ENGL 5313.001: Literary Theory and Criticism
HILL 124; W, 5:00-7:50 (or as arranged)

Description: This course will examine the major theoretical movements and their intersections with each
other and with literature. Rather than focus on secondary materials about literary theory, which you may
have encountered at the undergraduate level, this course will focus on primary texts written by theorists
themselves. We will explore how such various literary theories can expand our understanding of literature as
well as provide for ways of understanding culture at large. The theories this course covers will provide you
with the critical skills to interrogate and to appreciate works of literature and even non-literary texts. The
reading load in this course is demanding for both the length of the readings and the density.

Objective: This course will teach you how to employ a variety of readings to any literary work. Since literary
theory and criticism provide crucial insights to understanding how we think and talk about literature and
knowledge itself, this course will be a valuable introduction to and augmentation of literary theories
needed to teach English at the advanced secondary and lower collegiate levels.

Course Requirements: Students will demonstrate their ability to discuss the nuances of various theories and
their connections to contemporary culture; Students will write two substantive papers (at least 15 pages
each) that demonstrate their ability to compare, synthesize, and employ the theories presented; Students
will demonstrate their ability to articulate theoretical concepts by their class participation and papers; and
students will locate, cite, and intelligently incorporate multiple sources into their papers.

Required Text: “Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism” (Norton). Students must also have access to a
computer, printer, and e-mail. Additional readings may be disseminated through the course of class.

Presentations and Class Attendance: These constitutes 33.3% of the final grade. Only absences with
acceptable, verifiable excuses that have to do with family emergencies, personal illness, or service to the
university will be excused. Absences pertaining to legal issues, job interviews, or the like are not excused.

Papers and Paper Policy: Papers constitute 33.3% of the final grade. The successful completion of all
papers is required in this class. Please adhere to MLA formatting guidelines for all papers. (Typed, double-
spaced, 12-point Times or the equivalent; 1-inch margins.) Papers more than 24 hours late* and lacking an
acceptable, verifiable excuse are not accepted. No make-up or extra-credit work is available.

Presentations & Journal: Depending on class size, students will be required to do a weekly presentation on
the readings. Students will also be required to write a short (500-word) essay assessing the weekly reading.

Academic Policy and Honesty: All work submitted must be the student’s own; sources and attributions must
be properly cited. Copies of all sources used must be submitted with your work. Representing someone
else’s work as your own will be failed. Please review the PVAMU Student Handbook for university protocols
concerning academic dishonesty. PAPERS WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY PLAGIARIZED WILL BE FAILED
AUTOMATICALLY AND REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT HEAD. Any instance of plagiarism may result in
suspension or expulsion from the university. No make-up or extra-credit work is available.

ADA Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need an adjustment in this class are
encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) at (936) 857-2693/2694 as soon as possible.
Students must obtain a formal letter from the ODS in order to properly implement any adjustments.

Student Academic Appeals Process: In instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or
unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic
performance, students have a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and
by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic
events that prompted the complaint.
Grade Breakdown (out of 100%)
Two 15-page Essays and weekly presentations 33.3%
Class Discussion .................................................. 33.3%
Presentations & Attendance ................................. 33.3%
Schedule of Readings and Assignments: Literary Theory and Criticism, ENGL 5313.001

ajocson@yahoo.com – ajocson@pvamu.edu

Readings must be completed and assignments submitted by the specified date for intense class-based discussions over materials. Schedule is subject to change when necessary.

Page numbers below indicate the starting page of the reading assignment

* = Revisitiation of previous reading.

Introduction
Jan. 20 ....... Course Overview and Introduction
Epistemology and Rhetoric: Gorgias and Plato

Formalism
Jan. 27 ....... Boris Eichenbaum, 1058
T.S. Eliot, 1088
Cleanth Brooks, 1350
Wimsatt & Beardsley, 1371

Reader-Response
Feb. 3 ......... Georges Poulet, 1317
Jean-Paul Sartre, 1333
Roland Barthes, 1457
Stanley Fish, 2067

Cultural Studies
Feb. 10 ......... Walter Benjamin, 1163
Horkheimer & Adorno, 1220
Stuart Hall, 1895
Dick Hebdige, 2445

Feminist Theory
Feb. 17 ......... Virginia Woolfe, 1017
Simone de Beauvoir, 1403
Adrienne Rich, 1759
Susan Bordo, 2360

Queer Theory
Feb. 24 ......... Monique Wittig, 2012
Barbara Smith, 2299
Eve Sedgwick, 2432
Judith Butler, 2485
* Monique Wittig

Race and Ethnicity
Mar. 3 ......... W.E.B. Du Bois, 977
Zora Neale Hurston, 1144
Langston Hughes, 1311
Henry Louis Gates, 2421
Bell Hooks, 2475
Gerald Vizenor, 1975

Psychoanalysis
Mar. 10 ....... Paper 1 Due, 15 Pages
Sigmund Freud, 913
Cari Gustave Jung, 987
Jacques Lacan, 1278

Harold Bloom, 1794

Mar. 17 ....... Spring Break

New Historicism
Mar. 24 ....... Michel Foucault, 1615
Hayden White, 1709
Stephen Greenblatt, 2250
Knapp & Michaels, 2458

Postcolonial Theory
Mar. 31 ....... Franz Fanon, 1575
Chinua Achebe, 1781
Edward Said, 1986
Homi Bhabha, 2377

Marxism
Apr. 7 ......... Leon Trotsky, 1002
Edmund Wilson, 1240
Louis Althusser, 1476
Frederic Jameson, 1932
* Walter Benjamin
* Dick Hebdige

Deconstruction
Apr. 14 ....... Jacques Derrida, 1815
Paul de Man, 1509
* Michel Foucault
* Jacques Lacan

Phenomenology
Apr. 21 ....... Martin Heidegger, 1118
Wolfgang Iser, 1670
E.D. Hirsch, 1682
* Georges Poulet
* Jean Paul Sartre

Structuralism
Apr. 28 ....... Ferdinand de Saussure, 956
Claude Lévi-Strauss, 1415
Northrop Frye, 1442
* Roland Barthes

May. 5 ....... Paper 2 Due, 15 Pages
**Important Dates (Tentative)**

Jan. 5 ........ Last Day to Withdraw From Courses  
              Without Record – “W” thereafter  
Feb. 15 ........ Graduation Application Deadline For  
               Dec. 2007  
Mar. 29 ........ Last Day to Withdraw From Courses  
              With “W”  
Apr. 6 ........ Early Registration Begins  
Apr. 27 ........ Last Day to Withdraw From Courses