



**ENG340-01 – Literary Theory
College of Science and Arts
Spring 2012**

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: ENG340-01
Course Name: Literary Theory

Required Textbook

Richter, David H. *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends*, 3rd Ed. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

Course Description/Overview

ENG 340-01 Literary Theory introduces students to the complex set of concepts and intellectual assumptions on which rests the interpretation of literary texts. "Literary theory refers to any principles derived from internal analysis of literary texts or from knowledge external to the text that can be applied in multiple interpretive situations. All critical practice regarding literature depends on an underlying structure of ideas in at least two ways: theory provides a rationale for what constitutes the subject matter of criticism—"the literary"—and the specific aims of critical practice—the act of interpretation itself" (IEP).

In particular, the course introduces theoretical paradigms then surveys classic and contemporary texts. Paradigms will include M. H. Abrams and address Mimetic, Formal, Rhetorical, and Expressive theories; R.S. Crane and Norman Friedman Concentric Circles (Ethical, Historical, Sociological, Biographical, Formal, Psychological, and Myth and Archetypal interpretations); and Richard McKeon Methods or Modes of Thought (Dialectic, Operational, Problematic, and Logistic). Expect this course to be a "whirlwind tour of a huge subject."

Moodle Course Environment

Once you log in (<http://mwsu.mrooms3.net/>), you will find announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and required activities within this environment. You will be expected to submit all required work within this environment.

Course Policies

Disability: If you have been diagnosed with a disability or if you suspect that you may have a disability that has never been diagnosed and would like to find out what services may be available, please visit the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Eder Hall, room 203N or visit the ODS website at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/ds/> as soon as possible. This syllabus, as well as all other printed or electronic materials, can be made available in alternative/accessible formats if requested with sufficient prior notice. Missouri Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. Please notify me in writing of any disability that you believe may affect your work in this class within the first week of classes.

Academic Honesty: Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents, or academic records, or any other fraudulent classroom activity. Plagiarism is the unaccredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas. Violations of academic honesty will result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from school. Please consult your *Student Handbook*.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be charted through completion of assignments. You should follow closely weekly instructions. While your syllabus serves as a general roadmap, some changes in the route may become necessary. Intensive reading and writing assignments require computer work and use of Moodlerooms. You are encouraged to bring computers to class with you, or minimally, to be prepared for an intensive workshop environment. Remember, your energy, effort, and actual production will be carefully monitored throughout the course.

Late Assignments: Late work will not be accepted.

Course Learning Objectives

- Explore and learn the ways theorists have charted the terrains of criticism.
- Read and understand classic texts in literary criticism.
- Become familiar with contemporary movements in literary criticism.
- Read selections from contemporary theorists and critics.

Course Requirements

1. Create and use theoretical paradigms (maps) to guide you in assigned readings; be sure you read introductory materials to each assignment.
2. Complete readings and Blog entries for each assignment. You should treat this assignment in two parts: notes on reading; reflection on theoretical paradigm most appropriate to theorist or author. Minimally, you should complete and post into your blog one page of writing (single-spaced for each assigned theorist or author). Use bullets and page references in notes. Reflections must demonstrate your evolving understanding of theoretical paradigms. Blogs will be public (available to instructor and students).
3. Complete mid-term and final examinations.

Grading Scheme

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade points/credit	Rating
A	90% & above	4.00	Excellent
B	80% – 89%	3.00	Good
C	70% – 79%	2.00	Average
D	60% – 69	1.00	Below Average
F	59% and below	0.00	Failure
I	An incomplete grade may be given when accident, illness, death in the immediate family, or other documented circumstances beyond your control prevent you from completing some course requirements. An incomplete grade will be considered only when you have satisfied the		

majority of course requirements. An incomplete grade must be removed within six weeks after the first day of the next term (fall, spring, summer) of the semester in which it was received; otherwise, the grade will be recorded as "F."

Grading Policy

Theoretical Paradigms Create three maps charting major theoretical terrains. As part of this roadmap, identify the major theorists associated by Richter with each approach. Please complete as diagrams; this requires careful reading of the Introduction. Diagrams must identify suggested theorists for each paradigm. You should keep these maps close at hand as you complete reading assignments.	A,B,C,D,F	These maps will serve as your navigational guide through the remainder of the course. 1 grade
Complete 10 Reading and Blog Assignments	A, B, C, D, F	2 grades assigned at mid-term and last week before finals. The purpose of the blogs is to demonstrate reading and understanding assigned readings in terms of theoretical paradigms.
Mid-term and Final Examinations	A, B, C, D, F	2 grades
Final Grade	A, B, C, D, F	Average of 5 grades

JANUARY '12						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 **New Year's Day (Observed)**
16 **M.L. King Jr. Day no classes**

FEBRUARY '12						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

20 **Presidents Day**

MARCH '12						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

11 **Daylight Saving Time begins**

APRIL '12						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

March 11-18 **Spring Break**

April 30 Last Day of Classes

MAY '12						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

10 **Final Grades Due**
28 **Memorial Day**

Campus re-opens	Jan. 2	Monday
Spring Registration/Orientation Program	Jan. 10	Tuesday
Walk-In Registration	Jan. 12	Thursday
Wintersession Ends	Jan. 13	Friday
Martin Luther King Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed)	Jan. 16	Monday
Classes Begin	Jan. 17	Tuesday
President's Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed)	Feb. 20	Monday

Spring Break (no classes)	Mar. 11-18	
Mid-term Grades Due	Mar. 21	Wednesday
Last Day to Withdraw	Mar. 30	Friday
Registration Begins for Summer/Fall	Apr. 2	Monday
Last Day of Classes	Apr. 30	Monday
Study Day	May 1	Tuesday
Final Exams	May 2-8	
Final Grades Due	May 10	Thursday
Commencement	May 12	Saturday

Course Schedule

Week One Jan. 18, 20

Read Introduction, pp. 1-22. Create maps of three major theoretical paradigms, and identify theorists who belong to each; this means creating a map of the four different types of literary theory outlined by M.H. Abrams—Mimetic, Formal, Rhetorical, and Expressive; the Concentric Circles of R.S. Crane and Norman Friedman; and Richard McKeon's four modes of thought. Understand the Crane and Friedman placement of the work of art at the center of approaches: Formal, Biographical, Sociological, Historical, Ethical, Psychological, Mythological and Archetypal.

Week Two Jan. 23, 25, 27

Assignment 1 due January 27: Submit three maps charting major theoretical terrains. This roadmap will guide you through the remainder of the course.

Week Three Jan. 30, Feb. 1 and 3

Assignment 2 Mimetic Theorists: Read selections by Aristotle, Plato, and Plotinus, and Sontag; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be understood relative to the Mimetic paradigm. The Mimetic must stress the relationship between the world and art and classical antiquity. Sontag is added here relative to her critique of the mimetic. Blog will be completed by **February 3**.

Week Four and Five Feb. 6, 8, 10, Feb. 13, 15, 17

Assignment 3 Rhetorical Theorists: Read selections by four of the following: Horace, Dante, Johnson, Sidney, Pope, Dryden, Hume, and Wordsworth; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as Rhetorical theorists or as eroding a Rhetorical perspective. The Rhetorical empahsizes the relationship between the

work of art and the artist. This tradition belongs to the late classical, Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, and declined toward the end of the eighteenth century. Blog will be completed by **February 17**

Week Six Feb. 20 Holiday , 22, **24**

Assignment 4 Expressive Theorists: Read selections from three of the following: Longinus, Tolstoy, Woolf, Freud, Jung, Frye, and de Staël; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as, in some way, help to illuminate Expressive perspectives. The Expressive theoretical model emphasizes the relationship between the work of art and the artist, emphasizing special faculties of mind. These theories proliferated during the late eighteenth and most of the nineteenth centuries. Blog will be completed by **February 24**.

Week Seven Feb. 27, 29, and March **2**;

Assignment 5 Review Richard McKeon's theoretical paradigm. Read selections from Hegel and Coleridge, and review Plato, Aristotle, and Plotinus as Dialectical theorists; in your blog in Moodle, explain how three of these writers can logically be identified as dialecticians. Understand Dialectic as concerned with the interdisciplinary and a bounded but interconnected whole (reality) with both lower and upper realms; it has been defined as "a method of assimilation to a model whereby comprehensive truths are approximated or embodied." Blog will be completed by **March 2**.

Week Eight March 5, 7, **9**

Assignment 6 Mid-term Examination over theoretical paradigms and theorists on March 9.

Mid-term Grades Due (2 grades: blogs (1 grade) and Mid-term Examination (1) **Mar. 21** Wednesday

Spring Break March 11-18

Week Nine March 19, 21, 23

Assignment 7: Read selections from Dewey, and review Aristotle; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as Problematic and discipline bound theorists. The Problematic thinker emphasizes the irreconcilable number of things and not single method or answer or set of terms to grapple with all problems. Blog will be completed by **March 23**.

Week Ten March 26, 28, 30

Assignment 8 Read selections from Cicero, Pope, and Burke; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as Operational theorists. Operationalists discriminate and postulate arbitrary formulations in order to distinguish different legitimate perspectives. These theorists also take holistic views but see them as determined by the way people view them; there is no higher realm of truth. Blog will be completed by **March 30**.

Week Eleven April 2, 4, 6

Assignment 9: Read selections from three of the following: Machiavelli, Descartes, Hobbes, Levi-Straus, Freud, and de Beauvoir; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as Logistical theorists. Logistical thinkers avoid the holistic, but unlike the Problematic, they use a single scientific methodology. Blog will be completed by **April 6**.

Week Twelve April 9, 11, 13

Assignment 10: Formalism: Please note that Formalism belongs as a fourth traditional classification in the M.H. Abrams model. This perspective stresses the purely aesthetic relationship between the parts of a work of literature, analyzing themes or motifs. Read Introduction and selections from at least three of the following: Behn, Richards, Shklovsky, Propp, Brooks, and Wimsatt and Beardsley; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as Expressive theorists. Blog will be completed by **April 13**.

Week Thirteen April 16, 18, 20

Assignment 11 Structuralism and Deconstruction: Read selections from at least three of the following: Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Barthes, Foucault, Derrida, and Eco. in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified as Structuralist or Deconstructionist theorists. Blog will be completed by **April 20**.

Week Fourteen April 23, 25, 27

Assignment 12: Postmodernism: Read selections from at least three of the following: Lyotard, Habermas, Haraway, and Hutcheon, and Hooks; in your blog in Moodle, explain how each of these writers can logically be identified Structuralist or Deconstructionist theorists. Blog will be completed by **April 27**.

Last Day Class April 30Week Fifteen Final Examination May 2-8

Assignment 13: Final Examination over Formalism, New Criticism, Neo-Aristotelian, Structuralism and Deconstruction, and Postmodernism paradigms and theorists.

Final grades will be posted May 10