

Pericles Lewis
January 13, 2003

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

- I. Introductory*
- Jan. M13 What is literature? The quarrel between philosophy and poetry.
Hand-outs: Nietzsche text, excerpts from Wellek and Warren
- W15 Truth and Lies
Required:
Friedrich Nietzsche, hand-out from "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense"

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 Historicity 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.
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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)

<p>Mar. F6 Second paper due: on signs.</p>

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"

Henry Louis Gates, "Writing, 'Race,' and the Difference it Makes" (R 1575-88)

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:

Pierre Bourdieu, "The Market of Symbolic Goods" (R 1231-53)

W23 Applying Theory

Henry James, "Daisy Miller"

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