Spring 1-15-2012

ENG 4775-001: Studies in Literary and Cultural Criticism and Theory: Feminist Theory

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ENGLISH 4775, SECTION 01
STUDIES IN LITERARY AND CULTURAL CRITICISM AND THEORY:
FEMINIST THEORY

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
Office: Coleman Hall 3321
Phone: 581-5214
Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu
Class: TR 11:00am-12:15pm, Coleman Hall 3150
Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00am and 12:30-2:00pm, or by appt.

Texts: Feminist Theory: A Reader, Kolmar & Bartkowski, Frances (listed on schedule as “FT”)
Some materials on Eres or by email.

Course Objectives include (but are not limited to):
• Reading and discussing various forms of feminist theory and criticism
• Learning the issues and vocabulary relevant to this theory and criticism.
• Learning to write effectively with and about this theory and criticism
• Developing an understanding of how these ideas relate to the study of literature.
• Developing an understanding of how these ideas relate to the world at large.

REQUIREMENTS: YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.

Short Essays (5 @ 50 points each): You will need to write 5 of these essays over the course of the semester. When they are due is based on the first letter of your last name (see group assignments below). You will write about the ideas discussed in that day’s reading and you’ll need to be prepared to discuss your ideas in class on that day. These essays are NOT “response papers” in which you simply provide your personal reaction to the reading. Instead, your essays should have a thesis statement and should engage analytically with the ideas from the reading. You should make an argument about what you have read. NOTE: In order to get credit for these assignments you must 1) be present in class on the day they are due and 2) contribute to that day’s discussion in some way.

Short Essay Groups (by last name):

Midterm (200 points) and Final Exam (250 points): These will consist of short-answer and essay questions with a possible take-home component.

Theory Essay (100 points): For this essay, you will take one of your shorter essays and expand upon its ideas, turning it into a full-fledged 6-7-page essay. Or, if you have a brand new idea you would like to pursue, you may do that as well, as long as you engage directly with one or more of the readings of the course. You should not use outside sources for this essay, only those we have read in class, and you should devise some kind of thesis argument that directly addresses those
texts. In other words, analyze and evaluate the argument(s) the text is making, or compare two or more different texts in order to make an argument about them.

**Literary Criticism Essay (200 points):** For this essay, you will need to do outside literary research, using one of the databases we will discuss in class. You will need to find three critical articles that make a gender argument of some kind about a single literary text. By “critical articles” I mean articles found in academic journals or books, NOT encyclopedias, Cliffs or Sparks notes, or web sources like Wikipedia. Please do not hesitate to see me if you are having trouble finding articles; we can work with the databases together. By “gender argument,” I mean an argument that takes issues of gender into account in some way. So you need three different articles that make arguments about gender. For some literary works, such articles would not be difficult to find; for some, it would be impossible. You may find that you have to try different literary texts until you find one that has a sufficient amount of feminist literary criticism surrounding it. Once you find and read these articles, you will analyze them in a 6-7-page essay.

**POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Conferences:** The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability, let me know what accommodations you require.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Turn them off before class begins. This should go without saying.

**Grade Breakdown:**
- Short Essays (5 @ 50 points each) 250
- Midterm Exam 200
- Theory Essay 100
- Literary Criticism Essay 200
- Final Exam 250
ENG 4775 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS – add sedgwick

Jan.  10 T  Introduction  
       12 Th  FT 6-Delmar, FT 9-Wollstonecraft

“The First Wave” – Early Feminism and the Suffrage Movement  
A  17 T  FT 11-Stanton, FT 12-Taylor, FT 17-Anthony  
B  19 Th  FT 15-Mill, FT 14-Truth, FT 19-Douglas

Motherhood and Family Planning  
C  24 T  FT 30-Sanger, FT 66-Chodorow  
D  26 Th  FT 42-Friedan, FT 49-Firestone,  

Women and Economics  
A  31 T  FT 23-Gilman, FT 59-Rubin  

Woman as “Other”  
B  Feb.  2 Th  FT 40-de Beauvoir, FT 34-Woolf,  
C  7 T  FT 75-Mohanty, FT 80-Anzaldua  

Bodies  
D  9 Th  FT 54-Ortner, FT 91-Davis,  
A  14 T  FT 65-Irigaray, Res-Wolf  

Feminism and Race  
B  16 Th  FT 2-Walker, FT 85-hooks, FT 90-Hill Collins  

Feminism and Language  
C  21 T  FT 56-Cixous, FT 57-Lakoff, FT 67-Daly  
D  23 Th  FT 83-Scott, FT 84-Fuss  
       28 T  Midterm Review  
March  1 Th  Midterm Exam  

Sexuality  
A  6 T  FT 69-Lorde, FT 70-Wittig, FT 71-Rich  
B  8 Th  FT 87-MacKinnon, FT 89-Butler, LGBT Panel
SPRING BREAK

Literature and Film

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eres: Gilbert &amp; Gubar, Robinson (Feminisms)</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eres: Fetterley, Radway (Feminisms)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eres: McKay, Christian (Feminisms)</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eres: Showalter, Kolodny (Feminisms)</td>
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A   April 3 | T | FT | 61-Mulvey, Eres: DeLauretis |
B   5        | Th | Eres: Roof |
C   10       | T | Email: Nachumi, Tauchert |
D   12       | Th | Eres: Umminger (Chick Lit), Marsh |

Science and Technology

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<td>FT 74-Gilligan, FT 78-Harding, FT 92-Fox Keller</td>
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<td>FT 76-Haraway, Eres: Balsamo (Cybersexualities)</td>
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Masculinity

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<td>Eres: Clover, Jeffords</td>
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<td>Exam Review</td>
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Tues., May 1, 2:45-4:45 p.m. – FINAL EXAM