



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA330
Literary Theory
Semester 2, 2008
www.utas.edu.au/english

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Convenor and lecturers: | Professor Helen Tiffin, Dr Philip Mead and Dr Jenna Mead (convenor) Room: HUM 545 Phone: 6226 7160 Email: Jenna.Mead@utas.edu.au |
| Consultation Hours: | Mon 1:00-2:00 pm; Thurs 1:00-2:00 pm |
| Unit Description: | This unit examines the development of literary theory from the middle of the twentieth century to the present. It aims to provide students with the skills to read theory critically and to develop informed arguments in response to literary and critical texts. The unit focuses on a range of approaches to reading literature including structuralism, Marxism, feminism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, postmodernism and queer theory. |
| Unit Aims and Objectives: | The aims of this unit are to enable students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop the skills of close reading, critical thinking and textual analysis through the examination of a range of theoretical texts;• become familiar with key approaches to the study of literature as listed in the Unit Description; and• develop knowledge of the historical development of literary theory and an awareness of major current debates. |
| Learning Outcomes: | Students taking this unit will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. build <i>knowledge</i> in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above);2. enhance skills in<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) written <i>communication</i>, with special emphasis on writing practice in the form of essays; andb) oral <i>communication</i>, through participation in seminar activities; and3. enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and seminar activities, which develop critical analysis techniques in English. |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Required Texts: | Unit Reader from University Bookshop and Morris Miller Library. |
| Recommended Texts: | Selden, Raman, Peter Widdowson, and Peter Brooker. <i>A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory</i> . 5th ed. Harlow, England: Pearson Longman, 2005. |
| When Taught: | <p>Lectures: Tuesday 12.00 – 12.50pm, Law 229.LT1 The School will record lectures through iLecture and sound files will be available via the Web. However, we are not able to guarantee the quality or reliability of these recordings.</p> <p>Seminars: 1 x 1.5 hr per week Wed 9:00-10:30 am, SocSci 379 Fri 2:10 – 3:40 pm, SocSci 322 Students will be instructed on how to sign up for a seminar at the first lecture. Seminars begin in the second week of semester (week 15).</p> |
| Assessment: | <p>1,000 word reading assignment (20%); 2,000-word essay (40%); 2-hr exam (40%).</p> <p>Written assessments must be submitted BOTH in hard copy to the School office AND in electronic copy through Turnitin on MyLO.</p> |

Attendance requirements

Students should attend all tutorials and an attendance roll will be taken. Failure to attend at least two-thirds of tutorials and/or complete all assessments may result in being deemed ineligible to sit the examination or being required to submit additional work.

Web resources

Students will have access to a MyLO site for this unit. Recordings of lectures will be posted on the site as will notes from lectures and other resources lecturers suggest as useful. The MyLO site will also host the Turnitin portal.

Useful URLs

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>
Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk—email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University x 1818

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

The readings listed are the **minimum** requirement for the seminars. Lectures may focus on these readings or use them as a point of departure for discussion. You are strongly advised to complete the reading *before* the seminar.

| Date | Reading(s) | Lecturer/Comments |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Week 14 14 Jul | Introduction | Dr Jenna Mead |
| Week 15 21 Jul | Jonathan Culler, "What is theory?" | Seminars commence |
| Week 16 28 Jul | Terry Eagleton, "What is literature?" | |
| Week 17 4 Aug | <i>from</i> Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin, <i>Key concepts in post-colonial studies</i> Bob Hodge and Vijay Mishra, "Australian literature and the problem of history" | Prof Helen Tiffin Reading assignment due 4:00 pm Mon 4 Aug Essay questions posted Mon 4 Aug Census date Thurs 7 Aug |
| Week 18 11 Aug | Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin, "Re-thinking the post-colonial. Post-colonialism in the twenty-first century" | |
| Week 19 18 Aug | Ferdinand de Saussure, "The object of study" and "The nature of the linguistic sign" | Dr Jenna Mead |
| Week 20 25 Aug | Roland Barthes, "The death of the author" | |
| | Mon 1 Sep – Fri 5 Sep Mid-Semester Break | |
| Week 21 8 Sept | <i>from</i> Italo Calvino, <i>If on a winter's night a traveller</i> | Essay due 4:00 pm Mon 8 Sept |
| Week 22 15 Sept | Meaghan Morris, "Uncle Billy, Tina Turner and me" Stephen Muecke, "Introduction: There is no heart" and "Gulaga story" | |
| Week 23 29 Sept | Sigmund Freud, "From the history of an infantile neurosis" | Dr Philip Mead |
| Week 24 6 Oct | Louis Althusser, "Ideology and ideological state apparatuses" | |
| Week 25 13 Oct | Jacques Derrida, "This strange institution called Literature. An interview with Jacques Derrida" | |
| Week 26 20 Oct | Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism and consumer society" | |
| | Study Period: 20-24 October | |
| | Examination Period: 25 October – 11 November | |

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of one short reading assignment and one essay to be submitted during the semester, and a formal examination in the examination period. Written assessment will be submitted through the Turnitin portal on MyLO and in hard copy to the School office.

READING ASSIGNMENT (1000 words)

The reading assignment is due by 4:00 pm on **Mon 4 AUG**.
The assessment is worth 20% of your final mark.

This assignment is based on the lectures, seminars and readings for the first three weeks only.

EITHER

Write an analysis of Jonathan Culler's "What is theory?" answering his question.

OR

Analyse Terry Eagleton's essay "What is literature?" How persuasive do you find his argument?

This assessment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, and 3.

ESSAY (2000 words)

The essay is due by 4pm on **Mon 8 Sept**.
This assignment is worth 40% of the overall grade.

Essay questions will available in the lecture in WEEK 17 (4 Aug).

This essay will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, and 3.

EXAMINATION

The examination will be scheduled in the official examination period. The examination timetable is published on the UTAS website.
The examination is worth 40% of your final mark.

The examination will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, and 3.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook.

Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc, MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)