Dr. Bethany White

ENG 305A—Literary Criticism and Theory

Spring 2011

Office: HH 310

Office Hours: TR 9:00-12:00

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Course Description:

This is an introductory course on literary theory covering psychoanalytic, Marxist, feminist, New, reader-response, structuralist, deconstructive, new historical, lesbian-gay-queer, African American, and postcolonial theory.

Learning Outcomes:

Goal #1: Students will learn the defining features of the diverse schools of twentieth-century literary theory.

Goal #2: Students in ENG 305 will master a theoretical vocabulary evident in all written work produced over the course of the semester.

Goal #3: Students will show evidence of having mastered several literary theories and an ability to discuss the intersections of these theories in a competent manner.

Goal #4: Students will be expected to use proper MLA documentation in every assignment.

Required Texts:

Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide,

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby

Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye

The Best American Short Stories 2010 ed. Richard Russo
Course Grade:

Quizzes (6): 10 %
Short Response Papers (4): 20%
Major Essay 1: 20%
Major Essay 2: 20%
Midterm 10
Final 20

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Avoid being tardy. College policy allows you to miss 8 classes for a TTH class and 13 for a MWF class. After the 4th and 6th absence respectively, you will be asked to sign an academic warning form which will be put on file. After the allotted number of absences you will automatically receive a grade of —F— for the course.

This policy is based on the following Humanities Division Absence Policy: —Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. When students miss class, they are obligated to account for their absences to their instructors and arrange to obtain assignments for work missed. Students will be allowed to make up class work missed if the absence was caused by a documented illness, death in the immediate family, or participation in college sponsored activities. If a student misses a class the number of times the class meets in two weeks during a semester, the student and the advisor will receive notice. When a student misses a class more than the number of times the class meets in four weeks during a regular semester, he or she will be dropped with a grade of —F— after the Final day to drop a course with W as published in the Semester Calendar.
Elaboration on Class Attendance/absences Policy

Attendance at all class meetings is required and a student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written assignments of all class meetings. Each individual faculty member will establish the consequences for absence and publish this in the course syllabus. If students must miss class for any reason, they are obligated to account for their absences to their instructors and arrange to obtain assignments for work missed. Students will be allowed to make up class work missed with no penalty if the absence was caused by documented illness, death of immediate family member, or participation in College sponsored activities. Otherwise, the instructor has no obligation to allow students to make up work.

Attendance will be taken for all students. Any student who does not attend class during the first two weeks of the semester will be administratively dropped from the class for non-
attendance. Enrollment status (full-time/part time, etc.) may be affected by this withdrawal which may impact billing and financial aid eligibility. Refer to the Refund Section of the catalog for more detailed information.

If a student fails to attend class for three (3) consecutive weeks, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course. A recalculation of earned financial aid will be processed for students who are administratively withdrawn from all courses before the end of the term due to lack of class attendance; these students may render themselves ineligible to receive financial assistance.

If the FINAL absence occurs ON OR BEFORE the last day to drop the course with a W, the student will be assigned a grade of VW. If the FINAL absence occurs after the last day to drop the course with a W, the student will be assigned a grade of VF. A grade of VF will be computed as a grade of F which carries hours attempted and 0 quality points. A grade of VW is not computed into the student’s grade point average. Hours attempted for grades of VW and VF will be computed into the student’s satisfactory academic progress for financial aid purposes.

Class attendance is limited to the instructor(s) of the course, registered students, and official guests of the College.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: 2009-2010 CN Catalog**

Academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to the following: giving or receiving aid on tests; plagiarizing papers, assignments, book reviews; removing and/or copying test questions from office files. Incidents of suspected dishonesty will be addressed by the course instructor/professor with the department chair and/or the school dean. After hearing the student and considering all the evidence sanctions will be assessed if guilt is determined. Academic
dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to, an immediate F and loss of credit for the course and, upon a recurrence or gross dishonesty, expulsion from the College. Any student who receives an F in a course due to academic dishonesty will not be allowed to drop the course even if the F is assigned prior to the last date to drop a course with a W. Any finding of academic dishonesty, and the sanction applied or recommended, shall be reported to the Provost who shall assess any sanction more severe than the loss of credit for the course. A student may appeal a finding and/or a sanction assessed to the Provost. Otherwise, no appeal shall be allowed. For updates and questions related to this area, please contact the Provost Office.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the use of another person’s writing without properly documenting the source. I expect your work to be original. I have caught students who have downloaded essays from the internet and I warn you not to try it! **The English Department policy is that all cases of plagiarism result in instant failure of the course. This means that you would have to retake the course during a subsequent semester. Additionally, failure could lower your overall GPA and result in the loss of HOPE and Carson-Newman scholarship funds.**

**Conduct:** Once you enter the class and the door is closed class has begun. I expect all discussion to cease and cell phones to be turned off. If at any time during the class I determine your behavior to be disruptive, I will request that you leave the class. If you refuse to leave I will contact campus security.
Late Work: Late work will not be accepted.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered over the course of the semester to test your understanding of the assigned readings.

Essays:
You will be required to write two formal essays for the course. You will receive an assignment sheet outlining the requirements for the essay. These essays will be constructed outside of class but will be reviewed by your peers in class. The review process will be formal and mandatory. All essays must be submitted on time at the beginning of the class period. I require that your work be submitted according to MLA guidelines. All work used to construct the essay must be submitted along with the essay in a 9x12 manila clasp envelope.

Midterm: The midterm will be an objective exam following our quiz format.

Final: The final examination will consist of an objective portion and an essay.

Portfolio: You are required to turn in a portfolio (large manila envelope) containing all graded essays completed over the course of the semester. You will not be given a final grade without turning in your portfolio.

Grading Scale:

90-100=A
80-89=B
70-79=C
60-69=D
Below 60=F
Special Notes:

#1 I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus and to adjust grading based on these changes.

#2 Any student with a special documented disability (sight, hearing, language, mobility, etc.) which may affect class activities should contact David Humphrey, Kathleen Manley Wellness Center, 865-471-3268 (office) or 865-471-3350 (receptionist) and provide appropriate documentation; office room 15 Chambliss, and provide appropriate documentation.
January 14—Course Introductions

January 19—Chapter 1 to *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*

January 21—*The Great Gatsby* (in its entirety)

January 24—Chapter 2, Psychoanalysis pages 11-33 –Personal responses to the text.

January 26—“The Yellow Wallpaper” on Blackboard, “The Ascent” in Best American Shorts, and Psychoanalysis pages 34-49. Prepare examples for a Lacanian reading of both stories around the Imaginary and Symbolic Order as well as a Freudian reading of *thanatos* (death drive).

January 28—Quiz and Marxist Criticism pages 53-78

January 31—Short Paper: Marxist Reading of “The Cousins”

February 2—Feminist Criticism pages 83-107 and Danielle Evans’s “Someone Ought…” and “The Silence”

February 4—Feminist Criticism 108-130 –Continue discussion using both stories

February 7—Quiz

February 9—New Criticism pages 135-150

February 11—Continue Discussing New Criticism

February 14—Reader-Response Criticism pages 169-190

February 16—Quiz

February 18—Identify short story and theoretical framework to be used for Essay 1

February 21—Thesis Statement and annotated bibliography for Essay 1

February 23—Discussion of short story choices for Essay 1

February 25—Peer Review using rubric

February 28—Peer Review using expanded rubric

March 2—Essay 1 Due
March 4—Structuralism 209-244

March 7—Deconstructive criticism pages 249-267

March 9—Midterm Exam

March 11—Film TBA

March 14—Film TBA

March 16—Film TBA

March 18—Film TBA

Spring Break Thursday March 19-27

March 28—New Historical and Cultural Criticism “Someone Ought to Tell Her…”

March 30—Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism

April 1--Quiz

April 4—Short Paper on queer reading of “All Boy.”

April 6—First half of The Bluest Eye

April 8—Second half of The Bluest Eye

April 11— African-American Criticism

April 13-- Postcolonial Criticism

April 15—Quiz

April 18— Thesis and annotated bibliography for Essay #2 and share in class.

April 20—Essay 2 Peer Review

April 27—Essay 2 Peer Review

April 29—Final of Essay #2 Due

May 2—Final Exam Review

May 4—Portfolios due
Final Exam: Wednesday, May 11 10:30-12:30
March 14—Film TBA