

Literature 100: Literary Theory Since Plato
Spring 2014
MW 1:15, Kravis 166

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Office Hours:
W 4:00-6:00 & by appt

Rationale: This course aims to explore the classic statements about the nature and value of literature, literary language, and rhetoric, and to take up fundamental issues of theory in a contemporary context. Class discussion will focus on the readings for the day and students will be expected to have made their own attempts to understand them before class begins. *Not all of the assigned texts will be discussed in class.* Some will be left for the students to grapple with on their own.

Texts: Vincent B. Leitch, The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism (Norton, second edition, 2010). Page numbers refer to this book unless otherwise specified.
King Lear (any reputable edition)

On Sakai:

Barthes, Roland, from Mythologies
Borges, Jorge Luis, "The Library of Babel" and "Borges and I"
Brooks, "Keats's Sylvan Historian"
Carroll, Lewis, from Through the Looking Glass
Coleridge, S. T., chapter 17 of Biographia Literaria
Dante, Inferno, canto one in Longfellow translation
Donne, John, Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, no. 19
Dutton, Dennis, from The Art Instinct
Farrell, Outline of Frye's Theory of Modes
Farrell, The Textual Fallacy
Freud, "Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning," "Creative Writers and Daydreaming" (S)
Frost, Robert, "The Education by Poetry"
Frye, Northrop, "The Theory of Modes"
Geertz, Clifford, "Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight"
Greenblatt, Steven, "Shakespeare and the Exorcists"
Hume, Treatise of Human Nature, Bk 1, section 7
Janko, Richard, ed., from Aristotle's Poetics
Keats, John to Benjamin Bailey and "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
Lamarque, Peter, "Value"
Mahler, Jonathan, "Patterson, Inc."
Marx and Engels, The Manifesto of the Communist Party (S)
Monty Python, "The Announcement for People Who Like Figures of Speech"
The Onion, "Idiom Shortage Leaves Nation All Sewed Up In Horse Pies"
Peacock, Thomas Love, "The Four Ages of Poetry" (fyi)
Plotinus, "Beauty" and "The Intellectual Beauty"
Posner, Richard, "Against Ethical Criticism"
Pratt, Mary Louise, "Natural Narrative"
Shakespeare, "The Lunatic, the Lover, and the Poet," MND 5, i, 1-21
Stolnitz, Jerome, "The Cognitive Triviality of Art"
Vickers, "Shakespeare's Use of Rhetoric"
Wilde, "The Decay of Lying"
Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey"

Young, Edward, "Conjectures on Original Composition"

Class Meetings:

- Jan 22: Introduction: Basic Concepts of Criticism and Theory; The Critic's Tasks (Elucidation, Explication, Interpretation, Evaluation, Explanation, Justification); The Four Aristotelian Causes of a Literary Work; Abrams' Four Types of Criticism
- Jan 22: What Is a Story?: Pratt (S)
- Jan 27 & 29: King Lear (edition of your choice)
- Feb 3: The Polis and the Poet: Plato, 41-77; *Gorgias of Leontini*, 37-41
- Feb 5: Poetry that Works: Aristotle, 83-115; Janko (S)
- Feb 10: Literature as System: Frye's Theory of Modes (S); Farrell, Outline (S)
- Feb 12: Poetry & Rhetoric: Aristotle, 115-19; Vickers (S); Monty Python, "Announcement" (S); The Sublime: Longinus, 133-54
- Feb 17: Divine Authorship, Typology, & Hermeneutics: Augustine, 154-62; Aquinas, 177-84; Dante, 184-90 and Canto One (S); Donne (S)
- Feb 19: The Defense of Poetry: Beauty: Plotinus (S); Sidney, 251-83; Shakespeare (S); *Horace*, 119-33
- Feb 24: Shakespeare and the Test of Time: Corneille, 283-300; Johnson, 362-86; *Pope*, 346-62
- Feb 26: Originality & Imagination: Young (S); Wordsworth, 556-79; "Tintern Abbey" (S); Coleridge, 668-82; Coleridge (S); Keats, Letter (S)
- Mar 3: Shelley, 591-613; Emerson, 613-635; Baudelaire, 676-90
- Mar 5: "Art for Art's Sake": Arnold: 691-714; Pater, 721-730; Wilde, 785-90 & (S)
- Mar 10: Meaning and Intention: Borges (both) (S); Wimsatt and Beardsley, 1230-46; Carroll (S); Farrell (S)
- Mar 12: Anti-Romanticism: Eliot, 1088-98
- Mar 17 & 19: SPRING BREAK
- Mar 24: New Criticism: Brooks, 1213-30 and (S); Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (S)
- Mar 26: Marx 647-656, 661-62, 675-76, and (with Friedrich Engels) The Manifesto of the Communist Party (S)
- Mar 31: Wollstonecraft, 493-504; Woolf, 892-905; de Beauvoir, 1261-73
- Apr 2: Barthes, 1320-21 and (S)
- Apr 7: Freud, "Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning," "Creative Writers and Daydreaming"
- Apr 9: Freud, Leonardo da Vinci (S)
- Apr 14: Interpreting Culture 1: Geertz (S); New Historicism: Greenblatt (S)
- Apr 16: Interpreting Culture 2: Foucault, 1469-75, 1490-1502
- Apr 21: Metaphor: Nietzsche, 759-64; Frost (S); The Onion (S)
- Apr 23: Authors Dead?: Barthes, 1322-26; Foucault, 1475-90; Dutton (S)
- Apr 28: The Value of Literature: Nussbaum, 2306-28; Posner (S); Nussbaum on Posner (S);
- April 30: The Value of Literary Works: Hume, 388-405 and Treatise (S); Addison, 343-45
- May 5: The Value of Literary Words 2: Lamarque, "Value" (S); Patterson, Inc (S)
- May 7: Conclusion

Essay 1 (20%): Friday, March 7 (2400 words)

Outline and Bibliography for Essay 2: by Friday, April 11 (5%)

Essay 2 (25%): 3600 words (12p), Friday, April 25 at noon

Final Exam (40%): Thursday, May 15 at 2