

Professor Christine E. Iwanicki
ENG 368: Studies in Literary Theory
Spring 2015

Class Time: MWF: 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Classroom: Simpkins 014

Required Text:

Leitch, Vincent et al. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (1st edition). New York: W.W. Norton and Co, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-393-93292-8.

Syllabus

Office: Simpkins Hall 219

Personal Office Phone: 298-3169

Other Telephone Contacts: *ENG DEPT. MAIN PHONES: 298-1103 & 298-2813* (leave a message with one of the secretaries)

E-mail: C-Iwanicki@wiu.edu (**←this is the best way to reach me**)

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1:30-3:30; Wednesdays, 2:50-3:50; Thursdays: 1:30-2:30 and by appt.

U-Tech Support: (If you have trouble accessing your campus e-mail, etc.)

Phone: 309-298-2704. **U-Tech E-mail:** support@wiu.edu. **U-Tech Location:** Stipes Hall 126: M-F, 8:00 a.m.--4:30 p.m.

Overview of Goals: This course is an introduction to major theoretical questions in various critical traditions that have shaped--and continue to influence--the area of literary studies. We will read a variety of key statements in the evolution of literary theory, beginning with ancient sources such as Plato and Aristotle. As the course unfolds, however, we will read additional texts from the 18th through the early 21st centuries, covering an expansive chronology of thought. The reading will be dense and difficult, but students who persevere will gain a richer context for thinking about what it means to be a reader, writer, and interpreter of literature and of various manifestations of "culture." Key questions will include: What does it mean to formulate an interpretation of a text or of a cultural phenomenon? How does the exploration of literary theory lead to a deeper understanding of the intellectual activities we engage in when we "respond" to texts and other cultural phenomena? How does "difference" (in the forms of sexual orientation/gender/racial/economic class/national identity) manifest itself through our habits of interpreting and responding to texts? We will tie our explorations of literary theory to pragmatic issues such as (1) definitions of what it means to

“interpret,” (2) relationships between the elements of “literary structure” and our acts of interpretation, (3) views about the nature of language (especially in light of frameworks offered by Saussure, Bakhtin, and Wittgenstein), (4) understandings of the relationship between ideology and literature, and (5) understandings of various “modes” and “schools” of literary interpretation.

Teaching Method: A combination of lecture and discussion. I expect you to come to class prepared to participate on a regular basis. Please do not let yourself feel intimidated by the abstract nature of the material we will cover in this class. Feel free to raise questions and to

Assignments: 4 papers of about 4-7 pages each.

The Final Class Meeting for ENG 368 will take place during finals week in May. You will not take a formal final “exam” at that time, but we will plan to meet for a final class instead. Paper #4 will also be due during finals week. The full calendar for finals week can be found at:

<http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/exams.php>

Statement about Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and all other forms of cheating are unacceptable. Anyone guilty of either will fail that particular assignment and/or the course itself. All incidents of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to CAGAS (College of Arts and Sciences Grading and Standards) and vigorously prosecuted. Western Illinois University’s complete academic integrity policy can be found at www.wiu.edu/provost.

Special Statement about Plagiarism and Cheating (From WIU’s Code of Student Conduct www.wiu.edu/policies/stucode.php.) Consult this website for the complete code. What follows below is an excerpt from the code:

“Western Illinois University strives to maintain a community which values academic excellence; institutional integrity; and justice, equity, and diversity. Such an environment is essential in fostering the intellectual growth and personal development of all students. Each member of the University community shares responsibility in maintaining conditions which support the University’s purpose. The Code of Student Conduct is designed to provide basic guidelines to advance the University’s mission as a premier educational institution. As citizens of the larger community in which the University is located, students retain the rights and responsibilities common to all citizens; affiliation with the University does not diminish the rights or responsibilities held by a student or any other community member as a citizen of the State, the nation, or the world. Students are subject to the behavioral prescriptions promulgated by each of these entities. Therefore, the University as well as civil authorities have jurisdiction over violations of law that occur on University property. The Code of Student Conduct outlines the standards of behavior expected of every student at Western Illinois University.

The policies and procedures outlined have been designed through a representative process by students, faculty, and administrators to further the institution's educational purposes and to assist students in their pursuit of knowledge and personal development. A student voluntarily joins the Western Illinois University community and thereby assumes the obligation of abiding by the standards prescribed in the Code of Student Conduct. The University, through the office of the Vice President for Student Services, maintains the exclusive authority to impose sanctions for behaviors that violate the Code of Student Conduct.

Disability Support Services: If you require assistance because of a disability, make sure that you contact Disability Support Services (<http://diss.wiu.edu>) 298-2512). Make sure that you provide documentation verifying the disabling condition and complete a request for services form (should you require accommodations specific to your condition). I will do my very best to accommodate you in our class.

Grading Scale for All Assignments, Including the Determination of Your Final Grade.

My grading scale corresponds to WIU university-wide values, which are calibrated as follows:

A: 93-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 82-80
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69
D: 66-63
D-: 62-60
F: 59 and lower

ENG 368 Reading Schedule
(Some assignments and due dates are subject to change.)

All page references are to the 1st edition of
The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism (2001)

Week #1

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Course Introduction

Friday, Jan. 23: Eagleton, pp. 2240-2249 & Christian, pp. 2255-2266

Week #2

Monday, Jan. 26: Plato, pp. 33-85

Wednesday, Jan. 28: above continued

Friday, Jan. 30: above continued

Week #3

Monday, Feb. 2: Aristotle, pp. 86-121

Wednesday, Feb. 4: Aristotle (above continued)

Friday, Feb. 6: Aristotle (above continued)

Week #4

Monday, Feb. 9: begin Nietzsche, pp. 870-895: **Paper #1 due**

Wednesday, Feb. 11: above continued

Friday, Feb. 13: above concluded

Week #5

Monday, Feb. 16: Marx, pp. 759-788

Wednesday, Feb. 18: above continued

Friday, Feb. 20: above continued; Althusser, pp. 1483-1508

Week #6

Monday, Feb. 23: above con't:

Wednesday, Feb. 25: Freud, pp. 913-952

Friday, Feb. 27: above continued & begin Saussure, pp. 956-977

Week #7:

Monday, March 2: Saussure con't, pp. 956-977

Wednesday, March 4: above con't

Friday, March 6: above con't; **Paper #2 due**

Week #8**Monday, March 9:** above con't**Wednesday, March 11:** above con't**Friday, March 13:** No class**Spring Break: Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20****Week #9:****Monday, March 23:** above continued; begin Mikhail Bakhtin, pp. 1186-1220**Wednesday, March 25:** above con't**Friday, March 27:** above con't**Week #10:****Monday, March 30:** Marx, pp. 764-788**Wednesday, April 1:** above continued**Friday, April 3:** above continued**Week #11:****Monday, April 6:** Ludwig Wittgenstein (selected handouts to be distributed)**Wednesday, April 8:** above continued**Friday, April 10:** above continued**Week #12****Monday, April 13:** Levi-Strauss, pp. 1273-1286, Barthes, pp. 1461-1475; & two essays by Susan Sontag **via handout**: (1) "Notes on Camp" and (2) "Against Interpretation": **Paper #3 due****Wednesday, April 15:** above continued**Friday, April 17:** above continued**Week #13****Monday, April 20:** Michel Foucault, pp. 1469-1521**Wednesday, April 22:** above continued**Friday, April 24:** bell hooks, pp. 2478-2484 and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, pp. 2434-2445

Week #14

Monday, April 27: above continued

Wednesday, April 29: above continued

Friday, May 1: above continued

Week #15:

Monday, May 4: Derrida (handout)

Wednesday, May 6: above continued

Friday, May 8: above continued

Our class will meet during Finals Week on Wednesday, May 13 at 10 a.m. for our last class (but you will not take a formal final exam). This time period will be treated as a longer final class to cover any remaining material and issues. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Paper #4 is due at the end of finals week, no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Full instructions regarding the process for submitting this paper will be given to you as we approach the deadline.

**ENG 368: Literary and Rhetorical Theory Reading Schedule
(Some assignments and due dates are subject to change.)**

Week #1

Monday, August 19: Course Introduction

Wednesday, August 21: Leitch, pp. 1-33

Friday, August 23: Eagleton, pp. 2140-2146

Week #2

Monday, August 26: Plato (in Leitch): pp. 45-83

Wednesday, August 28: above continued

Friday, August 30: above continued

Week #3

Monday, Sept. 2: Labor Day -> NO CLASS

Wednesday, Sept. 4: Aristotle (in Leitch): pp. 83-119

Friday, Sept. 6: Aristotle (above continued)

Week #4

Monday, Sept. 9: begin Nietzsche, pp. 759-785

Wednesday, Sept. 11: above continued

Friday, Sept. 13: above concluded

Week #5

Monday, Sept. 16: Saussure, pp. 845-866

Wednesday, Sept. 18: above continued

Friday, Sept. 20: Levi-Strauss, pp. 1273-1286: **Paper #1 due**

Week #6

Monday, Sept. 23: Freud, pp. 807-845

Wednesday, Sept. 25: above continued

Friday, Sept. 27: above continued

Week #7:

Monday, Sept. 30: Adrienne Rich, pp. 1591-1609

Wednesday, Oct. 2: above continued & also Gayle Rubin, pp. 2373-2402

Week #7 continued:

Friday, Oct. 4: Eve Kosofsky Sedwick, pp. 2470-2477

Week #8:**Monday, Oct. 7:** Bonnie Zimmerman, pp. 2328-2350**Wednesday, Oct. 9:** Barbara Smith, pp. 2221-2237**Friday, Oct. 11:** Henry Louis Gates, pp. 2430-2438**Week #9:****Monday, Oct. 14:** above continued**Wednesday, Oct. 16:** Two essays by Susan Sontag via handout:

(1) "Notes on Camp" and (2) "Against Interpretation"

Friday, Oct. 18: No class: Fall Break**Week #10:****Monday, Oct. 21:** Marx, pp. 647-676: **Paper #2 due****Wednesday, Oct. 23:** above continued**Friday, Oct. 25:** above continued**Week #11:****Monday, Oct. 28:** Althusser, pp. 1332-1361**Wednesday, Oct. 30:** above continued**Friday, Nov. 1:** above continued**Week #12****Monday, Nov. 4:** Levi-Strauss, pp. 1273-1286**Wednesday, Nov. 6:** above continued**Friday, Nov. 8:** above continued**Week #13****Monday, Nov. 11:** Michel Foucault, pp. 1469-1521**Wednesday, Nov. 13:** above continued**Friday, Nov. 15:** above continued**Week #14****Monday, Nov. 18:** Mikhail M. Bakhtin, pp. 1076-1106**Wednesday, Nov. 20:** above continued**Friday, Nov. 22:** above continued: **Paper #3 due****Thanksgiving Vacation: Week of Monday, Nov. 25 to Sunday, Dec. 1**

Week #15:

Monday, Dec. 2: Derrida, 1697-1734

Wednesday, Dec. 4: above continued

Friday, Dec. 6: handout: Selections from Wittgenstein

This class will meet during Finals Week on Monday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. for a final class. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Paper #4 will be due at the end of finals week, no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13. Full instructions regarding the process for submitting this paper will be given to you as we approach the deadline.

Week #13

Monday, Nov. 11:
Wednesday, Nov. 13:
Friday, Nov. 15

Week #14:

Monday, Nov. 18
Wednesday, Nov. 20
Friday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Break: Week of Monday, Nov. 25 to Friday, Nov. 29

Week #15:

Monday, Dec. 2:
Wednesday, Dec. 4
Friday, Dec. 6

Finals Week: Monday, Dec. 9 through Friday, Dec. 13

Although you will not take a formal final exam in ENG 368, please plan to be present for a final class during finals week according to the university schedule. We will meet on **Monday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.** for this purpose. Additional information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Week #6**Monday: Sept. 23: Ohmann, pp. 1763-78****Wednesday: Sept. 25:**

“Introduction to Theory and Criticism,” 1-28 Eagleton, 2243-2249 and Plato 33-85 M: Feb. 1: Plato, 33-85 M: Feb. 8: Aristotle, 86-121; Paper 1 due M: Feb. 15: above con’t; M: Feb. 22: Schleiermacher, 610-625; Nietzsche, 870-894 M: March 1: above con’t and Sontag (handout) M: March 8: Knapp and Michaels, 2460-2475; Smith, 1913-1932; Paper 2 due M: March 15: Spring Break M: March 22: Nietzsche, 870-894 M: March 29: above con’t and Freud, 913-928 M: April 5: Marx, 767-769 and 773-775; Althusser, 1483-1508 M, April 12: Saussure, 956-976; Paper 3 due M, April 19: Bakhtin, 1190-1220 M: April 26: Derrida, 1830-1876; Guidelines for the final paper assignment to be distributed at this class. M: May 3: Foucault: 1622-1669 M: May 10: Wittgenstein (handout)— This is our final class, but no final exam will be administered. Please be present for this class! Paper 4 due at the end of Final Exam Week: Friday, May 14 Final Exam Week: May 10-May 14. There is no final exam in this course. Paper #4 due in my mailbox, Simpkins 122 by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 14. No final papers to be faxed or e-mailed. Hard copies only. Make a back-up copy for your own protection. PAGE PAGE 7