

## English 2265G: Introduction to Theory **Theories of Literature and Culture**

The Department of English and Cultural Studies | Huron University College

Dr. Frederick D. King | Email: [fking2@uwo.ca](mailto:fking2@uwo.ca) | Schedule: Tues 11:30-1:30pm, Thurs 11:30am-12:30pm |

Office: HC-A306 | Office Hours: 9:00-11:00am | Classroom: HC-W101

**Antirequisite(s):** English 2210F/G, 2236F/G.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of any 1000-level English course, or permission of the Department.

**Extra Information:** 3 hours, 0.5 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 and nation, culture and history. Specifically, students will survey the role that interdisciplinary theories have played in the development of literary studies since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until our own contemporary moment. The course will cover major theoretical schools of thought: New Criticism, Semiotics, Formalism, Psychoanalysis, Post-Structuralism, Postmodernism, Feminism, Queer Theory, Postcolonialism, Critical Race Theory, Marxism, Cultural Materialism, the Digital Humanities, Textual Studies, Ecocriticism, and Animal Studies. Our goal will be to consider the role of theory in the study of literature and culture, as well as its application within everyday life. Through class presentations, written assignments, and tests, students will be asked to place theory into conversation with their own critical voice in order to develop and conceive of innovative ideas regarding the value and practice of intellectual discourse in the academy and beyond.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Survey a variety of theoretical schools in order to critically engage with schools of thought that have influenced literary studies.
- Comprehend and teach materials on the course list to one another through class presentations and discussion.
- Write critical arguments about literary theory and criticism through essay assignments.
- Discover and practice new methods of critical analysis through a final research essay that places knowledge from the class into discussion with the practice of literary criticism.

### **Required Texts Available on OWL and ONLINE**

\*There is currently no anthology that covers all of the works we will be reading. Therefore, readings will be provided to students via the course's OWL website under "Resources."

### **Classroom Etiquette**

- Students must bring a PAPER copy of the assigned readings for that week and have them out and on the table in order to make marginal notes and highlight key passages pointed out by the class presenter and the instructor.
- Students must turn off their cell phones and keep them stored in their bags during the entire class.
- The internet on student laptops must be turned off so that both you and the professor can focus on the conversation at hand.
- Students are expected to read weekly assigned works in advance of class and be prepared to discuss their contents in detail.

- Students are responsible for their own attendance and are expected to make their own arrangements with colleagues if they miss class for medical or emergency reasons. Absenteeism is strongly discouraged and detrimental to student progress in the course.
- Critical engagement can sometimes mean disagreements. Students are asked to approach disagreements critically and resolve them in class via lively and respectful debate.

## Assignments

Class Presentation (10-15 minutes max.)	10%
Theory Response Essay (4 pages, MLA format)	15%
Term Test (10-short answer questions, 1-3 sentences)	15%
Research Essay (8 pages, MLA format)	20%
Final Exam (30-short answer questions, 1-3 sentences)	35%

### A Note on Due Dates:

Meeting assignment deadlines is a part of what you are assessed on when submitting an essay or attending a test. If you have sincere medical concerns (physical, mental, emotional) or a disability (physical or learning), or a personal emergency (family death, personal crisis) that hinders your ability to meet deadlines, it is your responsibility to make arrangement in advance with Academic Counselling for Accommodation in the course. Beyond such situations, the instructor will not accept late assignments. Late assignments without academic accommodation will receive a failing grade of 0%.

### A Note on Submissions:

All writing assignments must be uploaded to the course's OWL website on the assigned due date. For the Theory Response paper, it must be uploaded prior to the class for which it is due. For the final research paper it must be submitted NO LATER than 11:55pm on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Assignments will be checked against TURNITIN.com for potential plagiarism. Paper submissions will not be accepted. All assignments must conform to MLA formatting requirements which can be found here:

<http://huronuc.libguides.com/c.php?g=455405&p=3111731>

## Assignment Details

### Class Presentation (10-15 minutes max.) 10%

Students will sign up for a presentation date. You will be given a MAXIMUM of 15 minutes to make the presentation on the assigned date. Your presentation must last 10 minutes and be organized to teach the class how to approach the article assigned. The presentation must: **1.** identity the author's thesis statement; **2.** describe in the student's own words the evidence that the author uses to make that argument; **3.** propose the ways in which the article's theory can be applied to the study of literature; and **4.** lead the subsequent classroom discussion on the article with the support of the instructor. Reference to possible examples are encouraged but your focus must be based on a close reading of the article chosen.

### Theory Response Essay (4 pages, MLA format) 15%

Students must sign up to write a theory essay during the term based on one of the assigned articles. Students must write on separate works and the article is due BEFORE the start of the class in which the article will be discussed. The theory selection must be a different work from the one chosen for your class presentation. The essay must be based upon an argumentative thesis that responds to what you identify as the article's thesis and it must consider the question of how theory and criticism enriches the study of literary and cultural texts. The

essay must include a close reading of at least one passage from the article. Essay must conform to MLA formatting.

**Term Test (15-short answer questions, 1-3 sentences) 15%**

On Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, students will be given a 90-minute class period to answer 15 questions with concise responses of 1-3 sentences in length. Responses should demonstrate the student's knowledge of the material studied up to that date in class. While students should explain ideas in their own words, demonstrating the mastery of critical terminology discussed in class will enrich your responses.

**Research Essay (8 pages, MLA format) 20%**

Students are asked to write an essay arguing for how literary theory enriches their understanding of literature. Students are asked to choose two articles on the course list not already discussed in either their Presentation or their Response Essay. The essay must be based on an original argumentative thesis and incorporate close readings of the essays chosen. This is a research project so your essay must include an additional 3 peer-reviewed sources (ex. journal article, chapter from monograph or essay collection). Essays must conform to MLA style guidelines. Students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to consult with the instructor during office hours on the final essay at least 2 weeks in advance of the due date.

**Final Exam (30-short answer questions, 1-3 sentences) 35%**

Students will be given 3 hours to answer 30 questions with short responses of 1-3 sentences. The responses should demonstrate the student's knowledge of the material student over the entire period of the course. While students should explain ideas in their own words, demonstrating the mastery of critical terminology discussed in class will enrich your responses.

### Class Schedule

Tu Jan 9	Introduction to Theory
Th Jan 11	W.K Wimsatt & Monroe C. Beardsley "The Intentional Fallacy"
Tu Jan 16	Ferdinand de Saussure from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i> J. L. Austin Lectures I and II from <i>How to Do Things with Words</i>
Th Jan 18	M. M. Bakhtin "Heteroglossia in the Novel"
Tu Jan 23	Sigmund Freud from <i>The Ego and the Id</i> Jacques Lacan "The Mirror Stage as Formation of the I Function as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience"
Th Jan 25	Karl Marx from <i>The German Ideology</i>
Tu Jan 30	Louis Althusser "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" Walter Benjamin "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
Th Feb 1	Horkheimer and Adorno "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception"
Tu Feb 6	<b>TERM TEST</b> (15 Questions, 90 Minutes)
Th Feb 8	Jacques Derrida "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"

- Tu Feb 13 Roland Barthes “The Death of the Author”  
Michel Foucault “What is an Author?”
- Th Feb 15 Hayden White “The Historical Text as Literary Artifact”
- Tu Feb 20 READING WEEK NO CLASSES
- Th Feb 22 READING WEEK NO CLASSES
- Tu Feb 27 Linda Hutcheon “Theorizing the Postmodern: Towards a Poetics”  
Jean-Francois Lyotard “Answering the Question: What is Postmodernism?”
- Th Mar 1 bell hooks “Postmodern Blackness”
- Tu Mar 6 Virginia Woolf from *A Room of One’s Own*  
Shulamith Firestone “The Ultimate Revolution: Demands and Speculations” from *The Dialectic of Sex*
- Th Mar 8 Audre Lorde “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
- Tu Mar 12 Judith Butler “Critically Queer”  
Michel Foucault from *The History of Sexuality*
- Th Mar 15 José Esteban Muñoz “Introduction” and “Queerness as Horizon: Utopian Hermeneutics in the Face of Gay Pragmatism” from *Cruising Utopia*
- Tu Mar 20 Toni Morrison “Playing in the Dark”  
Franz Fanon “The Black Man and Language” from *Black Skin White Masks*
- Th Mar 22 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o “Introduction” and “The Language of African Literature” from *Decolonizing the Mind*
- Tu Mar 27 Edward Said “Pilgrims and Pilgrimages, French and English” from *Orientalism*  
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak “Three Women’s Texts and a Critique of Imperialism”
- Th Mar 29 Joseph Grigley “Editing Bodies” from *Reimagining Textuality*
- Tu Apr 3 N. Katherine Hayles “How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis”  
Jerome McGann “Introduction” and “Why Textual Scholarship Matters”  
from *A New Republic of Letters*
- Th Apr 5 Laurence Buell “Toxic Discourse” and “Ecocriticism: Some Emerging Trends”
- Tu Apr 10 Lori Gruen “Attending to Nature: Empathetic Engagement with the More than Human World”  
**FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

## FINAL EXAM TBA

### STUDENT PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS

\*One of your due dates (Presentation OR Paper) must be due before the end of February and the other due date must be on or after March 1<sup>st</sup>. See the class schedule to determine the actual due date for the Theory response.

\*Any changes in your selection **MUST** be approved *in advance* of the due date by the instructor after an in-person discussion between the student(s) involved and in consultation with existing schedule. Choose carefully with due dates in your other classes and outside commitments in mind to avoid problems that may arise. Students who fail to show up for their presentation, or are unable to present on the day they've agreed to will receive a failing grade unless an academic accommodation is provided.

DATE	AUTHOR	Presentation Selection	Theory Response Selection
Tu Jan 16	Saussure		
Tu Jan 16	Austin		
Th Jan 18	Bakhtin		
Tu Jan 23	Freud		
Tu Jan 23	Lacan		
Th Jan 25	Marx		
Tu Jan 30	Althusser		
Tu Jan 30	Benjamin		
Th Feb 1	Horkheimer & Adorno		
Th Feb 8	Derrida		
Tu Feb 13	Barthes		
Tu Feb 13	Foucault		
Th Feb 15	White		
Tu Feb 27	Hutcheon		
Tu Feb 27	Lyotard		

Th Mar 1	hooks		
Tu Mar 6	Woolf		
Tu Mar 6	Firestone		
Th Mar 8	Lorde		
Tu Mar 12	Butler		
Tu Mar 12	Foucault		
Th Mar 15	Muñoz		
Tu Mar 20	Morrison		
Tu Mar 20	Fanon		
Th Mar 22	Thiong'o		
Tu Mar 27	Said		
Tu Mar 27	Spivak		
Th Mar 29	Grigley		
Tu Apr 3	Hayles		
Tu Apr 3	McGann		
Th Apr 5	Buell		



**Appendix to Course Outlines**

**Prerequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Provost and Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

### **Technology**

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

### **Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds**

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

[http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting\\_acc](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc)

#### **(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising**

University Senate policy, which can be found at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf),

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform\\_15JUN.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf).

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

**(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly**

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

**(c) Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

**Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.



### **Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact**

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

**Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Provost and Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Provost and Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Policy on Special Needs**

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

[http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting\\_acc](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc)

**Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Provost and Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty of registration.

**Class Cancellations**

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> (“Class Cancellations”).

**Mental Health @ Western**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Academic Advising**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services ([huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca)). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/Academics/FacultyofArtsandSocialScience>