English 420.001: Approaches to Literature
Spring, 2013
Dr. Susan Louise Stewart

Office Hours:
Tues/Thurs: 1:30-4:00, or by appointment; I will generally respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them Monday-Thursday. If I receive your e-mail early enough on Friday, I'll try to respond that day.

Catalog Description
An introduction to various methods of responding to and analyzing literature. These methods will include such traditional approaches as historical, biographical, and psychological, as well as feminist criticism, mythic criticism, and various forms of structuralism. Prerequisite Eng 102.

Course Goals
- Throughout and by the end of the course, I want you to be able to:
- Engage in a variety of ways of knowing/understanding texts (and texts can actually include life—life is a text)
- Be open to different ideas and ways of knowing/understanding texts
- Be an active member in the class who shares ideas and thus contributes to student’s own understanding as well as others in the class.
- Read texts closely, critically, creatively, intellectually, and theoretically

Student Learning Outcomes
- Learners will articulate an understanding of various approaches to literature as discussed in class and in the readings. This outcome will be assessed by one or more of the following: quizzes, exams, in-class writings, discussions, oral presentations, written analyses.
- Learners will demonstrate the ability to apply a theoretical approach to a text. This outcome will be assessed by one or more of the following: quizzes, exams, in-class writings, discussions, oral presentations, written analyses.

Required Texts

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (must be 7th ed)
Author: Gibaldi
ISBN: 9781603290241
Edition: 7TH 09
Publisher: MLA
Theory Toolbox
Author: Nealon
ISBN: 9780742570504
Edition: 2ND 11
Publisher: RLPG
Also available as an electronic text

Feminism: A Very Short Introduction
Author WALTERS
Edition06
ISBN 9780192805102
Also available as an electronic text

Key Terms in Literary Theory
Author KLAGES
Edition2012
ISBN 9780826442673
http://www.amazon.com/Terms-Literary-Theory-Mary-Klages/dp/0826442676/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1357767987&sr=1-1&keywords=klages+key+terms
Also available as an electronic text

Louis Althusser
Author FERRETTER
Edition2006
ISBN 9780415327329
http://www.amazon.com/Louis-Althusser-Routledge-Critical-Thinkers/dp/0415327326/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1357768070&sr=1-1&keywords=Louis+althusser+FERRETTER
Also available as an electronic text

Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction
Author YOUNG
Edition03
ISBN 9780192801821
Assignments and Grading

- Midterm (60 pts.)
- Paper: Theoretical Approach (60 pts)
- Final Exam (100 pts)
- Reading quizzes or in-class writing as needed (0-40 points depending on the nature of the quiz or in-class writing)

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
59% and below = F

Paper: Theoretical Approach: Students will apply one (perhaps two) of the theories we have discussed to a text. 2400+ words. I do want to caution that it’s sometimes very tempting to do a google search for the text you’ll be analyzing and the approach and you’ll be taking. Just don’t. This paper needs to reflect your ideas and it needs to be evident that they are your ideas. You’ll need to use terms we’ve identified in class and discuss texts the way we have discussed them in class.

Midterm: May consist of term identification, textual analysis, short answer or other forms associated with exams.

Final Exam: May consist of term identification, textual analysis, short answer or other forms associated with exams.

Reading quizzes and in-class writings: A grade won’t always be assigned to quizzes and in-class writings; I will decide the day of the class activity how many points will be associated with it.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty Policy: Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), recycling papers written for other classes, cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. See the following helpful resources regarding plagiarism:
Egregious plagiarism such as recycling a paper, turning in a paper that you did not write, or similar actions will result in one or more of the following: a 0 for the assignment, an F for the class, disciplinary action administered by the university.

Late Papers, Attendance, and Incomplete Grades Policies: I seldom accept late papers, and if I do, it is at my discretion. Additionally, expect no better than a C on a paper that is turned in late.

Be here. I do not allow for make-ups on quizzes or exams. There is no extra credit. If you miss 4 classes or more, expect no better than a C. If you miss 6 classes, expect to fail the course.

Only under the most dire of circumstances will I grant an incomplete for the course, and then it depends on the Dean as to whether or not the incomplete will be permitted. You will have to supply documentation in order to obtain an incomplete. That doesn't come from me. It comes from the dean.

Civility and Etiquette: Students are expected to be civil, polite, and accommodating to differences of opinion and will follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See ‘Code of Student Conduct’ from Student Guide Handbook located on page 31 at http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook2009-2010.pdf. University policy provides the means for dismissing students who do not meet these requirements, and I take politeness very seriously.

Technology Requirements:
This course is supported by e-College, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. Various readings and the grade book are available through eCollege. You will also turn in assignments through dropbox function of eCollege.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. You will need access to the following technologies:

1. Internet access/connection – high speed recommended
2. Word Processor: MS Word [doc or docx]. If you do not have MS word, you can save your texts as rtf (rich text format) or txt (plain txt). Be aware that saving documents in rtf or txt will possibly cause problems with formatting, and formatting is important in this class in this class. If saving your document in txt or rtf, contact me, and I will identify a solution.

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you use a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (8.0).
Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

I strongly recommend that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the “myCourses” tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

**What to Do First:**
1. Come to class  
2. Read the syllabus  
3. I will announce and explain assignments in class, but you should browse the course content so that you will know what is coming up

**Communication and Support and Primary Communication Tools**
I rely mainly on office hours, e-mail, and comments on assignments to communicate with students.

While I reply to individual e-mails with non-campus e-mail addresses, if I send out a mass e-mail, it will go to the email address identified in eCollege. Please check your campus e-mail frequently.

**eCollege Student Technical Support:**
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Chat Support:** Click on “Live Support” on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

**Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Help:** Click on the “Help” button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…)

**University Student Technical Support**
The writing center located in the Hall of Languages is a great resource. Be sure to take advantage of their expertise.

**University Procedures/Policies**
**Drop a Course:** Students may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled “Drop a class” from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.
Administrative Withdrawal: I reserve the right to administratively drop students for excessive absences.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
e-mail: StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu  
Website: Student Disability Resources & Services at http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/
# Tentative Schedule

Please note this schedule is subject to revision
I will give students plenty of notice if anything is revised

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Terms from Klages to know</th>
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| 1 1/15-18 | Tuesday: Introductions, Analyzing Texts  
Thursday: Read Writing Handbook; Introduction to Writing Analyses  
15 min. MLA | **Thursday:**  
Theory  
Humanism  
New Criticism  
Formalism  
Structuralism |
| 2 1/22-25 | Tuesday: Print and read “Close Reading” in eCollege doc sharing.  
Thursday: *Theory Toolbox* (TT), Chap. 6 | **Tuesday**  
Reader-response theory |
| 3 1/29-31 | Tuesday: *Louis Althusser* pgs. 1-74  
Thursday: *Louis Althusser* pgs. 75-143 | **Tuesday:**  
Base/Superstructure  
Capitalism  
Alienation  
Grand narrative  
Hegemony  
Ideology  
Interpellation  
ISA  
Marxism |
| 4 2/5-7 | Tuesday: TT, Chap. 1, 2  
Thursday: TT, Chap 8 |  |
| 5 2/12-14 | TBA |  |
| 6 2/19-21 | Tuesday: TT, Chap 3  
Thursday: TT, Chap 4 |  |
<p>| 7 2/26-28 | Tuesday: TT, Chap 5 to pg. 70 |  |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 3/5-8</td>
<td>TT Chap 7</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/10-3/16</td>
<td>Spring Break!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 3/19-21</td>
<td>TT Chap 8</td>
<td>TT Chap 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/26-28</td>
<td>Postcolonialism (all)</td>
<td>Postmodernism (also read “Postmodernism” in eCollege doc sharing.)</td>
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<td>4/2-4</td>
<td>Heart of Darkness (all). Consider why Postcolonialism would be an appropriate approach to HoD</td>
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<td>Tuesday Relations (Saussure)</td>
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<td>Language (Saussure)</td>
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<td>Binary Opposition (Levi-Strauss)</td>
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<td>Center (Derrida)</td>
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<td>Deconstruction (Derrida)</td>
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<td>Différance (Derrida)</td>
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<td>Metaphor/Metonymy (Derrida)</td>
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<td>Formalism</td>
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<td>Parole (Saussure)</td>
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<td>Play</td>
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<td>Semiology (Saussure)</td>
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<td>Sign (Saussure)</td>
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<td>Structuralism</td>
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<td>Value (Saussure)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>HoD</td>
<td>TT Chap 10 to pg. 184</td>
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<td>Finish chapter 10</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>The Yellow Wallpaper” (eCollege doc sharing)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Consider how a feminist would approach “TYW”</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>“Psychoanalysis” (eCollege doc sharing)</td>
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<td>Consider why “The Yellow Wallpaper” is ripe for a psychoanalytical reading.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Tuesday: Playing catch-up!</td>
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**Notes:**
- **Tuesday:**
  - Essentialism
  - Feminist Theory
  - Gender
  - Queer
  - Sexuality
  - Ethnicity
  - Other
  - Race
  - Signifyin’

- **For Tuesday from Klages:**
  - Abjection
  - Anxiety
  - Anxiety of influence
  - Castration
  - Desire
  - Father
  - Fort/Da
  - Hysteria
  - *Jouissance*
  - Lack
  - Desire
  - The gaze
  - Imaginary
  - *Jouissance*
  - Lack
  - Mirror stage or mirror phase
  - *Objet petit a*
  - Real
  - Symbolic
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/30; 5/2</td>
<td>Thursday: Exam over “I Caught Him” (eCollege doc sharing) due prior to class. You’ll be identifying the various approaches Teahan uses in her analysis.</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
<td>Monday, final analysis due</td>
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<td>4/13-15</td>
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