Literature 300/English 300/Comparative Literature 511:
Introduction to the Theory of Literature

Texts
David Richter, ed. The Critical Tradition
Sigmund Freud, On Dreams
Roland Barthes, Mythologies
Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, vol. 1
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble
Henry James, “Daisy Miller”
Jonathan Culler, Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction (recommended)

Texts are available at the Yale Bookstore (Barnes and Noble). A packet of additional readings is available at Tyco. On the schedule below, readings from Richter’s textbook are designated by an “R”; those from the Tyco packet are designated by a “T.”

Requirements
Mandatory attendance at lectures and sections, except in cases of emergency or religious observance. Undergraduates: Three short papers (5-7 pages each). Final exam. Participation in section will be factored into the final grade. Dean’s excuse required for late papers. Graduate students: attendance at a special section led by the professor. Term paper of about 20 pages, incorporating materials from the course and outside research OR as for undergraduates.

Office Hours
I will be happy to meet students during my office hours in room 102b, 451 College St., Wednesdays 2-4 or at other times. Please make an appointment in advance by calling Mary Jane Stevens, the undergraduate registrar for the Literature major. Tel.: 432-4750.

Sections
Undergraduate sections meet weekly, including both Friday, April 25 and Monday, April 28. Comp. Lit. 511 (graduate) section will meet seven times during the semester for two hours each (11:30-1:20): Fridays: January 24, February 7, February 21, February 28, March 7, and April 18; and Monday, April 28.

Lectures, Readings, and Due Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
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<tr>
<td>M13</td>
<td>What is literature? The quarrel between philosophy and poetry.</td>
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<td>W15</td>
<td>Truth and Lies</td>
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<td>Required:</td>
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<td>Friedrich Nietzsche, hand-out from “On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense”</td>
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F17  The New Criticism  
   Required:  
   Cleanth Brooks, “The Heresy of Paraphrase” (T)  
   W. K. Wimsatt and Monroe C. Beardsley, “The Intentional Fallacy” (R 748-57)  
   Recommended:  
   Cleanth Brooks, “Irony as a Principle of Structure” (R 757-65)  
   Victor Shklovsky, “Art as Technique” (R 716-726)  

II. Interpretation  
W22  The Hermeneutics of Suspicion  
   Required:  
   Karl Marx, excerpt from The German Ideology (R 385-391)  
   Hand-out: excerpts from Immanuel Kant’s Critique of Judgment  
   Recommended:  
   Michel Foucault, “What is an Author?” (R 889-900)  

M27  Psychoanalysis  
   Guest lecture by Martina Kolb  
   Required:  
   Sigmund Freud, On Dreams  

W29  The Hermeneutic Circle  
   Required:  
   Hans-Georg Gadamer, “The Elevation of the Historicality of Understanding to the Status of Hermeneutical Principle” (R 668-88)  

Feb M3  Validity in Interpretation  
   Required:  
   E. D. Hirsch, “Objective Interpretation” (T)  

W5  Interpretive Communities  
   Stanley Fish, “Introduction, or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Interpretation” from Is There a Text in this Class? (T)  
   Recommended:  
   Wolfgang Iser, “The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach” (R 955-68)  

Feb F7  First paper due: on interpretation.  

III. Signs  
Feb M10  The Arbitrary Nature of the Sign  
   Required:  
   Ferdinand de Saussure, “Nature of the Linguistic Sign” (R 832-5)  
   Roman Jakobson, “Linguistics and Poetics” (T)  
   Recommended:  
   Claude Lévi-Strauss, “The Structural Study of Myth” (R 835-44)
W12  Semiotic analysis
   Required:
   Roland Barthes, “From Work to Text” (R 900-905)
   Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*

M17  Deconstruction (I)
   Required:
   Jacques Derrida, “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Humanities”
   (R 877-89)

W19  Deconstruction (II)
   Required:
   Jacques Derrida, “Differance” (T)

M24  Deconstruction and Rhetorical Criticism
   Required:
   Paul de Man, “The Resistance to Theory” (T)
   Recommended:
   Barbara Johnson, Introduction and “The Fate of Deconstruction”
   from *A World of Difference* (T)

III.  History
W26  Discourse Analysis
   Required:
   Michel Foucault, “The Discourse on Language” (T)
   Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1 (parts one and two)

Mar. M2  Foucault and Cultural Studies
   Required:
   Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1 (parts three through five)

W4   Historical Interpretation
   Required:
   Hayden White, “The Politics of Historical Interpretation: Discipline and
   De-Sublimation” (R 1297-1316)
   Recommended:
   Nancy Armstrong, “Some Call it Fiction: On the Politics of Domesticity” (R 1316-30)


Spring break: read Henry James, “*Daisy Miller*”
M24 Marxism and Modernism
Walter Benjamin, “The Storyteller” (T)
Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (R 1105-22)
Recommended:
Theodor Adorno, “Lyric Poetry and Society” (T)
Walter Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History” (T)

W26 New Historicism
Guest lecture by Christopher van den Berg
Required:
Stephen Greenblatt and Catherine Gallagher, Introduction to Practicing New Historicism (T)
Stephen Greenblatt, “Invisible Bullets” (T)

M31 Late Marxism
Required:
Fredric Jameson, from The Political Unconscious (R 1172-88)

Excursus: Lacan
Apr. W2 Structuralism and Psychoanalysis
Guest lecture by Tobias Boes
Required:
Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage” (T)
Jane Gallop, from Reading Lacan (R 1065-74)
Recommended:
Jacques Lacan, “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious or Reason since Freud” (R 1044-65)

IV. Representation
M7 Feminism
Required:
Virginia Woolf, excerpts from A Room of One’s Own (R 548-59)
Helene Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa” (R 1453-66)
Recommended:
Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, from “Infection in the Sentence: The Woman Writer and the Anxiety of Authorship” (R 1360-74)
Simone de Beauvoir, “Myths: Of Women in Five Authors” (R 635-640)

W9 Queer Theory
Guest lecture by Nicholas Salvato
Required:
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble, part one, “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire,” and conclusion (3-44, 181-190)
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Epistemology of the Closet” (T)
Recommended:
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble, part three
M14  Post-Colonial Studies  
Edward Said, Introduction to *Orientalism* (R 1278-92)  
Homi K. Bhabha, “Dissemi-Nation” (T)  
Recommended:  
Anne McClintock, “Soft-soaping the Empire” (T)  

W16  “Race”  
Paul Gilroy, “Cultural Studies and Ethnic Absolutism” (T)  

Apr. F18 Final paper due: a paper on history or representation, or a theoretically informed reading of “Daisy Miller” or another work selected in consultation with your teaching assistant.

M21  Canon Formation  
Required:  
John Guillory, from *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation*  
(R 1588-1607)  
Recommended:  

W23  Applying Theory  
Henry James, “Daisy Miller”  

May Th8  2:00 p.m., Final Exam