

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 303-01

Winter 2020

Theories for Reading

Instructor: Dr. Shaobo Xie
Class time: MW 2:00 - 3:15 pm
Location: TRA 102
Office: SS 1012
Office hours: Tue. 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Telephone: 403-220-5478
Email: sxie@ucalgary.ca

Course Objectives:

This course is an introduction to contemporary theoretical practices. Students will learn models of critical reading and gain experience applying them to a variety of literary and cultural texts. We will begin with questions such as “What is theory?” “Why should we study theory?” and “How to apply theory to texts?”. Through reading the same literary text from different theoretical perspectives, students will come to a better understanding of the difference theory makes and learn how to use theory effectively to frame their discussion of literature and culture.

The course format will be a mixture of lectures, class conversations, and group discussions and presentations. Each group will present a critical reading of one of the theories included in the course syllabus. You will write a research paper of 2500 words. You will need to do library and/or online research before you start writing the paper. Your essay must have a clear, arguable thesis, and should be coherently structured and rigorously argued. To ensure that you will be on the right track, you should submit an essay proposal two weeks prior to the due date.

Texts:

Lois Tyson, *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*, Routledge, 2015
Philip Rice & Patricia Waugh, eds., *Modern Literary Theory*, Arnold, 2001

Assignments:

Review essay (750 words)	15%
Critical essay (2500 words)	35%
Group presentation	15%
Class participation	10%
Take-home examination	25%

(Submit your exam to the exam dropbox on D2L)

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and group activities, interaction with classmates, and contribution to advancing debate in the classroom.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) per day. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

The group presentation grade is designed to encourage students to take group work seriously. All members of a group will receive the same grade, except for those absent when the group work assignment is prepared or presented, who will receive an F. Each group will be required to submit a written version of the presentation.

Students are required to submit written assignments electronically. There are D2L dropbox folders for various assignments.

All take-home written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12 point type-size and a readable font. Take-home essays must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8th Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won't be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material, essay assignments, or group projects, you need to make an appointment to see me during my office hour.

All cell phones must be turned off during classes. Students are permitted to use laptop computers only to take notes or for class presentations.

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Value
A+	96% or above	4.0
A	90-95%	4.0
A-	85-89%	3.7
B+	80-84%	3.3
B	75-79%	3.0
B-	70-74%	2.7
C+	67-69%	2.3
C	64-66%	2.0
C-	60-63%	1.7
D+	55-59%	1.3
D	50-54%	1.0
F	0-49%	0

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic

events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>

Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the *Calendar* for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University *Calendar* link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension of for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferral of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See *Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

"Safewalk" Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University *Calendar* states:

1. **Plagiarism** - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a

course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University *Calendar*,

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

"The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.