

**Seminar in Modern Literary Theory**
**3 credits**
**Prerequisite(s): 6 credits of English**

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Thurs, Sept 7, 2017
Days:		Instructor:	Rita Dirks, BA, MA, PhD	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun. Sept 17, 2017
Time:		Email:	rita.dirks@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	
Room:		Phone:		Last day to withdraw from course:	Mon, Nov 13, 2017
Lab/Tut		Office:		Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	
		Office Hrs:		Last day of classes:	Mon, Dec 11, 2017

**Textbooks:**
**Required Text**

Lodge, David, and Nigel Wood, eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Third Edition. Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd., 2008.

**Recommended Texts**

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

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

**Course Description:**

Please note that this course is a directed study. The seminar introduces and examines the various theories of literary interpretation. We will begin the course by studying the history of modern literary theory and criticism. By examining major theoretical movements such as Deconstruction, Reader-Response, and Feminism the course aims to equip students with the tools of critical analysis.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

---

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

1. Critical Reading
2. Interpretation Skills
3. Critical Writing
4. Grounding in Literary Theory
5. Presentation Skills

### Course Schedule:

September	7	Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism
	12	Linguistics, Formalism, and Structuralism; Shklovsky, "Art as Technique" and Ejxenbaum, "The Theory of the Formal Method"; Presentation Guidelines Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics" (141-147)
	19	Bakhtin, "From the Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse" Bakhtin, cont'd
	26	Eco, " <i>Casablanca</i> : Cult Movies and Intertextual Exchange" Deconstruction
October	3	Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" Psychoanalysis
	10	Lacan, "The Insistence of the Letter of the Unconscious" and/or "The Mirror Stage" Cixous, "Sorties"
	17	How to Write a Theory Paper Politics, Ideology, and Cultural History
	24	Jameson, "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" Feminism
	31	Irigaray, "The Bodily Encounter with the Mother" Queer Theory
November	14	Sedgwick, "The Beast in the Closet" Reader-Response and Hermeneutics
	21	Iser, "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach" Postcolonialism
	28	Said, "Crisis [in orientalism]" Ecocriticism
December	5	Buell, "Place"

### Requirements:

Presentations x 3	20% each
Essay	30%
Participation	10%

### Submission of Assignments:

Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown. Students may not submit work done for another class. Essays are to be submitted via email [rdirks@ambrose.edu](mailto:rdirks@ambrose.edu) and Turnitin. All term papers for this course are subject to an originality analysis. For more information, see <http://turnitin.com> and the paragraph on "Academic Integrity" below. Essays are to be submitted in MLA format.

## Attendance:

Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion. Students are responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class. Although I do not formally take attendance, your absence will affect your participation grade and, possibly, your exam grades because you will be missing information presented in class lectures.

## Grade Summary:

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

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

## Other

### Policies:

#### Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

#### Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or

dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

### **Exam Scheduling**

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### **Electronic Etiquette**

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

### **Academic Policies**

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

### **Extensions**

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the

Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

### **Appeal of Grade**

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

### **Academic Integrity**

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. 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 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 and become part of the student's permanent record.

**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.