

English 576.01  
Spring 2003  
DE 0206  
TR 11:30-1:18

Professor Knapp  
Denney 472 (292-4593)  
knapp.79@osu.edu  
Office Hrs: Wed. 3:30-5:00

### **History of Critical Theory: Plato to Aestheticism**

**Texts** (available at SBX; use these editions)

Hazard Adams, Critical Theory Since Plato  
Dante, Vita Nuova (transl. Musa)  
Goethe, Sorrows of Young Werther (transl. Hulse)

#### **The Course**

What is the nature of literature? What is the purpose of interpretation? This course will introduce students to key classical explorations of these problems through a survey of key texts and thinkers from Plato and Aristotle to William Wordsworth and Friedrich Nietzsche. To give focus to such a wide survey, the course will focus on four historical moments: first, the rise of literary theory in Greek antiquity; second, experiments with allegorical reading in the Middle Ages; third, the beginning of modern criticism in neoclassicism and enlightenment thought; and, fourth, the movement that largely set the terms for our own understanding of literature, the Romantic movement.

#### **Assignments and Grading**

Readings from our texts are listed on the following page and should be completed by the day on which they are assigned. (I expect you to come to class having done the reading for the day and being prepared to discuss the text.) For most days you will be reading only 20-30 pages of material, but this material is complex. You will need to read carefully, and I would strongly recommend keeping a notebook by your side while you read for both notes and questions on your reading.

Your grade for this course will depend on your performance in three areas: a midterms and cumulative final exam (25% each); a combination of quizzes and class participation/attendance (25%); and a final research paper of 6-8 pp. (25%). For this paper I will ask for an annotated bibliography by March 9, with the final paper due on March 15 (both components will be factored into your grade). No make-up quizzes or midterm will be given, but I will drop everyone's lowest quiz grade, so if you miss only one you will not be penalized. Missing three or more classes or the equivalent, however, will be considered grounds for failure.

The final for this course will be on Thursday, March 18, 11:30-1:18.

#### **Secondary Reading**

Much of our reading for this course will come from philosophical texts and may feel unfamiliar to literature students. I will provide some background for these thinkers in class, but to help in your reading I will also put some of the standard reference works concerning this history on reserve. These are listed below. See me if you have more particular interests or need help finding materials for your paper.

Groden and Kreisworth. Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism  
Kennedy, George. Cambridge History of Lit. Crit., vol 1: Classical Criticism  
Engel, James. Forming the Critical Mind: Dryden to Coleridge  
Gaut and Lopes, ed. Routledge Companion to Aesthetics

### Directions for final Research Paper

The evaluation of this final project will be based on both elements, first an annotated bibliography, due on **March 9**, then a 6-8 page essay, due on **March 15**.

The annotated bibliography should present both: 1) a statement of your research topic, presented either as an area of research or a research question; and, 2) an annotated list of 5-7 sources. These sources should be scholarly articles, books, or books chapters, with no more than one being drawn from an internet source or Encyclopedia. The annotated bibliography should list each source according to MLA bibliographical format followed by a brief summary of the contents of your source (three to six sentences should suffice). MLA format is conveniently summarized by our library staff at <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/guides/mlaqd.html>, but ask me if you have any questions.

The essay should be 6-8 pages, drawing on the research contained in your bibliography. Topics for this essay will be left to your invention, though I am happy to help you think about possible topics -- just see me early. You might try doing some historical/biographical research about one of the theorists you have read. You might do a paper suggesting how one of the theorists would read either of our two literary texts (Dante or Goethe). Or you might try a comparative analysis, talking about the differences between two of our theorists. Again, if you have any questions or doubts about this, please come see me.

### **Requirements for Double Majors (on one degree)**

- Each major must be in a different subject.
- Each major must meet all requirements set by the unit offering the major.
- Each major must satisfy the Arts and Sciences rules governing major programs: completion of any required prerequisites to the major, a minimum of 40 hours (exclusive of required prerequisites), a minimum of 20 OSU hours, no 100-level courses, a minimum 2.0 GPA, no grades below a C-.
- Each major must contain a minimum of 30 unique hours that do not overlap between the two majors.

### **Additional Information about Double Majors**

- Students pursuing a double major (two majors on the same degree) are permitted to overlap course work on the majors with the GEC, where that overlap is appropriate. (Students pursuing one major are not permitted this overlap.) It is always appropriate when the course is an approved GEC course. It is probably appropriate when the course meets the spirit of the requirement: in this case, you might encourage a student to pursue a curriculum petition explaining his or her reasons for an exception.
- If one or more of the student's majors are in the humanities or social sciences, then two courses, rather than one, from the area of the major may, if appropriate, count toward the GEC requirement in humanities or social science.
- The same rules apply to triple majors (three majors on the same degree).
- Courses used on a minor can never overlap with a major on the same degree.
- It is possible for a second major to reside on a degree for which it would not normally be awarded. A student may, for example, do a BS degree, with Psychology as the first major. She would need to meet the BS requirements for the Psychology major, but could add a second major in Economics by completing on the BA requirements for that major. Similarly, a student could complete the BS degree requirements with a major in biology and add the BA version of the Chemistry major as a second major on that degree. This looks oddest when the second major couldn't normally be awarded at all for that major—a BS degree with a Mathematics major and a second major of History (you can't normally receive a BS in History).

### **Requirements for Additional Baccalaureate Degrees**

- The major on the additional degree must be different from the major completed as part of the first degree.
- No courses used on the major for the first degree can be used on the major for the additional degree.
- No more than 10 credit hours of course work from any previous minor program can be used on the major for the additional degree.
- The student must enroll in Arts and Sciences (one of the ASC colleges or, in the case of International Studies or a PSP, in ASC itself) and complete at least 45 degree hours beyond the minimum required for the first (or the second, etc.) degree.

- At least 30 of the 45 credit hours beyond those required for the first degree must be upper-division course work. (In the case of a first degree completed at another institution, we are simply looking for 30 additional upper-division hours, not a total of 90 [or 120, etc.]).
- The student must meet all the requirements for an undergraduate degree. This includes, of course, the requirements of the GEC for the Arts and Sciences degree he is pursuing. If the student completed the first degree in another OSU college or at another University, this may involve GEC requirements the student did not have to meet in earning the first degree (the foreign language requirement, for example, in the case of most other OSU colleges).
- Students pursuing a second baccalaureate degree are required to petition to do so, and should be encouraged to do that as early as possible in their program. The student should submit an approved major program (if the first degree has already been completed) or programs (if the student is pursuing the two degrees concurrently), or at least some evidence that he or she has consulted with the department(s) involved and understands the requirements. The petition is mainly a means to ensure that the student does understand the requirements for two degrees.