

AA Pedagogical Note: Students are put on notice from Students are put on notice from Students are put on notice from likelike most other final year courses, willlike most other final year courses, will largely take the seminar. to which seminars are productive is a function of the effort which studentsto which seminars are producti i)i) their preparation of assigned materials andi) their preparation of assigned materials and ii)i) their prepara andand reports made to their colleagues. Students must beand reports made to their colleagues. Students m *re-rereadre-reread the assignedthe assigned readings* (I(I have always found the best way to come to grip with difficult readings is to make detailed notes forwith difficult readings is to make detailed notes for n in *a vigorous exchange of ideas* with their colleaguewith their colleagues. with their colleagues. It combinationcombination of careful preparation and dialogue that scombination of careful preparation and forfor themselves the important inforfor themselves the important information for themselves the impor InIn In this regard, students are also reminded that where the **primary readinprimary readings** are *absolutelyabsolutely essential, should be read in the suggested order, and must be prepared aheadahead oahead of class, the secondary and further readings are *suggested* readings onreadings o designeddesigned to provide necessary background and clarification.designed to provide necessary backg whetherwhether you choose to read them or nwhether you choose to read them or not. You maywh especiallyespecially when it comes to preparing oral presentations, wriespecially when it comes to prep revising for the final exam.*

W E E K O N E: Pre-modernity, Modernity, Postmodernity and Post-coloniality

Topics:

1. Rationalism, Empiricism and Skepticism
2. The Essential or Cartesian Self
3. The possibility of absolute knowledge
4. The possibiity of an absolute Morality
5. Contesting the *grand legitimating master narratives* of Modernity and Imperialism.
6. The6. The *decenterdecentering* of of of the of the of the Car of the Cartesian/imperialist subject: the material determ race; the unconscious.
7. The7. The *social construction of knowledge*: Truth: Truth : Truth : Truth ver: Truth versus interpretation ; th of class, gender and race in the making of all truth-claims.
8. The8. The indispensability of language to8. The indispensability of language to the con8. The indispensability *signification*
9. The9. The challenge9. The challenge to9. The challenge to orthodoxies: *de-naturalising* those things we unthinking and showing them to be *human/social constructions*
10. God is Dead and the end of morality
11. The challenge to *mimetic* and *expressive* models of art

Recommended Readings:

- A. 1) Plato Selected Readings from The Republic
- 2) John Locke Selected Readings from An Essay Concerning Human Understanding

- B.** 1) Gareth Griffiths The Post-colonial Project: Critical Approaches and Problems
2) Stephen Slemon Post-colonial Critical Theories

Secondary Readings: 1) Christopher Janaway Ancient Greek Philosophy I: the Pre-Socratics and Plato (in A. C. Grayling, ed. [Philosophy](#))
2) Roger Scruton Modern Philosophy I: the Rationalists and Kant (in A. C. Grayling, ed. [Philosophy](#))
3) A.C. Grayling Modern Philosophy II: the Empiricists (in A. C. Grayling, ed. [Philosophy](#))
4) Anthony Harrison-Barbet Knowledge (in his [Mastering Philosophy](#))
5) ---. Ethics (in his [Mastering Philosophy](#))
6) ---. Metaphysics (in his [Mastering Philosophy](#))

Further Reading: 1) Plato [The Republic](#)
2) René Descartes [Discourse on Method](#)
3) ---. [Meditations on the First Philosophy](#)
4) John Locke [Essay Concerning Understanding](#)

W E E K T W O: Saussurean Linguistics

Topics:

1. Mimesis and Expression.
2. Saussure's critique of theories of linguistic *referentiality* and *expressivism*.
- 3.. *Sign, referent, signifier, signified,, signification, system or structure, différence* (pure distinction), *binarybinary oppositions, diachronbinary oppositions, diachrony, synchrony,, parole,, langue, the paradigm axes.*
- 4.4. The importance of binary oppositions to all meaning and the degree to which4. The importance of binary oppositions exteriority is necessarily shaped thereby..
5. Decentering the Cartesian subject: consciousness does not pre-exist language.
- 6.6. If a) language neither expresses pre6. If a) language neither expresses pre- meaning meaning is determined systemically, then subjects do not use or speak a meaning is determined systemically language uses or speaks the subject.
7. Some implications of Saussure for literary criticism: Semiotics and Structuralism.

Required Readings:

- A.** 1) Ferdinand de Saussure: From [Course in General Linguistics](#)
- B.** 1) Roman Jakobson and Morris Halle Structure of Distinctive Features (4, 47-9)
2) Roman Jakobson The Metaphoric and the Metonymic Poles
3) Emile Benveniste Subjectivity in Language

Secondary Readings: 1) David Robey Modern Linguistics and the Language of Literature (in Jefferson and Robey, eds. [Modern Literary Theory](#))
2) Jonathan Culler The Linguistic Basis of Structuralism (in David Robey, ed. [Structuralism: an Introduction](#))
3) ---. [Structuralist Poetics passim](#)
4) Terry Eagleton Structuralism and Semiotics (in his [Literary Theory: an Introduction](#))
5) Terrence Hawkes [Structuralism and Semiotics passim](#)
6) Frederic Jameson [The Prison-house of Language](#)
7) Kaja Silverman From Sign to Subject: a Short History (in her [The Subject of Semiotics](#))
8) ---. Similarity and Contiguity (in her [The Subject of Semiotics](#))

Further Reading: 1) Ferdinand de Saussure [Course in General Linguistics passim](#)
2) Emile Benveniste [Problems in General Linguistics passim](#)
3) ---. The Nature of the Linguistic Sign (in Adams and Searle, eds. [Critical Theory Since 1965](#))
4) Roman Jakobson and Morris Halle [Fundamentals of Language passim](#)

- 5) Jonathan Culler Semiotics as a Theory of Reading (in Newton, ed. Twentieth Century Literary Theory: a Reader)
 6) Yuri Lotman The Content and Structure of the Concept of Literature (in Newton, ed. Twentieth Century Literary Theory: a Reader)

WEEK THREE: Structuralism I--Narratology

Topics:

1. Aristotle: the founder of narratology or the study of narrative structure
2. R.S. Crane and the Chicago school: the Neo-Aristotelians
3. The rethinking of traditional narratology in the wake of Saussure
4. Todorov's *Grammar of Narrative*: all the syntactical rules of sentence structure of a narrative: agent, predicate (adjectival [descriptive] and verbal [dynamic] functions)
5. *Proposition*: minimal unit of narrative (it may be either an agent or an action)
6. A group of propositions form a sequence: the basic sequence is made following order: equilibrium --> force --> disequilibrium --> force --> equilibrium
7. A succession of sequences form a text: these sequences may be strung together in a variety of ways: *embedding* (story within a story) +/- *linking* (one after the other) (one after the other) (interlacing)
8. Todorov on The Decameron
9. Is narratology too ahistorical a critical approach for it to be of much use to the Post-colonial or Feminist projects?

Required Readings:

- A. 1) Tzvetan Todorov Structural Analysis of Narrative
- B. 1) ---. The Grammar of Narrative

- Secondary Readings:**
- 1) Ann Jefferson Structuralism and Post-Structuralism (in Jefferson and Robey, eds. Modern Literary Theory)
 - 2) Terry Eagleton Structuralism and Semiotics (in his Literary Theory: an Introduction)
 - 3) Raman Selden Structuralist Theories in his A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory
 - 4) Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan Narrative Fiction: Contemporary Poetics
 - 5) Robert Scholes Structuralism in Literature
 - 6) ---. Semiotics and Interpretation

- Further Reading:**
- 1) Vladimir Propp Morphology of the Folktale (see also excerpt in Selden, ed. The Theory of Criticism)
 - 2) A.-J. Greimas On Meaning
 - 3) Roland Barthes The Structural Analysis of Narrative (in Kaplan, ed. Criticism: the Major Statements)
 - 4) Gérard Genette Narrative Discourse
 - 5) Gérard Genette Frontiers of Narrative (in his Figures of Literary Discourse)
 - 6) Mieke Bal Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative

WEEK FOUR: Structuralism II--Realism vs. Reality-effect; Historical Re-presentation vs. Historical Re-construction

Topics:

1. Plato's notion of mimesis
2. Auerbach and Watt on Realism and the genre of prose fiction as being the real
 2. Auerbach and Watt on Realism and the genre of prose fiction as being the real
 excellent

Topics:

1. Bakhtin's notion of *discourse*.
2. Bakhtin's Marxist critique of Saussure: Bakhtin seeks to re-emphasise the importance of lived contingencies of social life; rather, signs are always lived contingencies by specific individuals [*parole*]; from this point of view, signs have both a denotative [literal] and a connotative [or ideological] dimension); b) re-emphasise the importance of *diachrony* also downplayed by Saussure (as a result of the foregoing, it is important to understand the history of the various uses to which a given sign has been put), and the link severed between the sign and its use given, autonomous self (people do use language [rather than the other way around] but not in ways of their own choosing, language being necessarily ideologically-inflected).
3. Bakhtin's Saussurean critique of traditional Saussure destroyed.
4. Bakhtin's critique of traditional Marxism: language does not belong to a ruling class (i.e. the dominant ideology); rather, several competing social points of view that correspond to the different classes and other social sub-groups which comprise a social formation (inherent in each social voices).

Required Readings:

- A. 1) The Bakhtin Circle Language, Speech, and Utterance and Verbal Interaction
- B. 1) ---. Social Heteroglossia

Secondary Readings: 1) Michael Holquist Dialogism: Bakhtin and his World
 2) Simon Dentith Volosinov and Bakhtin on Language (in his Bakhtinian Thought: an Introductory Reader)

Further Reading: 1) Simon Dentith, ed. Bakhtinian Thought: an Introductory Reader *passim*
 2) Pam Morris, ed. The Bakhtin Reader *passim*
 3) V.N. Volosinov Marxism and the Philosophy of Language
 4) Mikhail Bakhtin The Dialogic Imagination (especially Discourse in the Novel)
 5) ---. Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics

WEEK SIX: The Bakhtin Circle on the Novel and the Carnavalesque**Topics:**

- 1.1. Literature as simultaneously expressing several different points of view (and author): *heteroglossia, polyphony, double-voiced discourse,*
2. Rethinking literary tradition in terms of *stylization* and *parody*: restoring agency to the writer.
3. The Bakhtinian notion of intertextuality.
4. The *Carnavalesque*.

5. Applying Bakhtin's notion of the carnivalesque to drama

Required Readings:

- A.** 1) The Bakhtin Circle Heteroglossia in the Novel
2) Harris Bakhtinian Double-Voicing in Dickens and Eliot
- B.** 1) ---. Carnival Ambivalence
2) Michael Bristol Carnival and the Institution of the Theatre in Elizabethan England

Secondary Readings: 1) Michael Holquist Dialogism: Bakhtin and his World
2) Simon Dentith Volosinov and Bakhtin on Language (in his Bakhtinian Thought: an Introductory Reader)
3) ---. Bakhtin on the Novel (in his Bakhtinian Thought: an Introductory Reader)
4) ---. Bakhtin's Carnival (in his Bakhtinian Thought: an Introductory Reader)

Further Reading: 1) Simon Dentith, ed. Bakhtinian Thought: an Introductory Reader *passim*
2) Pam Morris, ed. The Bakhtin Reader *passim*
3) V.N. Volosinov Marxism and the Philosophy of Language
4) Mikhail Bakhtin The Dialogic Imagination (especially Discourse in the Novel)
5) ---. Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics

W E E K S E V E N: Post-Colonial Analogies with/Appropriations of Bakhtin

Topics:

- 1.1. The analogies between Brathwaite's emphases on *orality, history, creolization* and *nation language* and Bakhtin's and Bakhtin's emphases on *parole, diachrony, heteroglossia* and *double-voiced-discourse*.
2. *Abrogation and appropriation*: writing back (agency restored to the author).
3. *Counter-discourse*: contesting imperial author-ity.

Required Readings:

- A.** 1) Edward Kamau Brathwaite Creolization in Jamaica
2) ---. Nation Language
- B.** 1) Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin Re-placing
in Post-colonial Writing
2) Helen Tiffin Post-colonial Literatures and Counter-Discourse

Secondary Readings: 1) Bill Ashcroft *et. al.* The Empire Writes Back

W E E K E I G H T: Post-colonial Appropriations of Bakhtin II

Topics:

1. The syncretic (or intertextual) nature of Post-colonial literatures.
- 2.2. Gates's use of Bakhtin's notion of double-voiced discourse

history.

- 3.3. Henderson's use of Bakhtin's notion of double-voiced discourse to African American women writers.
4. Cooper and the subversiveness of Carnavalesque features of Jamaican popular culture.

Required Readings:

- A.
 - 1) Henry Louis Gates, Jr. *The Signifying Monkey: Rhetorical Difference and the Orders of Meaning*
 - 2) ---. *Figures of Signification*
- B.
 - 1) Mae Gwendolyn Henderson *Speaking in Tongues: Dialogics, Dialectics and the Woman Writer's Literary Tradition*
 - 2) Carolyn Cooper *Slackness Hiding from Culture: Erotic Play in the Dance Hall*

Secondary Readings: 1) Bill Ashcroft *et. al.* *The Empire Writes Back*

Further Reading: 1) Evelyn O Callaghan Introduction to her *Woman Version*
 2) ---. Post- it Notes: Post-colonial Feminist Readings (in her *Woman Version*)
 3) Henry Louis Gates Jr. *The Signifying Monkey: a Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* Part II Reading the Tradition
 4) Carolyn Cooper *Noises in the Blood: Orality, Gender and the Vulgar Body of Jamaican Popular Culture*

WEEK NINE: Derrida's Critique of Saussurean Linguistics

Topics:

1. *Différance* versus *différence*: *supplémentarité* or the *trace of the other*.
- 2.2. The *perverse* (rather than the subversion) of the sheer distinctions assumed to exist between, for example, male and female or white and black: it is a question of hierarchies upon their head and privileging the formerly unprivileged term how one seemingly discrete category (such as white) *depends* upon the other (e.g. black) in the sense of its own distinction.
- 3.3. The *deferral* and the *displacement* of meaning along the endless chain of signification: the *dissemination* or explosion of meaning in a myriad directions.
- 4.4. Derrida's confirmation of Saussure's decentering of the subject: a) consciousness exists in language--rather, one's consciousness or ideas is entirely dependent on language, whether oral or written, which thus entirely circumscribes human beings' capacity for thought; b) the deconstruction of any notion of a pure identity.

Required Readings:

- A. 1) Jacques Derrida *Différance*
- B. 1) Jacques Derrida *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences*

- 4.4. The necessity of the collaboration of t4. The necessity of the collaboration of the r4. The necessity of the meaning.
5. *Jouissance*: the pleasure of the text.
6. *Readerly*(*lisible*) versus *writerly*(*scriptible*) texts
- 7.7. Deconstructive Reading methodology # 2: Barthes *segmentation* of the text of the text into so of the text into (*hermeneutic*., *semic*, *symbolic*, *proairetic*, *cultural*) in order) in order to un) in order to underscore the intertextual nature of any (literary) text.

Required Readings:

- A. 1) Roland Barthes The Death of the Author
2) ---. From Work to Text
- B. 1) Roland Barthes Textual Analysis of Poe s M. Valdemar

Secondary Readings: 1) Jonathan Culler On Deconstruction
2) Christopher Norris Deconstruction: Theory and Practice
3) Vincent Leitch Deconstructive Criticism: an Advanced Introduction
4) Kaja Silverman Rewriting the Classic Text (in her The Subject of Semiotics)
5) Jonathan Culler Roland Barthes

Further Reading: 1) Paul de Man Blindness and Insight *passim*
2) Geoffrey Hartman The Critic as Host (in Adams and Searle, eds. Critical Theory Since 1965)
3) ---. Criticism in the Wilderness (in Selden, ed. The Theory of Criticism)

W E E K T W E L V E: Post-Colonial Appropriations of Deconstruction

Topics:

1. An Africentric model of indeterminacy: Gates signifying monkey
2. Capitalising upon the excess of signification: re-contextualising European signs.
- 3.3. Intertextuality: the Post-colonial literary text (eg Wide SargWide Sargasso Sea) a) as existing in a deconstructive deconstructive relationship of supplementarity to the canonical European deconstructive text (eg Jane Eyre and, and, by extension, imperialist texts of any kind)--the latter depends upon the former.
4. Deconstructing *essentialist* notions of identity: the syncretism of West Indian identity.
5. Autobiography: the Self writing or writing the self into existence

Required Readings:

- A. 1) Henry Louis Gates, Jr. A Myth of Origins: Esu-Elegbara and the Signifying Monkey
2) Gayatri Spivak Three Women s Texts and a Critique of Imperialism
3) Brunda Moka Dias Jean Rhys s Wide Sargasso Sea and Emily Bronte s Jane Eyre
- B. 1) Stuart Hall Cultural Identity and Diaspora
2) Henry Louis Gates , Jr. Frederick Douglass and the Language of the Self
3)3) ---. Binary Opposites in Chapter One3) ---. Binary Opposites in Chapter One of Narrative of the Li

American Slave Written by Himself

Secondary Readings: 1) Bill Ashcroft *et. al.* The Empire Writes Back

Further Reading: 1) Bill Ashcroft Excess: Post-colonialism and the Verandahs of Meaning (in Chris Tiffin and Alan Lawson, eds. Describing Empire)
 2) Homi Bhabha Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences (in Ashcroft et al., eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader)
 3) bell hooks Postmodern Blackness (in Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds. Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory)

WEEK THIRTEEN: Postmodern and Post-colonial Cultural Practices

Required Readings:

- A.** 1) Linda Hutcheon Theorizing the Postmodern: Towards a Poetics
 2) Linda Hutcheon 2) Linda Hutcheon 2) Linda Hutcheon Circling the Downspout of Postmodernism
- B.** 1) George Lukacs The Ideology of Modernism
 2) Frederic Jameson Postmodernism, Or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism
 3) Frederic Jameson Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism
 4) Stephen Slemon Monuments of Empire: Allegor 4) Stephen Slemon Monuments of Empire: A Writing

Secondary Readings: 1) Richard Harland Superstructuralism: the Philosophy of Structuralism and Poststructuralism
 2) Peter Brooker Introduction to his Modernism/Postmodernism
 3) Mark Currie Introduction to his Metafiction
 4) Steven Connor Postmodernist Culture: an Introduction to Theories of the Contemporary
 5) David Harvey The Condition of Postmodernity
 6) Madan Sarup An Introductory Guide to Post-Structuralism and Postmodernism
 7) Brian Hale Postmodernist Fiction
 8) J. Michael Dash Psychology, Creolization, and Hybridization (in King, ed. New National and Post-colonial Literatures)
 9) Gareth Griffiths The Post-colonial Project: Critical Approaches and Problems (in King, ed. New National and Post-colonial Literatures)
 10) Stephen Slemon Post-colonial Critical Theories (in King, ed. New National and Post-colonial Literatures)
 11) Bruce King New Centres of Consciousness: New, Post-colonial, and Post-colonial Literatures
 12) Simon During Postmodernism or Post-colonialism Today (in Ashcroft et al., eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader)
 13) Stephen Slemon Modernism's Last Post (in Ashcroft et al., eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader)
 14) Kwame Anthony Appiah The Postcolonial and the Postmodern (in Ashcroft et al., eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader)

Further Reading: 1) Walter Benjamin The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction
 2) Jean François Lyotard The Postmodern Condition
 3) Ihab Hassan The Postmodern Turn: Essays in Postmodern Theory and Culture *passim*
 4) Hal Foster, ed. Postmodern Culture *passim*
 5) Frederic Jameson Postmodernism: or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism
 6) Linda Hutcheon The Poetics of Postmodernism *passim*
 7) ---. The Politics of Postmodernism *passim*
 8) Patricia Waugh Metafiction: The Theory and Practice of Self-Conscious Fiction
 9) ---. What is Metafiction and Why are they Saying Such Awful Things About It? (in Currie, ed. Metafiction)
 10) Linda J. Nicholson, ed. Feminism/Postmodernism

Some Useful Surveys of Theory and Criticism on Reserve in the Library:

Ann Jefferson & David Robey Modern Literary Theory: a Comparative Introduction

Terry Eagleton Literary Theory: an Introduction

Raman Selden A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory

Raman Selden Practising Theory and Reading Literature: an Introduction

Catherine Belsey Critical Practice

Peter Barry Beginning Theory: an Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory

Steven Lynn Texts and Contexts: Writing About Literature with Critical Theory

Toril Moi Sexual/Textual Politics

Bill Ashcroft, *et. al.* The Empire Writes Back: The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Literature

Anthologies of Literary Theory and Criticism on Reserve in the Library:

Hazard Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since Plato

Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds. Critical Theory Since 1965

Charles Kaplan, ed. Criticism: the Major Statements

Raman Selden, ed. The Theory of Criticism: a Reader

Philip Rice and Patricia Waugh, eds. Modern Literary Theory: a Reader

Rick Rylance, ed. Debating Texts: Readings in Twentieth Century Literary Criticism
Method. (on order)

David Lodge, ed. Twentieth Century Literary Criticism: a Reader

David Lodge, ed. Modern Criticism and Theory: a Reader (on order)

K.M. Newton, ed. Twentieth Century Literary Theory: a Reader

K.M. Newton, ed. Theory into Practice: A Reader in Modern Literary Criticism

Richard Ellman and Charles Feidelson, eds. The Modern Tradition: Literature

Peter Brooker Modernism/Postmodernism

Mark Currie Metafiction

Robin Warhol and Diane Price Herndl, eds. Feminisms: an Anthology of Criticism (this text has been abducted by a student: efforts are being made to retrieve it and a new copy is on order)

Catherine Belsey and Jane Moore, eds. The Feminist Reader: The Feminist Reader: Essays in the Politics of Literary Criticism

Elaine Marks and Isabelle de Courtivron, eds. New French Feminisms

Bill Ashcroft, *et. al.*, eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds. Colonial Discourse and Post-colonialism: a Reader