.

If you do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and help explore your options now, or in the future.

- UNC's Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (ASAP): 24 Hr. Hotline 970-35-4040 or www.unco.edu/asap
- UNC Counseling Center: 970-351-2496 or www.unco.edu/counseling
- UNC Psychological Services: 970-351-1645 or www.unco.edu/cebs/psych_clinic

If you are a survivor or someone concerned about a survivor, or if you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct or contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (970-351-4899). OIEC is located on the third floor of the University Center in room 3060.

Equity and Inclusion Statement

The University of Northern Colorado embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff, honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and world views. In this course, people of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, size and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness to each other's individual and intersecting identities. If you would like to report an incident or learn more about identity-based discrimination/harassment, please visit www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance

Plagiarism

The Department of English at UNC has adopted the following policy regarding plagiarism. Pretending that another's work is one's own is a serious scholarly offense known as plagiarism. For a thorough discussion of plagiarism, see the Dean of Students web page.

Students who are caught plagiarizing will receive a final grade of 'F' in the course. In addition, they will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English and the Dean of Students office for possible further disciplinary action.

Some but not all UNC instructors regard double or repeat submissions of one's own work as a form of plagiarism. If you intend to use in this course written material that you produced for another course, you must consult with your instructor before doing so for each individual assignment. Otherwise, you may be guilty of cheating.

Credits and Workload Expectations

For undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to **an average of three hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for an average student to achieve an average grade (C) in the course.** For a regular 15-week, 3-credit course that meets in the classroom for 3 hours a week, a student should expect to spend an additional 6 hours a week on coursework outside the classroom for a total of **135 semester hours.**

University Grading Standards

A - achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B - achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C - achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

D - achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.

F - represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

If you do your part, by the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify representative schools of thought in literary theory and criticism from Plato to today.
2. Read theoretical texts closely and identify their central arguments.
3. Understand how theory can be used as a methodology for literary study.
4. Articulate definitions for several central key terms in American and Western European literary theory and criticism.
5. Formulate the benefits and potential drawbacks of your own theoretical position as a student of literature.

Class Policies

Student Hours:

Student hours are TuTh 12:30-1:30 in Ross 1180b. If you cannot make those times, please feel free to email me to set up an appointment. The best way to reach me is through a Canvas message. I have Canvas on my phone, so I can usually get back to you more quickly as I only check my UNCO email a few times a day. If you have non-urgent questions, you may also email me: molly.desjardins@unco.edu.

UNCO E-mail:

Be sure to check your school e-mail account (BearMail) as well as Canvas. When communicating via email, use common netiquette. See Canvas if you don't know what that means.

Assignments:

- All readings will be from our OER textbook unless otherwise noted. Texts not available in our textbook because of copyright restrictions on distribution will be made available to you for free as PDFs or links on Canvas.

- Online assignments (quizzes, discussion posts, and response posts) are due **9:30 am MST** [class time of due date] via Canvas. Organize your time to complete the work during the week in a timely fashion.
- All assignments are available under that week's **module** along with lectures and any supplementary materials.
- All papers uploaded to Canvas final paper must be submitted in MS Word (.doc, .docx) or PDF. If I cannot open your assignment, I will not grade it. I will grade only what you upload. If you upload the wrong thing, you must remedy the problem before the due date.
- Our Midterm Exam is scheduled for **October 10** during class and our Final Exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, Dec 11 @ 8 am**. Make plans now to attend. Your final paper is due **Dec 13 @ 11:59 MST** via Canvas.
- I do not accept **late assignments**. The submission window for each assignment will close at exactly 11:59 MST on the due date. It is your responsibility to submit your work early to avoid any problems. I will not accept technical difficulties as an excuse for late work.
- All written assignments must be in 12 point, Times New Roman Font (format in MS Word under Format/Font); double-spaced with 0 point spacing before, 0 point spacing after, and no space between paragraphs of the same style (format in MS Word under Format/Paragraph); and formatted with 1 inch margins all around (format in MS Word under Format/Document).
- More information about each assignment, including prompts, rubrics, and submission instructions, is available on Canvas under "Assignments."
- If you are confused about an assignment, it is your responsibility to email me early or to request a visit with me.

Grading

Quizzes (10%)

There will be one 10-minute timed quiz per week over assigned reading and lectures. Quizzes are designed to encourage reading and to help you prepare for the exams.

Discussion Post and Response (10%)

Discussion Post (7.5%)

1 discussion post of **500-750 words** that responds to a reading or concept from that week. Post should read like a blog post for public consumption and should combine

- 1) a brief overview of the text or concept
- 2) a response to that text or concept
- 3) a connection between the reading or concept and something larger--another text, a set of texts, a larger idea or movement, a contemporary problem or set of problems.

Examples available under assignment details on Canvas and on Discussion Board.

Posts will be assigned and graded **High Pass/Pass/Fail** (High Pass = 95%; Pass = 85%; Earned Fail = 59% (if assignment is completed according to the instructions); Fail = 0% (if assignment is not completed) according to a **Discussion Post rubric** available on Canvas under **Page/Discussion Posts**.

Various due dates

Response (2.5%)

1 response to another post that engages it in a meaningful way. Responses will be assigned. You may respond to additional posts at any time. If your assigned response is reasonably written, two or more reasonable responses beyond your assigned response will earn you an automatic high pass in this category.

Posts will be assigned and graded **High Pass/Pass/Fail** (High Pass = 95%; Pass = 85%; Earned Fail = 59% (if assignment is completed according to) the instructions); Fail = 0% (if assignment is not completed) according to a **Discussion Post rubric** available on Canvas under **Page/Discussion Posts**.

Various due dates

Theory Out There Blog Post (10%)

750-1000 word blog post that revises and expands one of your discussion or response posts or springs from (and credits) a peer's post and/or class discussion for a public audience that shows the relevance of literary and cultural theory as a way to think about current events and/or ideas and with contemporary thinkers and/or creators. For examples, see these posts on Plato and Brexit:

[What Would Plato have Said About Trump & Brexit?](#)

[Brexit Confirms Some of Plato's Cautions](#)

[How Plato Predicted the EU Referendum Campaign](#)

Posts will be collected in an online space TBA. Due **Tuesday, Week 12 (Nov 12)**

Editorial Notes and Class Reflection (10%)

Notes (7.5%):

Each of you will be assigned one of our course texts to "edit." This means that, while reading, you will locate any errors or formatting issues I have missed and note them. More information on how to do this will be made available to you. You will also find parts of the text where you are confused or think someone might benefit from more information and research background information by using a set of resources that I will give to you and writing your own editorial notes. I have created examples in our first readings from Plato. If your notes are useful and well-done, I will include them in the final public version of the textbook and give you credit in the acknowledgements. If you create a visual representation and I include it, you will get full name credit under the image.

Various due dates

Class Reflection (2.5%)

On the day your text is being discussed I will ask you to explain what parts of the text were confusing to you or that you thought might be confusing to an imagined student new to literary theory and explain those parts of the texts by summarizing for your editorial notes for us.

Various due dates

Application Paper (20%):

1500-2000 word paper that applies one theory to a textual object of your choice. Prompt and more information on Canvas.

Exams (40%):

Midterm Exam (20%)

Definitions of keywords given in lecture or content covered Weeks 1-3

5 keywords/20 points each/total of 100 points

Final Exam (20%)

Definitions of keywords given in lecture for content covered Weeks 4-6 *with 1 section of cumulative review*

5 keywords/20 points each/total of 100 points

Schedule of Readings:

All readings are in our OER textbook (literarytheory.pressbooks.com) unless otherwise noted. You are welcome to read ahead. Just note that new editorial notes will be added as we go.

UNIT ONE

WEEK ONE

Tuesday
Introductions

Thursday
Plato, from *Republic*
---. from *Parmenides*

WEEK TWO

Tuesday
Aristotle, from *Poetics*
---. From *On Interpretation*

Thursday
Horace, *Ars Poetica*
Pope, from *An Essay on Criticism*

UNIT TWO

WEEK THREE

Tuesday
Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste"

Thursday
Kant, from *Critique of Judgment*
Burke, from *Philosophical Enquiry*

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday
Arnold, from "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time"

Thursday
Brooks, "The Heresy of Paraphrase"
OPTIONAL: Wimsatt & Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy" & "The Affective Fallacy" (On Canvas/Pages/Readings)

UNIT THREE

WEEK FIVE

Hegel, from *Encyclopedia*
---.from *Philosophy of Fine Art*
---.from *Phenomenology of Spirit*

Thursday
Marx and Engels on Art

Marx and Engels, from *The German Ideology*

WEEK SIX

Tuesday

Gramsci, from *Prison Notebooks* ("The Formation of Intellectuals")

Thursday

Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Technological Reproducibility"
From "Notes on Baudelaire"

WEEK SEVEN

Tuesday: Midterm Review

Thursday: **MIDTERM EXAM (UNITS 1-3)**

UNIT FOUR

WEEK EIGHT

Tuesday

Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics*

Thursday

Barthes, from *The Fashion System*

WEEK NINE

Tuesday

Freud, "The Uncanny"

---. "Creative Writers and Daydreaming"

UNIT FIVE

Thursday

Said, *Orientalism*

WEEK TEN

Tuesday

Nietzsche, from *The Birth of Tragedy* (Canvas)

Thursday

Foucault, from *The History of Sexuality* (Canvas)

WEEK ELEVEN

Tuesday

Derrida, "Differance"

Thursday

Johnson, "Melville's Fist"

WEEK TWELVE

Tuesday

NO CLASS: Professor out sick

Theory Out There Posts due

Thursday

Online Assignment: Read at least three other students' posts and comment.

No Class: Dr. D at Conference

WEEK THIRTEEN

Tuesday

Theory out there discussion & catch up

UNIT SIX

Thursday

Paul Gilroy, from *The Black Atlantic* (Canvas)

WEEK FOURTEEN

Tuesday

NO CLASS: SNOW EMERGENCY

~~Dillon, Paul Gilroy Legacy (Canvas)~~

~~Aching, Master Slave Hegel (Canvas)~~

Thursday

No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

WEEK FIFTEEN

Tuesday

Felski & Anker, Critique and Post-critique, introduction (Canvas)

Thursday

Conclusions & Celebrations

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec 11 @ 8:00 am (Covers Units 4-6 with 1 question from Units 1-3)

Final Application Paper: due Friday, Dec 13 @ 11:59 pm