



**EN 390 *Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (3)*  
Fall 2002**

**Instructor:** Rita Dirks Heath                      **Office:** Room 506  
**Office Hours:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      **Office Phone:** 571-2550, ext. 230  
T/TH, or by appointment                      **Class Location:** Room 2  
**Class Times:** W/F 1:00-2:15 p.m.              **E-Mail Address:** [Rita.Heath@nuc.edu](mailto:Rita.Heath@nuc.edu)

**Required Texts**

David Lodge, ed. *Modern Criticism and Theory*. Second Edition. New York: Pearson Education, 2000.

**Course Description**

This course is designed as an introduction to the modern theories of literary criticism. Included, but not limited to, are the following twentieth-century schools: Formalism, Structuralism, Deconstruction, Feminism, Psychoanalysis, and Reader Response.

**Course Objectives**

1. This course will introduce students to the theoretical arguments which have shaped the interpretation of literature during the last hundred years.
2. This course will give students an understanding of the various theories and help them choose their own methods of analysis.

**Course Schedule**

September	4	Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism
	6	Linguistics, Formalism, and Structuralism
	11	Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics"
	13	Bakhtin, "From the Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse"
	18	Barthes, "death of an Author"
	20	Eco, " <i>Casablanca</i> : Cult Movies and Intertextual Exchange"
	25	Deconstruction

	27	Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of The Human Sciences"
October	2	de Man, "The Resistance to Theory"
	4	Hartman, "The Interpreter's Freud"; Review for Midterm
	9	MIDTERM
	11	How to Write the Theory Essay
	16	Psychoanalysis; LAcan, "The Insistence of the Letter Of the Unconscious"
	18	Cixous, "Sorties"
	23	Mitchell, "Femininity, Narrative and Psychoanalysis"
	25	Irigaray, "The Bodily Encounter with the Mother"
	30	Politics, Ideology; Foucault, "What Is an Author?"
November	1	Jameson, "The Politics of Theory: Ideological Positions in the Postmodernism Debate"
	13	Eagleton, "Capitalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism"
	15	Feminism
	19	Showalter, "Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness"
	22	Sedgwick, "The Beast in the Closet"
	27	Hermeneutics, Reception Theory
	29	Iser, "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach"
December	4	Fish, "Interpreting the <i>Variorum</i> "
	6	Schweickart, "Reading Ourselves: Towards a Feminist Theory of Reading"
	11	Review for Exam; Essay due

### Course Requirements and Grading

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion.
2. Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.
3. Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated. Please read the policy regarding plagiarism in the NUC Handbook.
4. I do not take attendance. However, the student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
5. Grading:

Essay (2500 words)	20%
Presentation	20%
Midterm	20%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%