

ENGLISH 2180 TEXTUALITIES: READING AND INTERPRETATION

(Half-year course)

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Delivery Mode: Lecture/Seminar

*3 (3-0-0) Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English.

Calendar Description:

An introduction to theories of reading and interpretation, and to the issues and debates surrounding the relationship between literary events and the reception of meanings, as they bear on literary analysis.

Course Description: This course looks at the processes of reading texts in connection with multiple theoretical positions in the literary field. The course will examine multiple schools of literacy analysis as well as how social, political, historical and ideological discourses of fields interact in the process of reading. This course will be an introduction to literary theory in order to investigate what is at stake in the process of reading a 'text'. Examining formalism, structuralism, psychoanalysis, Marxism, post-structuralism, feminism, gender studies, historicisms, postcoloniality, and cultural studies we will look at the history of the literary institution and processes of reading and will also examine the ways texts affect or can engage with questions of agency and subject positioning. We will also look at how history, politics, and ideology affect the process of reading and our own place as readers within this complex milieu.

Required Texts & Resources:

Including but not limited to

John Mowitt Text: The Genealogy of an Antidisciplinary Object

Dominick LaCapra Rethinking Intellectual History

Helen Hoy How Should I Read These?

Course pack of texts including but not limited to excerpts from: Vladimir Nabokov, Fredric Jameson, Raymond Williams, Gayatri Spivak, Janic Radway, Toni Morrison, Louis Althusser, Jorge Louis Borges, Naomi Klien, bell hooks, Mikhail Bahktin, Cleanth Brooks, Ferdinand de Saussure, Roman Jakobson, Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Julia Kristeva, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, Karl Marx, Slavoj Zizek, Verena Dobnik, Friedrich Nietszsche, Jean Baudriallard, Michel Foucault, Gayle Rubin, Luce Irigaray, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, Zora Neale Hurston, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Nancy Chodorow, Alan Sinfield Edward Said, Gloria Anzaldua, Rey Chow, Jamiaca Kincaid, Stuart Hall, John Fiske, Susan Bordo, Himani Bannerji, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Sara Suleri, Frantz Fanon, Chinua Achebe, Diana Brydon, Linda Hutcheon, and Benita Parry

Evaluation:

Participation 10%

Presentation 20%

Essay One 15%

Essay Two 25%

Final 30%