



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**EN 390 Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (3)  
Fall 2008**

**Instructor:** Dr. Rita Dirks Heath  
**Office Hours:** 13:30-14:30 T/Th,  
or by appointment  
**Class Time:** 13:00-15:45 M

**Office:** Room L2067  
**Office Phone:** 410-2000, ext. 5900  
**Location:** A2133  
**E Address:** rdirksheath@ambrose.edu

**Course Description**

This course introduces the various theories of literary interpretation. Students examine theoretical arguments which have shaped the interpretation of literature over the last hundred years. We will begin the course by studying the history of modern literary theory and criticism. By examining major theoretical movements such as Structuralism, Deconstruction, Reader-Response, and Feminism the course aims to equip students with the tools of critical analysis.

**Required Text**

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

**Recommended Texts**

David Macey. *The Penguin Dictionary of Critical Theory*. London/New York: Penguin, 2000.

Irena R. Makaryk, ed. *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Literary Theory: Approaches, Scholars, Terms*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2000.

**Course Schedule**

September	15	Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism;
	15	Linguistics, Formalism, and Structuralism; Shklovsky, "Art as Technique" and Ejxenbaum, "The Theory of the Formal Method";
	22	Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics" (31-37)
	22	Bakhtin, "From the Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse"
	29	Bakhtin, cont'd
	29	Eco, " <i>Casablanca</i> : Cult Movies and Intertextual Exchange"
October	6	Deconstruction
	6	Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the

		Human Sciences”
	20	MIDTERM
	20	Psychoanalysis
	27	Lacan, “The Insistence of the Letter of the Unconscious”
	27	Lacan, cont’d
November	3	Cixous, “Sorties”
	3	Politics, Ideology, and Cultural History
	10	Jameson: “The politics of Theory: Ideological Positions in the Postmodernism Debate”
	10	Eagleton, “Capitalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism”
	17	Kristeva, “The Ethics of Linguistics”
	17	Feminism
	24	Irigaray, “The Bodily Encounter with the Mother”
	24	Showalter, “Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness”
December	1	Queer Theory
	1	Sedgwick, “The Beast in the Closet”
	8	Reader-Response and Hermeneutics
	8	Iser, “The Reading Process: a Phenomenological Approach”;
		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. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted to the instructor.
4. Students may not submit work done for another class.
5. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
6. Grade distribution and assignments:

Essay 1 (2500 words)	20%
Presentation	20%
Midterm	20%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

### Grading Scale

96-100	A+	
91-95	A	Excellent
86-90	A-	
82-85	B+	
75-81	B	Good
72-74	B-	
68-71	C+	

63-67	C	Satisfactory
60-62	C-	
56-59	D+	
50-55	D	Minimal Pass
0-49	F	Failure

**Important Notes**

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

The last day to enter a course without permission and/or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty is September 19, 2008.

The last day to withdraw from a course voluntarily or to change to audit without academic penalty is November 21, 2008.

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.