

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Huron University College

Department of English
Faculty of Arts and Social Science

English 2265G 550 Introduction to Theory Winter 2022

Tuesday 9:30-11:30am & Thursdays 9:30-10:30am W103

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Di Ponio

Office: A104 (Phone 519.438.7224 ext. 277)

Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-2:30pm and by appointment

E-mail: adiponi@uwo.ca

I reply to messages during business hours Monday to Friday (9-5); if you send a message Friday after 5pm, it will be replied to Monday morning.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic Calendar Description: Introduction to the major modes of literary and cultural theory, and the prevailing issues within them pertaining to medium and form, gender and sexuality, race and nation, culture and history.

This course introduces students to the strategies of analyzing forms of literary and cultural expressions. Students will take an interdisciplinary approach to exploring key schools of criticism's investigations in understanding how culture is produced and processed, the expressions of which are purposefully shaped, distributed, and consumed. The thinkers we will study will arm us with the tools for analyses of the socio-political institutions and ideologies in which cultural practices are situated and through which cultural products are created, disseminated, and understood.

We respond to culture in diverse ways through various approaches. Through individual and collective reading, research, and discussion, students will learn how to investigate cultural products – literature, art, music, theatre, television, film, customs and traditions – in order to understand them in relation to their social, political, aesthetic, ethical, and subjective contexts, ultimately providing us with ways of understanding, living, and connecting.

ANTIREQUISITE(S): English 2236F/G; the former English 2210F/G.

PREREQUISITE(S): At least 60% in 1.0 of any 1000-level English course, or permission of the Department.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Close-read and critically respond to a range of theoretical, critical, and creative texts to decipher and amass meaning
- Identify, discuss, and then apply key concepts and theoretical approaches to the English and Cultural Studies discipline in written and oral assignments
- Experience culture at the local level, applying an understanding of how that space is created for consumption
- Understand and differentiate between the strategies and practices used by various thinkers and theorists to interpret meaning
- Engage in cultural discourse with critical perspectives that reflect social, aesthetic, ethical, and political contexts
- Participate in readings and classroom discussion in order to engage with theoretical texts collaboratively

- Deliver oral presentations which demonstrate an effective application of theoretical techniques of reading and demystifying culture, thus providing an informed analysis of course and supplementary texts
- Research and engage with scholarly/critical secondary texts
- Incorporate evidence, from both primary and secondary texts, in essay writing in support of arguments
- Write essays that logically and persuasively present complex and debatable arguments
- Apply principles of quotation integration using MLA documentation

TEXTBOOKS AND COURSE MATERIALS

Class materials are posted through the course website on OWL under Course Readings and Content.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Writing Assignments (3 x 1,500 words) 3 x 15% = 45%

Presentation (completed in pairs/trios) 20%

In-class work/Attendance/Participation 10%

Final Exam 25%

NOTE. detailed assignment instructions will be provided and posted on OWL under Assignments; students are required to consult and follow those requirements. Assignments must be submitted to our course website for plagiarism checking. Assignment due dates are specified in the lecture and reading schedule below. **Late assignments will incur a penalty of 2 marks per day**, up to a maximum of one week. After seven (7) days, the assignment will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero. Late assignments will not be appended with comments. Assignments are never accepted via email. **Extensions are never granted the day an assignment is due.** Extenuating circumstances will be considered provided students seek academic accommodation if/when necessary; see the Appendix (below).

Participation: The participation grade is comprised of students' attendance and participation in classroom activities, including readings, in-class discussions, and assigned tasks. Further, students are expected to come to class prepared, having read assigned materials, and willing and able to participate. Complete details of student responsibilities regarding the participation grade will be outlined in the first week of classes.

NOTE. If students miss class, they are not entitled to Academic Accommodation regarding the Attendance and Participation grade. This particular grade registers only students' presence in class and their participation. If students are absent from class, for whatever reason, attendance and participation grades will decline. Extenuating circumstances will be considered, but students must first consult with me.

For January 2022 (and following – TBD): Students have the opportunity to earn participation grades in the course via two options: Option 1: Synchronously (Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am) via Zoom **OR** Option 2: Asynchronously via the online Forum (due Fridays at 11:55pm). Regardless of the option chosen, tasks will include large and small group discussion prompted by questions posed within the lecture ppt; tasks will require careful close-reading analysis. Students will have the choice of either grading stream at the start of the term, but can reevaluate this choice. If choosing Option 1, students should come to class having read assigned materials in order to participate meaningfully. Note that both learning styles present their own set of challenges alongside their own recognized advantages. Students who choose Option 1 agree to be on camera for the duration of the class. Note that Zoom classes will neither be recorded nor distributed via OWL. Creating and maintaining class community connections are important. All students are required to attend class having read course texts even if they choose to be evaluated via Option 2: Asynchronously via the OWL Forum.

PLAGIARISM

There is zero tolerance for plagiarism in this course.

Students must write their assignments in their own words. This is imperative given the online environment. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage, from another author, in this case including from course notes (sources will be detailed), they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing in the form of citations. This includes Internet sources. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes will take place virtually via Zoom until January 31, 2022

- Week 1** Introduction to Classical Theory; Narratology
January 11 & 13 Introduction to the course; Plato, *The Republic* (Book VII)
Gérard Genette, “Frontiers of Narrative”
- Week 2** Cultural Studies and Structuralism
January 18 & 20 Stuart Hall, “Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies”; Stuart Hall,
“Encoding, Decoding”
- Week 3** Political Approaches: Marxism
January 23 & 25 Louis Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus”
- Week 4** Historicist Approaches: Power and Discourse
February 1 & 3 Michel Foucault, “Panopticism”
Thursday, February 3: Writing Assignment 1 due (15%)
- Week 5** Culture as Industry
February 8 & 10 Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, “The Culture Industry:
Enlightenment as Mass Deception”
Sianne Ngai, “The Cuteness of the Avant Garde”
- Week 6** Space and Place
February 15 & 17 Raymond Williams, “Ideas of Nature”
- No class February 21-27: Spring Reading Week**
- Week 7** Psychoanalytic Approaches: Abjection
March 1 & 3 Julia Kristeva, *Powers of Horror: An Essay in Abjection* (Introduction)
- Week 8** Psychoanalytic Approaches: Pleasure
March 8 & 10 Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”
bell hooks, “The Oppositional Gaze: Black Female Spectators”
Thursday, March 10: Writing Assignment 2 due (15%)
- Week 9** Gender/Sexuality/Identity
March 15 & 17 Judith Butler, “Subversive Bodily Acts” from *Gender Trouble: Feminism
and the Subversion of Identity*
Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I as
Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience”
- Week 10** Race and Gender
March 22 & 24 bell hooks, “Postmodern Blackness”
Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

- Week 11** Race and Nation
March 29 & April 1 Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Introduction)
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, “The Language of African Literature”, from
Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature
- Week 12** Course Recap
April 5 & 7 **Virtual class/check-in: Thursday, April 7**
Review for **Final Exam (25%) date and time TBD**
Thursday, April 7: Writing Assignment 3 due (15%)



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Mandatory Use of Masks in Classrooms

Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Huron policy and public health directives. Students are now permitted to drink water in class by lifting and replacing the mask each time a drink is taken. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Huron policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean's Office, and such actions will be considered a violation of the Huron Student Code of Conduct.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This

decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.