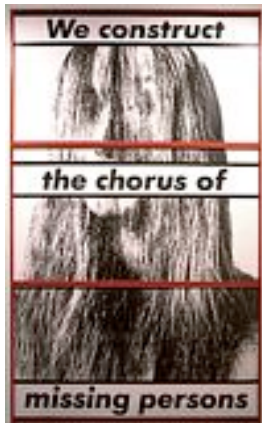


An Introduction to Literary Theory



T / Th, 2:00-3:15 / Psych 304

Professor Eric Hayot

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Office hours: T/Th 9:30-11 and by appointment

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~ehayot>

teaching associate: Jack Skeffington (jskeffin21@hotmail.com)

Texts:

Your books are not available at the UofA bookstore. You may buy them at Antigone Books, 411 North 4th Avenue (792-3715).

Literary Theory: An Introduction, Terry Eagleton

Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction, Jonathan Culler

Literary Theory: An Anthology, eds. Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan

The Pleasure of the Text, Roland Barthes

In addition to these books, there are three essays on e-reserve that you must read.

Course description:

The first few weeks of the course hinge on the difference between “theory” and “theories” of literature; while on one hand we will be discussing the history of a variety of competing theories of literature or literaryness (and to understand why and when they appeared), on the other we will attempt a broader consideration of “theory” as a whole, as a genre or mode of thought that unites competing ideas (ideas as different as, say, Marxism and psychoanalysis) within a larger framework.

It is that framework that people refer to when they say things like, “I hate theory,” or “I do theory,” and so the question of what it would mean to hate theory, or do it, will reverse, as it were, the opening conundrum of the course. That is, if we have enough sense of how to hate it (and what there is hateful about it), or how to do it (and what gets “done” in that doing), we may well find that we then have the wherewithal to describe what it is exactly that we’re hating or doing (or, as Roland Barthes would tell us, *loving*).

All this may sound quite mysterious, which is ok. Though much of the course is designed to demystify the things that seem difficult or incomprehensible about (doing) theory, we will remain attentive to its mysteries as well; not understanding something will usually be as useful as seeing it with an epiphanic clarity.

Because of the difficulty of the texts we will be reading and the kinds of analysis we will perform, I strongly recommend that you take English 380 (Literary Analysis) before taking this class.

Grading:

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Two short papers (5 pages):	15 percent each
Three reader's reports:	7.67 percent each
Late-term exam:	25 percent
Final paper (10-15 pages):	25 percent

Failure to complete any of these assignments will prevent you from passing the course. On top of this will be your class participation grade, which can either hurt you or help you (up to 1/3 a grade either way). It will be determined by the degree to which you help the class learn, or keep it from learning. I do not penalize students who do not talk in class.

In exceptional circumstances I will consider the granting of a grade of incomplete, but only when all but a minor portion of the course work has been successfully completed.

Lateness and absences:

You get two classes off free. Every absence beginning with your third absence will seriously hurt your final grade. There are no excused absences unless you need to represent the university in some official way (as an athlete, for instance) or it is a religious holiday for you. Don't be late to class.

I don't accept late work unless you talk about it with me in advance. Unexcused late work will receive a grade of 0. If you are not in class when something is due (or when we take an exam), you will receive a grade of 0.

Plagiarism and academic honesty:

If you use someone else's ideas, whether through direct quotation or paraphrase, you need to say so. Use parenthetical references and a works cited list (as explained in the *MLA Style Guide*, available in the library or at the bookstore) to credit your sources. I expect you to abide by the university's code of academic integrity.

Daily syllabus. Have everything read before coming to class.

Week 1:	Aug 27, 29 T: what is literature? Th: Eagleton, introduction and ch. 1
Week 2:	Sep 3, 5 T: Culler, chs. 1-4 Th: Culler, chs. 5-8
Week 3:	Sep 10, 12 T: Eagleton, ch. 2 Th: Eagleton, chs. 3-4 Report 1 due (on <i>The Pleasure of the Text</i>)
Week 4:	Sep 17, 19 T: Eagleton, ch. 5 Th: Eagleton, conclusion and afterword <i>Last day to withdraw without a W: Sept. 20.</i>
Week 5:	Sep 24, 26 T: Formalisms, 1, 3, 5, 6-9. Th: Structuralism/Linguistics, 1-5.
Week 6:	Oct 1, 3 T: Psychoanalysis, 1-6. Th: Psychoanalysis, 7-10. Paper 1 due.
Week 7:	Oct 8, 10 T: Marxism, 1-4, 6-8 Th: Marxism, 10-14
Week 8:	Oct 15, 17 T: Post-structuralism, 1, 4-5 Th: Post-structuralism, 8, 11 <i>Last day to withdraw with a grade of W: Oct. 18.</i>

- Week 9: Oct 22, 24
 T: Post-structuralism, 7, 10, 13
 Th: Post-structuralism, 9, 12, 15.
Report 2 due.
- Week 10: Oct 29, 31
 T: Feminism, 1, 4-6
 Th: Feminism, 7-8, 10, 13
- Week 11: Nov 5, 7
Late-term exam. Jameson from e-reserve for Nov. 7.
 November 7: Katherine Hayles lecture, 3:30 pm
- Week 12: Nov 12, 14
 T: Gender, 1, 3, 5-7
 Th: Gender, 8-11
- Week 13: Nov 19, 21
 T: Historicisms, 1-4
 Th: Ethnic Studies, 1, 5, 6, 7, 11
Paper 2 due.
- Week 14: Nov 26
 T: Ethnic Studies, 4, 8, 10, Spivak from e-reserve
- Week 15: Dec 3, 5
 T: Cultural Studies, 1-3, 5
 Th: Cultural Studies, 4, 6, 9-10, Hayles from e-reserve
- Week 16: Dec 10
 Debriefing. Please review Eagleton.
Report 3 due.

Final paper is due Tuesday, December 17, in my office by 5 pm.

E-reserve:

Hayles, N. Katherine. "Contesting for the Body of Information." From *How We Became Posthuman*.

Jameson, Fredric. "Postmodernism; or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism."

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

For the people below you will need to know:

Name / nationality / dates / school or category / major works and concepts, brief description

E.g.: Althusser, Louis. French, 1918-1990. Theorist of Marxism. / *For Marx* (1965), *Reading Capital* (1967), "ideological state apparatus." Althusser's theory of ISA allows for a more "cultural" Marxism by rejecting the base/superstructure model that had subordinated culture to the economy.

For the rest of these I highly recommend using either the [Encyclopedia Britannica](#) online (you must access this through SABIO) or, the [Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism](#).

Althusser, Louis
 Anzaldúa, Gloria
 Austin, J. L.
 Bakhtin, Mikhail
 Barthes, Roland
 Baudrillard, Jean
 Benjamin, Walter

Bhabha, Homi
Bourdieu, Pierre
Brooks, Cleanth
Butler, Judith
Chow, Rey
Cixous, Hélène
de Lauretis, Teresa
de Saussure, Ferdinand
Deleuze, Gilles and Félix Guattari
Derrida, Jacques
Edelman, Lee
Foucault, Michel
Freud, Sigmund
Gates, Henry Louis
Gilbert, Sandra and Susan Gubar
Gilroy, Paul
Gramsci, Antonio
Greenblatt, Stephen
Hall, Stuart
Heidegger, Martin
Horkheimer, Max and Theodor Adorno
Irigaray, Luce
Jakobson, Roman
Jameson, Fredric
Kristeva, Julia
Lacan, Jacques
Lévi-Strauss, Claude
Lorde, Audre
Lukács, Georg
Lyotard, Jean-François
Marx, Karl
Mulvey, Laura
Propp, V.
Said, Edward
Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky
Spillers, Hortense
Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty
Zizek, Slavoj