

Prof. Wendy Moffat
Spring 2007
9:30 MWF
EC 300

EC 408
Hours: W, F 12- 1:30
and by appointment
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English 320: History of Literary Theory

Text: Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds., Critical Theory Since Plato (Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, 2005)

Part I: Paradigms

22 Jan. The Big Issues: Why write criticism? What is the role of the critic? Is the critic an artist? What is the role of Literature in society? Is art truth?

The Ancients and Medieval Christian Doctrine

24 Plato, The Republic II

26 Plato, The Republic III

29 Plato, The Republic X

31 Plato, from Protagoras (BB)

2 Feb. Aristotle, Poetics

5 Aristotle, Poetics

7 Aristotle, Rhetoric (selection)

9 Plotinus, From Enneads **Paper #1 due: The Classical Paradigm**

12 St. Augustine, from On Christian Doctrine

14 Aquinas, from Summa Theologica

Renaissance Issues

16 Sidney, "An Apology for Poetry"

19 Sidney, "An Apology for Poetry"

21 Corneille "Of the Three Unities" ; Bloom, "The Dialectics of Poetic Tradition"
(BB) **Paper #2 Due**

Enlightenment Ideas

23 Pope, "Essay on Criticism"

- 26 Cogan Fellows; attend afternoon lectures: Pope, "Essay on Criticism"
28 Addison, selections; Dr. Johnson, selections

The Romantics

- 2 Mar. Wollstonecraft, "A Vindication of the Rights of Women"
5 Wordsworth, "Preface to Lyrical Ballads"
7 Wordsworth, "Preface to Lyrical Ballads"
9 Keats, Selected Letters; **Paper #3 due**

Spring Break

Part II: Tactics

Inward: Psychology, Phenomenology

- 19 Pater, Studies in the History of the Renaissance (selections)
21 Freud (Selections); Jung, "On the Relation of Analytical Psychology to Poetry"
(BB)
23 Poulet, "Phenomenology of Reading" (BB)
26 No class: attend Vendler events 1:30 Tues (Memorial Hall) or 7pm Tues. Ster
Center Great Hall
28 Tompkins, "The Reader in History" (BB); Fish, "Is There a Text in this Class?"
Paper #4 due

Outward: Marxism, Historicism

- 30 Marx and Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party ; A Contribution
to the Critique of Political Economy(607f)
2 Apr. Williams, Marxism and Literature (Blackboard)
4 Adorno, "Cultural Criticism and Society" (1101f)
6 Althusser, from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (1297f)

- 9 Apr. Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History” (995f); “The Work of Art in the
Age of its Technological Reproducibility” (BB)
11 Woolf, Selections from A Room of One’s Own; and Three Guineas (BB); **paper #5 due**

Language: Philosophy and Linguistics

- 13 Saussure, Course in General Linguistics (786f); Locke “Essay Concerning Human Understanding” (281f)
- 16 Saussure, Course in General Linguistics
- 18 Benjamin “On Language as Such and the Language of Men” (BB); Fish, “Normal Circumstances, etc.” (BB)
- 20 Pratt, “Toward a Speech Act Theory of Literary Discourse” (1343f); **paper #6 due**

Challenges

- 23 Jauss, “Literary History as a Challenge to Literary Theory” (1237f)
- 25 Wimsatt and Beardsley, “The Intentional Fallacy” (1026f); Brooks, “The Heresy of Paraphrase” (BB)
- 27 Barthes, “The Death of the Author”(1255f) ; Foucault “What is an Author?” (1269f)
- 30 Said, from Orientalism (1369f)
- 2 May Kolodny, “Dancing through the Minefield” (1384f); Butler, “Imitation and Gender Insubordination” (1489f)
- 4 Sedgwick, Epistemology of the Closet (1469f)

Class preparation:

Most days I won’t ask you to read very much, but the reading can be dense. I recommend you make an outline or précis of the assignment to bring to class with questions for each day’s readings. Before you come to class, I expect you to use reference works to clarify difficult words or concepts. Come to class, come prepared, and speak thoughtfully. Students may fail this portion of the class if they are unprepared, or excessively absent from class. 20% of final grade

Written work:

There are six two-page papers, due in class. Late papers will receive a grade of F. You must complete all the papers to pass the course. 30% of final grade

Final exam:

A cumulative take-home exam will be due at noon on Tues, May 8th. The essay topic for the final exam will differ, depending on whether you choose to have the course count as a pre-1800

or a post-1800 requirement. Please notify me by roll call which tack you plan to pursue, and I will advise you of the supplemental reading to prepare for the final. 50% of final grade.