

ENG 480 CONTEMPORARY LITERARY THEORY

Syllabus

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COURSE CREDIT:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

ENG 201 with a minimum grade of C or instructor's permission

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the "ASC Bookstore" icon.

Use **Section Number: 855** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Materials:

ENG 480 Course Packet from the ASC Bookstore

Required Books:

Please obtain the exact edition listed of the following books—borrow or buy as you choose.

- Abrams. (1992). *Glossary of literary term*, (6th ed.)
ISBN: 0030549825 (any later edition is acceptable)
- Brautigan. (1998). *Trout fishing in America*, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
ISBN: 0-395-50076-1
- Culler. (2000). *Literary theory*, NY: Oxford.
ISBN: 0-192-85383-X
- Fitzgerald. (1992). *The great gatsby*, NY: Collier.
ISBN: 0-020-19881-7

Tyson. (1990). *Critical theory today*, NY: Garland.
0-815-32879-6

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course studies the development of literary critical theory and practice from the beginning of the 20th century to the present, with some emphasis on important earlier theories as they relate to contemporary developments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing this course, students will:

- understand the history of 20th-century literary criticism;
- understand contemporary literary theories and their linguistic and philosophical bases;
- be able to analyze texts from a variety of contemporary perspectives;
- be better able to write critically about texts; and
- be better prepared for introductory coursework at the graduate level.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must read all assigned work, write six short critical essays (4-5 pages each), and write one final essay (8-10 pages). In addition, students must take two proctored exams.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Critical Essay 1 (Psychoanalytic and Feminist Criticism)	100 points
Critical Essay 2 (New Criticism and Reader-Response Criticism)	100 points
Critical Essay 3 (Marxist, New Historicist, and Cultural Criticism)	100 points
Proctored Exam I	100 points
Critical Essay 4 (Structuralist and Deconstructive Criticism)	100 points
Critical Essay 5 (Queer Theory, Postcolonialism, and Ethnic Studies)	100 points
Critical Essay 6 (the Postmodern Subject)	100 points
Proctored Exam II	100 points
Final Essay	<u>200 points</u>
Total Points	1000

I will grade your exams and critical essays on the basis of 1.) the strength of the arguments they make and 2.) the degree to which they demonstrate an undergraduate-level mastery of the key concepts of literary theory.

Scale:

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
599 and below	F