

E60C CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL AND CRITICAL THEORY: POST-STRUCTURALISMS AND POST-COLONIALISMS II 2000-2001

Lecturer: R. Clarke; Room A30; Tel.: 417-4411; E-mail: clarker@uwichill.edu.bb.

Meeting Times: Two 1.5-hour seminars per week on Tu and Thurs: 10.30 AM - 12 PM;
Room A27.

Where E60B Post-Structuralisms and Post-colonialisms I explores the ongoing dialogue between contemporary Post-colonial theory and the Post-Structuralist schools of Deconstruction, Dialogical criticism, and Foucauldian Discursive criticism, E60C seeks to introduce students to three other Post-Structuralist schools of cultural and critical theory with which Post-colonial theorists have also engaged in recent times.

To these ends, after exploring the implications of Saussure's critique of traditional models of signification for traditional notions of selfhood, linguistic representation and self-expression, students will devote the first half of the semester to reading and discussing seminal essays male and self-identified feminists drawn from the following three Post-Structuralist schools:

Semiotics / Structuralism
Lacanian Psychoanalytic criticism
(Post-)Structuralist Marxism

The goal in so doing is to explore the ways in which each school of thought has mounted a radical challenge to both traditional liberal humanist and modern dialectical conceptions of:

subjectivity;
knowledge;
the structure of the social formation;
the discursive construction of gender;
the discursive construction of race;
representation / realism ;
authorship / self-expression ;
literary history / intertextuality; and
the role of the reader.

Students will devote the second half of the semester to exploring related seminal essays by prominent Post-colonial and African American theorists such as

Sunday Anozie;
Homi Bhabha;

Gayatri Spivak;
Stuart Hall; and
Abdul JanMohamed.

The goal in so doing is to explore how each of these thinkers has sought to utilise post-Saussurean concepts of difference in order to rethink the dominant ways in which colonial and post-colonial cultural phenomena and practices have come to be conceptualised.

Assessment:

Seminar participation / presentations	40%
Research paper	60%

Required Texts:

Please disregard the wrong list which appeared by accident in the postgraduate studies pamphlet.

Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds.	<u>Critical Theory Since 1965</u>	R
Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan, eds.	<u>Literary Theory: an Anthology</u>	R
Jacques Lacan	<u>Écrits</u>	R
Terry Eagleton	<u>Criticism and Ideology</u>	R
Frederic Jameson	<u>The Political Unconscious</u>	R
Sunday Anozie	<u>Structuralist Models and African Poetics</u>	R *
Homi Bhabha	<u>The Location of Culture</u>	R
Gayatri Spivak	<u>In Other Worlds</u>	R
Selected essays by Barthes, Todorov, Genette, Kristeva, Irigaray, Rubin, Barrett, Kaplan, Hall, Gilroy, JanMohamed, Gates, Carby, et al. in the E60C folder in the library to be photocopied by students.		

The texts listed above may or may not be in the bookstore: Although I requested that they be ordered, as lecturers we have no control over what is in fact ordered in the final analysis.

R indicates on reserve; * indicates out of print; **indicates** only recently added to the list.

Recommended:

Terry Eagleton	<u>Literary Theory: an Introduction</u>	R
Ania Loomba	<u>Colonialism/Post-colonialism</u>	R
Bart Moore-Gilbert	<u>Post-colonial Theory</u>	R

READING SCHEDULE

TO NOTE

Students should note that this course will largely take the seminar format. The degree to which seminars are productive is a function of the effort which students put into a) their preparation of assigned materials and b) the effectiveness of the presentations and reports made to their colleagues. Students must be prepared to read, reread and re-reread the assigned readings. (I have always found the best way to come to grips with difficult readings is to make detailed notes for myself.) They must also be prepared to engage in class in a vigorous exchange of ideas with their colleagues. It is, in short, through a combination of careful preparation and dialogue that students will be able to glean for themselves the important information to be drawn from the assigned readings.

Students are also reminded that where the **Required Readings** are absolutely essential, should be read in the suggested order, and must be prepared ahead of class, the **Recommended Readings** are *suggested* readings only designed to provide necessary background and clarification. It is entirely up to you whether you choose to read them or not. You may, however, find them useful, especially when it comes to preparing oral presentations, writing term papers and revising for the final exam. Please check the lists at the end of this course outline to see which texts have been placed on reserve.

Week 1: Introduction

Discussion Topics:

General discussion of the aims of the course, requirements, etc.;

What is Cultural Theory? What is Critical Theory?

MODULE ONE: SAUSSUREAN LINGUISTICS / SEMIOTICS / STRUCTURALISM

Week 2: Saussure's Model of Signification / The (Post-)Saussurean Critique of Realism

Required Readings:

TU:	Saussure, Ferdinand	From <u>Course in General Linguistics</u> (in Adams and Searle)
TR:	Roland Barthes	The Discourse of History (in Keith Jenkins, ed. <u>The Postmodern History Reader</u>)
	Hayden White	Introduction: the Poetics of History (in his <u>Metahistory</u>)
	Roland Barthes	The Reality Effect (in Lillian Furst, ed. <u>Realism</u>)

Recommended Readings: Malcolm Bowie Lacan: Inventing the I
Language and the Unconscious
Symbolic, Imaginary, Real and . . . True
The Meaning of the Phallus

Week 6: Lacanian Psychoanalysis / French Feminism and Anglophone Lacanian Feminism

Required Readings:

TU: Jacques Lacan _____ On the Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious (in Rivkin and Ryan; also in Adams and Searle)

TR: Luce Irigaray "This Sex Which Is Not One" (in her This Sex Which Is Not One; and in Marks and de Courtivron)

Luce Irigaray "Another Cause Castration" (in Warhol and Herndl)

Gayle Rubin On the Traffic in Women: Notes Toward a Political Economy of Sex (in Rivkin and Ryan; also in Rayna Reiter, ed. Toward an Anthropology of Women)

Recommended Readings: Ann Rosalind Jones Writing the Body: Towards an Understanding of l'écriture féminine (in Warhol and Herndl)

Week 7: Lacanian Psychoanalytic Theory and Criticism: Authorship, Realism, and the Reader / Viewer

Required Readings:

TU: Shoshana Felman Jacques Lacan and the Adventure of Insight: The Case of Poe: Applications / Implications of Psychoanalysis

Shari Benstock Authorising the Autobiographical (in Warhol and Herndl)

Hélène Cixous The Laugh of the Medusa (in Adams and Searle)

TR: Jacques Lacan Seminar on The Purloined Letter (in Muller and Richardson, eds. The Purloined Poe)

Laura Mulvey Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema (in Gerald Mast, et al., eds. Film Theory and Criticism)

Recommended Readings:

**MODULE THREE:
(POST-)STRUCTURALIST MARXISM AND CRITICISM**

Week 8: Structuralist Marxism**Required Readings:**

TU: Louis Althusser "Ideology" Ideology and Ideological Sta "Ideology and Ideologic
Adams and Searle)

TR: Louis Althusser Part Part I (in h Part I (in his Part I (in his and Étie
Capital)

Recommended Readings: William C. Dowling Jameson, Althusser, Marx

Week 9: (Post-)Structuralist Marxist Theory and Criticism**Required Readings:**

TU: Louis Althusser A A Let A Letter on A Letter on Art in Reply to André Daspro
Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays)

PierrePierre Macherey From AA Theory ofA Theory of Literary Production (in (in Easth
and McGowan)

Étienne Balibar and Pierre Macherey
On Literature as an Ideological Form On Literature as an Ideolog
also in Eagleton and Milne)

TR: Terry Eagleton Criticism and Ideology:
Categories for a Marxist Criticism
Towards a Science of the Text

Recommended Readings:

Week 10: (Post-)Structuralist Marxist Feminism**Required Readings:**

TU: Michèle Barrett The The Cultural The Cultural Product The Cultural Produc
LowderLowder NewtonLowder Newton, etLowder N
Criticism and Social Change)

TR: The Marxist-Feminist Literature Collective
Women s Women s Writing: Jane Eyre, Shirley, VillVillette,
Aurora Leigh (in Eagleton and Milne)

Recommended Readings:

MODULE FOUR: POST-COLONIAL THEORY AND CRITICISM

**Week 11: Post-colonialPost-colonial Post-colonial Cultural Theory I: SubPost-colonial C
Formation**

Required Readings:

RESEARCH PAPER

Word Limits: One (1) approx. 20-page paper which should be double-spaced.
(Please insert a word count at the end.)

Deadline: Friday of the week following our last class

Answer one of the following questions:

1. Analyse a Post-colonial text of your choice from the point of view of **ONE** (ONE) school of criticism:

Structuralism;
Lacanian Psychoanalysis;
(Post-)Structuralist Marxist criticism.

Your essay should include a clear outline of the methodological principles which you employ.

2. Drawing upon the arguments advanced by a relevant Post-colonial theorist(s), discuss **ONE** (ONE) of the following topics:

Post-colonial subjectivity;
Race and the social formation;
The discursive construction of gender and/or race;
Colonialist literature and the discursive construction of gender and/or race;
Gender and the Post-colonial condition;
Rethinking Post-colonial authorship;
Rethinking Post-colonial realism ;
Post-colonial intertextuality;
The Post-colonial reader (of colonial discourse / the European canon).

You should aim to ground your argument through concrete examples of your choice.

NB: Essays should be typed up and must be written in your own words. Essays should be typed up and must be written in your own words. Faculty pamphlet on essay writing and the MLA Handbook: sloppy work will be penalised.