Introduction to Literary Analysis (SPAN 6700)
Prof. Aurélie Vialette
M 9-11:45 am
Denney Hall 026

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Required texts (available at the bookstore or on amazon, abebooks, etc):


6) E-reader on Carmen.

Course description

This course is an introduction to cultural studies and theory. We will discuss current trends and discussions in cultural studies, and raise questions about literature, politics, subalternity, sexuality, gender, feminism, urban studies, revolutions, ethnicity, violence, and multiculturalism, among others. Students are expected to come to class prepared (i.e. having read the texts and done the assigned homework for that day).

Grading

Participation 25%
Concepts definitions 15%
Oral presentations (2) 20%
Interview 10%
Take home exams (2) 30%

Course requirements

Participation and homework (25%): This is a discussion based class. Your consistent participation is a key component of our learning environment. In this class, reading all texts for the week is absolutely required. I expect you to come to class ready to discuss the readings, to articulate questions about what you did not understand, and to help your classmates understand the texts, concepts, etc. Therefore, no more than two (2) unexcused absences will be allowed. In the case of more than two unexcused absences, your grade will be affected in the following way: for each unexcused absence, you will lose half a letter (from A to A-). Homework should be posted on Carmen in the Discussion section in the proper Forum on Sunday before 5pm.

Concepts’ definitions (15%): each student will define two key concepts of his or her choice from the theory/theories read for every class. These assignments should be posted on Carmen in the Discussion section in the proper Forum on Sundays before 5pm.

Oral presentations (10% each): Each student will have two oral presentations during the semester. One will be on a specific theory discussed for the selected day; the second will be about a reading of a chosen text/phenomenon (by the student, in consultation with me, a week prior to the presentation). The preparation of a handout is required for each presentation in class.

Interview (10%): During the semester, each of you will have to interview a professor from our department in order to ask him or her how he/she approaches theory in his or her research. The interviews will be recorded and then posted on Carmen. Everybody will have the responsibility to listen to the interview prior to coming to class. The student-interviewer will have to make a report in class, distribute a handout, which will serve as a point of departure for our discussion. The professors that you will interview are: Prof. Pereira, Prof. Podalsky, Prof. Trigo, Prof. Burgoyne, Prof. Grinstead, Prof. Martínez-Cruz, Prof. Unzueta, Prof. Costigan.

Take home exams (15% each): There will be two take-home exams. Questions will be posted on Carmen and you will have two weeks to complete the assignment and turn it in the Dropbox.
Students who do not complete the assignment on time will be penalized as follow: half a letter per day (from A to A-), one letter per week (from A to B).
Academic integrity and student Misconduct
For all the assignments for this course, the Code of Student Conduct of The Ohio State University is in effect. Academic misconduct is defined as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:
Violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus or other information provided to the student; violation of program regulations as established by departmental committees and made available to students;
Submitting plagiarized work for an academic requirement. Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas;
Submitting substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for one course that has been submitted in satisfaction of requirements for another course, without permission of the instructor of the course for which the work is being submitted;
For an extended version of these examples please refer to http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp

To avoid plagiarism, students must make sure that they:
Always cite their sources (following the MLA format).
Read the guidelines for written assignments more than once.
If in doubt consult with your professor.

Disabilities
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency, I will contact you via email. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

PROGRAM
(subject to changes)
August 26
1) Introductions.
2) Syllabus.
3) Presentations in class: calendar.
4) Interviews: organization, calendar.

September 2: LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

September 9

GETTING READY. WHAT IS CULTURAL STUDIES? WHAT IS THEORY?

HOMEWORK
• Formulate a thesis regarding our role as critics, and the different challenges we have ahead of us in the field(s) of the Humanities. Consider, as well, what are the specific challenges of the Latin American and Iberian Studies within the Humanities.

September 16

THEORY AND METHOD

September 23

SPACE, TIME, CITIES

September 30

SPACE, TIME, CITIES
1) David Harvey. Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution. London: Verso, 2012. (Selection - on Carmen)

HOMEWORK
• Write about the Occupy movement or any other recent urban uprising (Río, Egypt, Spain, Chile, México, etc). What is the role played by blogs and other forms of online writing? Create a database that includes blogs, online articles, regular articles, and books. Some of the authors you might want to check include (among others you will discover on your own), Stéphane Hessel, Noam Chomsky, José Luis Sampedro, Gitlin, and many others. In your text, consider also the vocabulary that is being used in other urban uprisings (indignados, Arab Spring, and so on). Focus on some of those movements across the Latin American and Iberian spaces. 3 pages.

October 4th: First take home exam will be available on Carmen.

October 7

VIOLENCE

October 14

BIG BROTHERING

3) George Orwell’s Letter on Why He Wrote ‘1984’:

October 18th: First take home exam to be uploaded on Carmen.

October 21

**LEISURE, CULTURE:**

October 28

**LITERATURE**

November 4

**ETHNICITY AND MULTICULTURALISM**
November 11: VETERAN’S DAY - NO CLASS

November 15th: Second take home exam will be available on Carmen.

November 18

SEXUALITY, GENDER STUDIES, FEMINISM

November 25

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

HOMEWORK
- Look for projects in the digital humanities related to Latin American and Iberian cultures, in any language. Create a database. Criticize the projects individually and suggest a definition (a thesis) encompassing the challenges of new projects in the digital humanities. Check, as well, the last issues of some of the new publications in this field, like the following:
  - [http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/](http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/)
  - [http://www.digitalhumanities.org/](http://www.digitalhumanities.org/)
  - [http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/](http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/)
November 29th: Second take home exam to be uploaded on Carmen.

December 2
Conclusions.