

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: POSITIONING THE READER
Status: Definitive
Code: **6508MEDCUL** (115087)
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: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 12.00
Total Delivered Hours: 42.00

Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 78

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	21.000
Seminar	21.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	Presentation (20mins) weeks 9-11 plus a paper of 1000 words: The role of the reader in literary and non literary texts.	30.0	
Essay	AS2	Essay – 2000 words week 13: reader/viewer positioning and effect on the text.	70.0	

Aims

To examine the moral and cultural implications of subject positions on 'readers' within a variety of texts including visual and literary texts.

To explore power dynamics between audience, character and author and the role of

criticism in a consideration of these issues.

To analyse the social and sexual implications that arise in subversive positioning.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically evaluate competing arguments as to the role of the reader in the interpretation of texts (literary and non-literary)
- 2 Critically analyse the moral and political impact of a variety of texts that make use of ambiguous subject positioning in literature and film.
- 3 Critically assess theoretical arguments that examine audience involvement and identification, including watching versus gazing on stage and/or screen.
- 4 Critically analyse and evaluate implications of gender positioning in audience/character relationships.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Presentation of 20 mins	1			
Essay of 2000 words	2	3	4	

Outline Syllabus

This module explores how texts situate and position readers and/or viewers. It will include an exploration of theories of constructed readers, and how the institutional power behind a text (both literary and non-literary) may be seen as imposing a subject position on the reader or viewer. It will then focus on literary texts and examine theories around the role of the reader (as opposed to the author or the text) in constructing meaning. Concept such as implied and inscribed readers, and "readerly" and "writerly" texts will be explored. There will be a consideration of texts that implicate the reader/viewer in morally ambiguous positions and how the reader may respond. There will also be an examination of the interaction of the reader with the epistolary novel, especially where author and narrator are of different genders. Apparatus Theory will be discussed, with particular reference to the gendered gaze in the visual pleasures of the screen and or stage.

Learning Activities

Lecture, screenings, group discussion, tutorial, presentations

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Barthes, R.
Publishing Year	1980
Title	The Pleasures of the Text
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Hill and Wang
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Bataille, G.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Eroticism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Penguin Modern Classics
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Belsey, C.
Publishing Year	1985
Title	The Subject of Tragedy
Subtitle	Identity and Difference in Renaissance Drama
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Bray, J.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	The Epistolary Novel
Subtitle	Representations of Consciousness
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Carson, J.
Publishing Year	1989
Title	"Narrative Cross Dressing and the Critique of Authorship in the novels of Richardson" in Goldsmith, E. ed. Writing the Female Voice
Subtitle	Essays on Epistolary Literature
Edition	
Publisher	Boston UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Doane, M.
Publishing Year	1987
Title	The Desire to Desire
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Indiana UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Eagleton, T.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Literary Theory
Subtitle	an Introduction
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Fairclough, N.
Publishing Year	1993
Title	Discourse and Social Change
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Polity
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Leech, G. and Short, M.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Style in Fiction
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Longmans
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Mulvey, L.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Visual and other Pleasures
Subtitle	
Edition	2nd Ed
Publisher	Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN	

Notes

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