

**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.

**antonio l. jocson, ph.d.**

aljocson@pvamu.edu · (936) 857-2354

office hours: t 2:30pm-4:30pm; m 8:30am-12noon. hilliard 206

---

**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 – aljocson@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

• = Revisitation of previous reading.

---

### Introduction

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

Harold Bloom, 1794-

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

### Formalism

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

### New Historicism

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

### Reader-Response

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

### Postcolonial Theory

Mar. 31 ..... Franz Fanon, 1575-  
Chinhua Achebe, 1781-  
Edward Said, 1986-  
Homi Bhabbha, 2377-

### Cultural Studies

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

### Marxism

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

### Feminist Theory

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

### Deconstructionism

Apr. 14 ..... Jacques Derrida, 1815-  
Paul de Man, 1509-  
• Michel Foucault  
• Jacques Lacan

### Queer Theory

Feb. 24 ..... Monique Wittig, 2012-  
Barbara Smith, 2299-  
Eve Sedgwick, 2432-  
Judith Butler, 2485-  
• Monique Wittig

### Phenomenology

Apr. 21 ..... Martin Heidegger, 1118-  
Wolfgang Eiser, 1670-  
E.D. Hirsch, 1682-  
• Georges Poulet  
• Jean Paul Sartre

### 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-

### Structuralism

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

### Psychoanalysis

Mar. 10 ..... **Paper 1 Due, 15 Pages**  
Sigmund Freud, 913-  
Carl Gustave Jung, 987-  
Jacques Lacan, 1278-

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