

the role of the reader.

In each module, we will compare Post-Structuralist essays with related seminal essays by Feminist, Post-colonial, and African American theorists such as:

Luce Irigaray,
 Gayle Rubin,
 Michèle Barrett,
 Sunday Anozie,
 Homi Bhabha,
 Stuart Hall,
 Abdul JanMohamed, and
 Gayatri Spivak.

The goal in so doing is to explore how each of these thinkers has sought to utilise post-Saussurean concepts of difference in order to rethink the dominant ways in which patriarchal, colonial and post-colonial cultural phenomena and practices have come to be conceptualised.

Assessment:

Seminar participation / presentations	40%
Research paper	60%

Required Texts:

Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds.	<u>Critical Theory Since 1965</u>	R
Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan, eds.	<u>Literary Theory: an Anthology</u>	R
David Richter, ed.	<u>The Critical Tradition</u>	R
Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds.	<u>Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory</u>	R
Jacques Lacan	<u>Écrits</u>	R
Terry Eagleton	<u>Criticism and Ideology</u>	R
Frederic Jameson	<u>The Political Unconscious</u>	R
Homi Bhabha	<u>The Location of Culture</u>	R
Gayatri Spivak	<u>In Other Worlds</u>	R
Abdul JanMohamed	<u>Manichean Aesthetics</u>	R
Selected essays by Todorov, Jakobson, Derrida, Barthes, Bloom, Fish, Irigaray, Rubin, Barrett, Anozie, Hall, et al. in the E60C folder in the library to be photocopied.		

Recommended:

Terry Eagleton	<u>Literary Theory: an Introduction</u>	R
Toril Moi	<u>Sexual / Textual Politics</u>	R
Ania Loomba	<u>Colonialism/Post-colonialism</u>	R
Bart Moore-Gilbert	<u>Post-colonial Theory</u>	R

R indicates that the book in question is on reserve in the library. Students should note that they are not required to purchase any / all these texts, although if they wish to do so, they might

consider in particular the ones marked by an asterisk. The texts listed here may or may not be in the bookstore; lecturers have no control over whether or not the bookstore orders what we request.

Students are cautioned that the **Required Readings** listed below are *absolutely essential* and should be read in the suggested order. Copies of the Required Readings for students to photocopy in turn may be found in the E33D folder in the library. Wherever possible, students are also encouraged to make use of the required anthologies (on reserve) as well as other sources (some on reserve) in the library. (The sources of particular essays are listed in brackets after each entry.)

You will also be provided with a list of **Recommended Readings** on the material covered each week. These are designed to provide necessary background and clarification. It is entirely up to you whether you choose to read them or not. You may find them especially useful, however, when it comes to assimilating the material covered in the required readings and/or writing term papers.

Students should note that this course will largely take the **seminar format**. The degree to which seminars are productive is a function of the effort which students put into a) their preparation of assigned materials and b) the effectiveness of the presentations and reports made to their colleagues. Students must be prepared to read, reread and re-reread the assigned readings. (I have always found the best way to come to grips with difficult readings is to make a detailed précis thereof for myself.) They must also be prepared to engage in class in a vigorous exchange of ideas with their colleagues. It is, in short, through a combination of careful preparation and dialogue that students will be able to glean for themselves the important information to be drawn from the assigned readings.

The term paper should preferably be *typed* on a computer and must be written according to the guidelines set out in the MLA Handbook or the Faculty of Humanities Essay Writing Guidelines: *carelessly documented or presented work will be penalised*. Students should keep a copy of the essay submitted in case it gets lost.

READING SCHEDULE

MODULE ONE: SAUSSUREAN LINGUISTICS / STRUCTURALISM

Week 1: Saussure's Model of Signification

Required Readings:

Sem. 1: Introduction: general discussion of the aims of the course, requirements, etc.;

Terry Eagleton Literary Theory: an Introduction:
Structuralism and Semiotics

Post-Structuralism
Psychoanalysis

Sem. 2: Saussurean Linguistics

Ferdinand Saussure From Course in General Linguistics (in Adams and Searle)

Recommended Readings: Terry Eagleton Literary Theory: an Introduction; Structuralism and Semiotics (section on Saussure)
David Robey Modern Literary Theory; Modern Linguistics and the Language of Literature (section on Saussure)

Seminar Topics:

1. How did Plato conceive of the nature of reality? Did he believe that it is possible to know reality as it really is?
2. Plato held what linguists refer to as a referential (or reflectionist or mimetic or correspondence) model of language. What do you understand by this term? To what degree has this become a widely shared view of language?
3. Plato also held what linguists refer to as an instrumental or expressivist model of language. What do you understand by this term? To what degree has this also become a widely shared view of language?
4. How exactly, according to Saussure, do signs signify (i.e. how is meaning produced)? Would you agree that this represents a radical departure from and critique of the conventional linguistic models discussed above?
5. Define the following key Saussurean terms: sign, referent, signifier, signified, signification, system or structure, différence, binary oppositions, diachrony, synchrony, langue, parole, the paradigmatic axis, the syntagmatic axis.
6. Does Saussure's model of the sign explain why human beings have a tendency to comprehend reality (i.e. to think) in terms of binary oppositions? If so, how?
7. What do you understand by what philosophers term the Cartesian subject or the Cogito? Compare Descartes' model of human subjectivity with Plato's and John Locke's respectively.
8. In what ways does Saussure's model of language contribute to the decentering of the Cartesian subject?
9. Explain, in the light of Saussure's essay, the following statement: The meaning of any utterance occurs at the intersection of the paradigmatic and syntagmatic axes.

Week 2: The Structuralist Model of Subjectivity, Epistemology, and Culture

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Claude Lévi-Strauss Structural Anthropology:
Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology

Sem. 2:

Claude Lévi-Strauss Structural Anthropology:
Language and the Analysis of Social Laws

Recommended Readings Edmund Leach Claude Levi-Strauss

Week 3: Linguistics and Narratology / Linguistics and Poetics

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Tzvetan Todorov "A Grammar of Narrative" (in his Poetics of Prose)
Susan Lanser "Toward a Feminist Narratology" (in Warhol and Herndl)

Sem. 2:

Roman Jakobson Linguistics and Poetics (in Lodge, ed. MCT)
Sunday Anozie Negritude, Structuralism, Deconstruction (in Gates, ed. Black Literature and Literary Theory)

Recommended Readings: Jonathan Culler Structuralist Poetics

Applications: Claude Lévi-Strauss Structural Anthropology: The Structural Study of Myth
Hayden White Introduction: the Poetics of History (in his Metahistory)

MODULE TWO: LACANIAN CRITICISM / DECONSTRUCTION

Week 4: Lacanian Psychoanalysis

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Jacques Lacan _____ "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I" (in his Écrits; also in Adams and Searle; also in Rivkin and Ryan)

Sem. 2:

Jacques Lacan "The Function and Field of Speech . . ." (in his Écrits; also under the title The Symbolic Order in Rivkin and Ryan)

Recommended Readings: Malcolm Bowie Lacan: Inventing the I
Language and the Unconscious
Symbolic, Imaginary, Real and . . . True
The Meaning of the Phallus

Week 5: Lacanian Psychoanalysis / Derrida's Model of Signification

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Jacques Lacan _____ On the Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious (in his Écrits; also in Adams and Searle; also in Rivkin and Ryan)

Sem. 2:

Jacques Derrida Différance (in Adams and Searle)

Recommended Readings:	Terry Eagleton	<u>Literary Theory: an Introduction:</u>	Psychoanalysis
	Ann Jefferson	Structuralism and Post-Structuralism	Post-Structuralism (section on Derrida)
		<u>Literary Theory</u>	(section on Derrida) (in Jefferson and Robey, eds. <u>Modern Literary Theory</u>)

Seminar Presentations

1. In Saussure's scheme of things, signs are differentiated from each other within a sign-system by pure distinction. Because each sign is distinct, it can be said to be possessed of plenitude. In Derrida's scheme of things, there is no pure difference or distinction separating signs from each other. Signs relate to each other, rather, by means of what he calls *différance* or the play of difference. From this point of view, signs do not possess plenitude. Rather, what Derrida calls the trace of the other inheres in each sign.

Explain Derrida's concept of *différance* as outlined in the essay *Différance* in the light of this statement.

2. What are the implications of Derrida's notion of *différance* for the existence of the binary opposites so central to Saussure's understanding of the sign-system?
3. To what extent may Derrida be said to be writing back to Saussure's notion of *différance*?

Week 6: Lacanian Psychoanalysis, Deconstruction, and Literature

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Roland Barthes	The Death of the Author (in Rice and Waugh)
Roland Barthes	Textual Analysis of Poe's <u>M. Valdemar</u> (in Lodge <u>MCT</u>)
Harold Bloom	Poetry, Revisionism, Repression (in K.M. Newton, ed. <u>Twentieth Century Literary Theory: a Reader</u>)

Sem. 2:

Hayden White	<u>Metahistory</u> : Introduction: The Problem of Historiographical Styles and The Theory of Tropes (pp. 29-38)
Paul de Man	Semiology and Rhetoric (in Selden, ed. <u>TOC</u>)
Stanley Fish	Is There a Text in this Class? (in Adams and Searle)

Recommended Readings:	Terry Eagleton	<u>Literary Theory: an Introduction:</u>	Post-Structuralism
	Ann Jefferson	Structuralism and Post-Structuralism	(in Jefferson and Robey, eds. <u>Modern Literary Theory</u>)

Seminar Presentations

1. What is the nature of the poetic act (31) by which, according to White, the historian both creates his object of analysis and predetermines the modality of the conceptual strategies he will use to explain it (31)? Define the four so-called master tropes by which the historian, according to White, accomplishes this.
2. Using de Man's essay as your guide, explain how, no matter what a speaker/writer may have intended, the *différance* intrinsic to language results potentially in an excess or

- surplus of signification and thus in the indeterminacy of the utterance in question.
3. Interpretation is a necessarily Procrustean act that involves forcibly arresting the play of difference between signs. Discuss Fish's views, given the inevitability of a surplus of meaning, on the role of the listener/reader and the importance of contextualisation in the production of a single meaning.
 4. Why do the binary oppositions explicit or implicit in a particular thesis deconstruct themselves? What is the role played in this deconstruction by the surplus of signification discussed by de Man and Fish?
 5. On what grounds does Barthes proclaim the death of the Author?
 6. If authors are not the source of meaning, how then, according to Barthes, do texts mean? (Your answer should include a discussion of the various codes to which Barthes alludes in *Textual Analysis of M. Valdemar*.)
 7. How does Bloom rethink his earlier views on literary history (e.g. in *The Dialectics of Poetic Tradition*) in the light of Derrida's model of signification?
 8. Deconstruction, perhaps because of its seemingly exclusive focus on the text itself, has frequently been accused of ahistoricism and of thus being apolitical. What do you understand by this charge?

Week 7: French Feminism and Anglophone Lacanian Feminism

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Luce Irigaray	"This Sex Which Is Not One" (in her <u><i>This Sex Which Is Not One</i></u> ; and in Marks and de Courtivron)
Luce Irigaray	"Another Cause Castration" (in Warhol and Herndl)
Gayatri Spivak	<u><i>In Other Worlds</i></u> : Feminism and Critical Theory French Feminism in an International Frame

Sem. 2:

Gayle Rubin	On the Traffic in Women: Notes Toward a Political Economy of Sex (in Rivkin and Ryan; also in Rayna Reiter, ed. <u><i>Toward an Anthropology of Women</i></u>)
Mary Jacobus	The Difference of View (in her <u><i>Reading Woman</i></u>)
Laura Mulvey	Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema (in Gerald Mast, et al., eds. <u><i>Film Theory and Criticism</i></u>)

Recommended Readings:

Ann Rosalind Jones Writing the Body: Towards an Understanding of l'écriture féminine (in Warhol and Herndl)

Week 8: Post-colonial Theory: Lacanian / Deconstructive Emphases

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Homi Bhabha	Interrogating Identity: Frantz Fanon and the Postcolonial Prerogative (in his <u><i>The Location of Culture</i></u> ; see also the slightly different version entitled <i>Remembering Fanon</i> in Williams and Chrisman)
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Homi Bhabha The Commitment to Theory (in his The Location of Culture; see also the abbreviated version entitled Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences in Bill Ashcroft, et al., eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader)

Sem. 2:

Homi Bhabha The Other Question: Stereotype, Discrimination and the Discourse of Colonialism (in his The Location of Culture; see also Houston Baker, ed. Black British Cultural Studies)

Homi Bhabha Of Mimicry and Man: the Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse (in his The Location of Culture)

MODULE THREE: (POST-)STRUCTURALIST MARXIST CRITICISM

Week 9: Structuralist Marxism

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Louis Althusser "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (in Adams and "Ideology and Ideology")

Sem. 2:

Louis Althusser Part I (in his and Étienne Balibar's Reading Capital)

Recommended Readings: William C. Dowling Jameson, Althusser, Marx

Week 10: (Post-)Structuralist Marxist Theory and Criticism

Required Readings:

Sem. 1:

Louis Althusser A Letter on Art in Reply to André D A Letter on Art in Reply to André Philosophy and Other Essays; also in Selden)

Terry Eagleton Criticism and Ideology:
Categories for a Marxist Criticism (also in Richter)
Towards a Science of the Towards a Science of the Towards a Science of the
Drew Milne, eds. Marxist Marxist Literary Theory: a Marxist L

Sem. 2:

Étienne Balibar and Pierre Macherey
On Literature as an Ideological Form (in Mulhern; also in Terry Eagleton and Drew Milne, eds. Marxist Literary Theory)

Frederic Jameson The Political Unconscious:
On Interpretation (see excerpts On Interpretation (see excerpts in Terry Milne, Milne, eds. Marxist Marxist Literary Theory: a Reader., and in Richter)

Recommended Readings:

Week 11: (Post-)Structuralist Marxist Feminism**Required Readings:****TU:**

Michèle Barrett The The Cultural Production of Gen The Cultural Production of Gender (pp. 75-83 in Judith The Cu
Newton, et al., eds. Feminist Criticism and Social Change)

TR:

Michèle Barrett The The Cult The Cultural Production of Gender (pp. 75-83 in Judith The Cu
Newton, et al., eds. Feminist Criticism and Social Change)

The Marxist-Feminist Literature Collective

Women s Women s Writin Women s Writing: JaJane Eyre, Shirley, Villette, A
TerryTerry Eagleton and Drew Milne, eds. Marxist Literary
Theory:Theory: a Theory: a ReaTheory: a Reader; see also abbreviated
Eagleton, ed. Feminist Literary Theory: a Reader)

Recommended Readings:**Week 12: Post-colonial Theory: (Post-)Structuralist Emphases****Required Readings:****Sem. 1:**

StuartStuart Hall Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance (in Race, Articulation, and S
TheoriesTheories : Race and Colonialism; also in Houston Baker, ed. BBIBlack
British Cultural Studies)

Sem 2:

Abdul JanMohamed The The Econ The Economy of Manichean Allegory: The Economy of Ma
DifferenceDifference in Colonialist LiterDifference in Colonialist Literatu
Jr. ed. Race, Writing and Difference)

Abdul JanMohamed Manichean Aesthetics:

Introduction and Conclusion

Homi Bhabha Representation Representation and the Colonial Text (in Frank Glov Represent
The Theory of Reading)

RESEARCH PAPER

Word Limits: One (1) approx. 20-page paper which should be double-spaced.
(Please insert a word count at the end.)

Deadline: Friday of the week following our last class

Answer one of the following questions:

1. Analyse a Post-colonial text of your choice from the point of view of **ONE** (ONE) school of criticism:

Structuralism;
Lacanian Psychoanalysis;
(Post-)Structuralist Marxist criticism.

Your essay should include a clear outline of the methodological principles which you employ.

2. Drawing upon the arguments advanced by a relevant Post-colonial theorist(s), discuss **ONE** (ONE) of the following topics:

Post-colonial subjectivity;
Race and the social formation;
The discursive construction of gender and/or race;
Colonialist literature and the discursive construction of gender and/or race;
Gender and the Post-colonial condition;
Rethinking Post-colonial authorship;
Rethinking Post-colonial realism ;
Post-colonial intertextuality;
The Post-colonial reader (of colonial discourse / the European canon).

You should aim to ground your argument through concrete examples of your choice.

NB: Essays should be typed up and must be written in your own words. Essays should be typed up and must be written in your own words. Faculty pamphlet on essay writing and the MLA Handbook: sloppy work will be penalised.