

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: CULTURAL THEORY
Status: Definitive
Code: **5512MEDCUL** (115008)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 90.00
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 150

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	42.000
Seminar	42.000
Tutorial	3.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	AS2	Seen exam on Structural/Post-structural and Marxist theory and applications. (Week 15)	35.0	1.50
Exam	AS3	Seen exam on Feminist and Psychoanalytic theory and applications. (Week 30)	35.0	1.50
Presentation	AS1	One 15 minute presentation, plus support notes, on the application of one theory to a literary or visual text, to take place at appropriate time with agreement of tutor.	30.0	

Aims

To introduce key ideas in French critical/linguistic theory.
To explore applications of French critical/linguistic theory to cultural and literary criticism
To introduce key ideas in Marxist theory.
To examine applications of Marxist theory to aspects of culture, ideology and literary theory.
To introduce key ideas in feminist thought in the last forty years, and its impact on history, politics and culture.
To explore applications of feminist thought to cultural and literary criticism.
To introduce key ideas in psychoanalytic theory.
To explore applications of psychoanalysis to cultural criticism.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Discuss and interpret the main features of structural/post-structural and post-modern theory.
- 2 Outline key Marxist concepts, for example (e.g. "base and superstructure", alienation, ideology, hegemony), identify central themes within Marxist cultural theory, appraise the work of selected Marxist cultural theorists, and draw comparisons between them.
- 3 Discuss and interpret main concepts and arguments in Anglo-American and French Feminist theory, the problem of inclusion and exclusion and the importance of language in the construction of current feminist theory.
- 4 Interpret main features of Freudian psychoanalytic theory and key contributions of selected post-Freudians, including Lacan.
- 5 Apply critical theory to a literary or visual text.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

EXAM	1	2	5
EXAM	3	4	5
One 15 minute presentation	5		

Outline Syllabus

Core aspects of structural semiological theory -

Saussure & semiology.

Levi-Strauss & structuralism.

Barthes.

Post-structuralism – Foucault, Derrida, discourse & deconstruction.

Post modernism (and its discontents).

Retrenchment – New Historicism, Cultural Materialism.

Core aspects of Marxism -

Marxist cultural theory: competing approaches.

The Frankfurt School.

Gramsci and hegemony.

Althusser and structural Marxism.

Arguments within British Marxism.

Core aspects of feminism -

Radical feminist thought, the shift from patriarchy and the rise of the 'socialist' woman: eg. de Beauvoir, Greer.

Polemical and provocative feminism: eg. Millet, Caplan, Showalter, Bowlby.

'French feminism': gender reconstruction, language and the body: Kristeva, Irigaray, Cixous.

Chodorow and Gilligan.

Women, Race, Class: Complicity and silence in the Developing world: Hirsch and Fox, Keller.

Core aspects of Psychoanalysis -

Freud: the structure of the psyche; drives; dreams; neurosis & therapy; stages of child development; the oedipus complex. Social theory.

Klein: Dinnerstein, Choderow.

Lacan.

Psychoanalytic critical theory.

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars involving student presentations where appropriate, and group discussion. Individual tutorials. Group work where appropriate. Individual student research, including use of the internet, and library research. Use of relevant video/DVD sources. Essay planning and writing. Tutorial activity will include support, guidance and monitoring of students' PDP.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Barry, P.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Beginning Theory (3rd ed.)
Subtitle	
Edition	

Publisher	Manchester UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Bertens, H.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Literary Theory: The Basics (2nd ed.)
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Eagleton, T.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Literary Theory (3rd ed.)
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	University of Minnesota Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Anderson, P.
Publishing Year	1998
Title	The Origins of Post-Modernity
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Verso
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Eagleton, T.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	After Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Basic Books
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Sokal, A. and Bricmont, J.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Intellectual Impostures
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Economist Books
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Eagleton, T. and Milne, D. (eds)
Publishing Year	1996
Title	Marxist Literary Theory: A Reader
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwells
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Eagleton, T.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Marxism and Literary Criticism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Grossberg, L.
Publishing Year	1988
Title	Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Milne, D.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Reading Marxist Literary Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Mulhern, F. (ed.)
Publishing Year	1992
Title	Contemporary Marxist Literary Criticism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Longman
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
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Author	Eagleton, M.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Feminist Review Collective
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Political Hystories
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Moi, T.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Sexual/Textual Politics
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Todd, J.
Publishing Year	1988
Title	Feminist Literary History: A Defence
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Polity Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Tong, R.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Feminist Thought
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Westview
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Homer, S.
Publishing Year	2005

Title	Jacques Lacan
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Wright, E.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Psychoanalytic Criticism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Notes

This two semester module introduces and examines four major theoretical approaches to cultural criticism – approaches deriving from French linguistic theory (semiology, structuralism, post-structuralism and post-modernism) Marxism, psychoanalysis and feminism – theoretical approaches which one way or another inform or underpin the option modules on the programme.