

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Theory

Course Number and Section:

ENGLISH

2265F 550

Instructor Name(s): M. Curtis Allen

Instructor Email(s): mallen67@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Introduction to the major modes of literary and cultural theory, and the prevailing issues within them pertaining to medium and form, gender and sexuality, race, nation, and class, culture and history.

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn to critically parse ideas from a variety of traditions and use them to critically engage with and reflect upon (our own
- Learn advanced techniques of reading, writing, interpretation, and critical thinking.
- Learn to better appreciate the relationship between the social structure and literary/cultural expression.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All materials will be provided online.

Course Outline:

Overview and Introduction

1. Sept 4-6 - Introduction to Introduction to Theory
 - I. Ireland/Kronic
 2. Sept 11-13 - Cute Accelerationism (excerpts)
 - II. Marx
 3. Sept 18-20 - The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 (excerpts)
 4. Sept 25-27 - Capital Vol 1. (excerpts)
 - III. Freud/Lacan
 5. Oct 2-4 - Freud, "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality" (excerpts)
 6. Oct 9-11 - Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle (excerpts)
- Reading Week: Oct 12-20
7. Oct 23-25 - Lacan, "Seminar on The Purloined Letter" in *Écrits*
 - IV. Dubois
 8. Oct 30-Nov 1 - "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" in *The Souls of Black Folk*.
 9. Auerbach

9. Nov 6-8 - "Odysseus' Scar" in Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature
- VI. Butler
10. Nov 13-15 - Gender Trouble
11. Nov 20-22 - Gender Trouble, cont.
- VII. Jameson
12. Nov 27-29 - Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism (excerpts)
13. Dec 4 - Postmodernism, cont. (excerpts)

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance/Participation		15%
Weekly Short Writing	Due weekly	20% (cumulative)
Individual or Group Presentation	sign up for date	20%
Outline/Bibliography for Final Project	Nov. 8	15%
Final Project (Essay or Creative)	Dec. 4	30%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, August 23, 2024