

Department of English & Writing Studies

**English 2201G (001)**  
**Contemporary Theory and Criticism**  
Winter 2024

**Antirequisites:** English 2236F/G.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

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.

Course Description

This course builds on the historical foundations of [English 2200F/G](#) to concentrate on important issues in contemporary literary theory and criticism.

Course Materials

**Required Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, Third Edition (2018), Ed. by Vincent B. Leitch *et al.*

**Note: While the UWO bookstore would be the most convenient source for the anthology, you might be able to find a better deal online.** You may also want to consider such options as book-pooling, photocopying, and so on.

Methods of Evaluation

**Assignments:**

In-class test:	10%
In-class test 2:	15%
Essay 1 (1500 words)	20%
Response papers (3 papers, 5% each)	15%
Final Exam	35%
Attendance and participation	5%

**Research Essay:** A formal, extended discussion of a theoretical issue pertaining to contemporary criticism and theory, as it is reflected in at least two of the theoretical works studied in this course. Secondary research is required (at least 2 materials – essays/articles from books/academic journals). MLA citation style is required. An extended description of this assignment, as well as a list of suggested topics, will be provided in due time.

**Response papers:** These are short (about 350 words) commentaries on a theorist and the class discussions that accompanied the lecture on that theorist. You will e-mail these to me before the due dates. In the unfortunate but unlikely event of a discussion-free lecture, you may focus on the text. A good response paper will be intelligent, lively, and informal, and **will incorporate a discussion of other students' responses in class**. Individual response papers may be discussed in class, especially if they are original and/or well-written.

**Final Exam:** A combination of short-answer and essay questions. The exam will be cumulative and will be written during the exam period (date, time and location TBA).

**Note on lectures:** Given the amount of material we will be covering, students are advised to read the texts ahead of the lecture. Lecture notes used in the PowerPoints will be available on OWL after the lectures, but **not all the material covered in class will appear on OWL**, so regular attendance and note-taking are advisable.

#### Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

#### Accommodation Policies

##### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

##### **Accommodation for Students on Medical Grounds:**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

The full policy is set out here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Religious Accommodation:**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

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 [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

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

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

Jan 9, 11	Introduction, <b>Saussure</b> (824-834)
Jan 16, 18	<b>Derrida</b> (Pdf in OWL Resources)
Jan 23, 25, 30	<b>Lacan</b> (1111-1137), <b>Barthes</b> (1268-1272) <b>Barthes</b> (1277-1282) <b>In-class test Jan 23</b>
Feb 1, 6, 8	<b>Fanon</b> (1353-1360) <i>First set of response papers due by Feb 1st</i>
Feb 13, 15	<b>Foucault</b> (1394-1440)
Feb 17-25	<b>Spring Reading Week</b>
Feb 27, 29	<b>Rich</b> (1515-1534) <b>In class test 2 Feb 27</b>
March 5, 7	<b>Said</b> (1783-1805)
March 12, 14	<b>Mulvey</b> (1954-1965) <i>Second set of response papers due by March 12</i>
March 19, 21, 26	<b>Anzaldua</b> (1986-1997), <b>hooks</b> (2318-2325) <b>Essay due March 26</b>
March 28	<b>Butler</b> (2375-2388) <i>Third set of response papers due by March 28</i>
April 2, 4	Review