Theories for Reading

Instructor: Dr. Shaobo Xie
Class time: MW 2:00 - 3:15 pm
Location: TRA 102
Office: SS 1012
Office hours: Tue. 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Telephone: 403-220-5478
Email: sxie@ucalgary.ca

Course Objectives:

This course is an introduction to contemporary theoretical practices. Students will learn models of critical reading and gain experience applying them to a variety of literary and cultural texts. We will begin with questions such as “What is theory?” “Why should we study theory?” and “How to apply theory to texts?”. Through reading the same literary text from different theoretical perspectives, students will come to a better understanding of the difference theory makes and learn how to use theory effectively to frame their discussion of literature and culture.

The course format will be a mixture of lectures, class conversations, and group discussions and presentations. Each group will present a critical reading of one of the theories included in the course syllabus. You will write a research paper of 2500 words. You will need to do library and/or online research before you start writing the paper. Your essay must have a clear, arguable thesis, and should be coherently structured and rigorously argued. To ensure that you will be on the right track, you should submit an essay proposal two weeks prior to the due date.

Texts:
Philip Rice & Patricia Waugh, eds., Modern Literary Theory, Arnold, 2001

Assignments:

- Review essay (750 words) 15%
- Critical essay (2500 words) 35%
- Group presentation 15%
- Class participation 10%
- Examination 25%

(Scheduled by the Registrar’s office in the examination period)

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and group activities,
interaction with classmates, and contribution to advancing debate in the classroom.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) per day. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

The group presentation grade is designed to encourage students to take group work seriously. All members of a group will receive the same grade, except for those absent when the group work assignment is prepared or presented, who will receive an F. Each group will be required to submit a written version of the presentation.

Students are required to submit written assignments electronically. There are D2L dropbox folders for various assignments.

All take-home written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12 point type-size and a readable font. Take-home essays must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8th Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won’t be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material, essay assignments, or group projects, you need to make an appointment to see me during my office hour.

All cell phones must be turned off during classes. Students are permitted to use laptop computers only to take notes or for class presentations.

**Grading System:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96% or above</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-74%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Plagiarism:
Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.
http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:
The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:
For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:
The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

Library and Research Support:
Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@ucalgary.ca.
Find The English Pages research guide here: https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:

Academic regulations and schedules:
Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm

Grade appeals:
Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not
sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision."
http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**
Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the
deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work
form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final
examinations. See Calendar:
http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html
http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html

**Student Accommodations:**
**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**
The student accommodation policy can be found
at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.
Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should
communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure
for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.
Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability,
should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.
The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**
http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**
http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip

**“Safewalk” Program:**
Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any
campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**
Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your
information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or
email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at
http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common
academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the
Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the
3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office: https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/role

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):
"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference – please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:
1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student’s own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
   a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one’s own in an examination or test),
   b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
   c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
   d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged.
Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following websites:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar; https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html
“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.