

English 3301
Introduction to Lit. Studies
Fall 2008 TTh 5:30-7
RG Cullen 102
Section 15265

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Required Texts:

Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*
Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Edward Said, *Orientalism*
William Shakespeare, *Othello*
e-reserves available through the University of Houston library website

Course Description: The goal of this course is to instill critical thinking skills and improve students' ability to analyze literary, rhetorical, and cultural texts. Improved writing and reading skills and introduction to a sample of basic critical schools and literary genres are among the secondary goals. For this reason, the reading list chooses from a number of literary genres, periods, and critical approaches. We are also interested in literature's place within society, and literature as a socially significant artifact. Thus, we will try to achieve the course goals through the critical examination of a series of archetypal 'mythologies' or grand stories that are used to organize our experience with society and the world as contemporary citizens of the United States. The central themes of the course are: 1. civilization, 2. love, and 3. America.

Requirements: The most important requirement is that you do all the reading according to the schedule I have made and be in class every day and on time. You will be asked to write three short papers and do several short assignments such as outlines, response papers, and pop quizzes that cannot be made up.

Grades: Paper 1 and your average for all short assignments each count for 20% of your grade. Papers 2 and 3 count 30%.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing sources without acknowledgement, submitting work produced either wholly by someone else or with the unauthorized assistance of someone else, and copying from another person. Any student who engages in such activity will be dropped from the course with a final grade of F.

Schedule

UNIT 1 MYTHMAKING

week 1

8/21 Introductions

8/23 Barthes, *Mythologies* pp. 1-77

week 2

8/28 Barthes, *Mythologies* pp. 107-end

8/30 Wimsatt, "What to Say About a Poem"*; Eagleton, "What is Literature?"**

UNIT 2 CIVILIZATION

week 3

9/4 Shelley, "Ozymandias"†; Kipling, Stevenson, "Travel" †

9/6 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* Chapter 1

week 4

9/11 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* Chapters 2 and 3

9/13 Foucault, "The Order of Discourse"*; "What is an Author?"*

week 5

9/18 Said, *Orientalism* pp. 1-49

9/20 Said, *Orientalism* pp. 49-110

week 6

9/25 Yeats, "The Second Coming" †; Cavafy, "Waiting for the Barbarians" † PAPER 1

UNIT 3 LOVE

9/27 Shakespeare, selected sonnets†

week 7

10/2 Shakespeare, *Othello* Act 1 and 2

10/4 Shakespeare, *Othello* Acts 3 and 4

week 8

10/9 Shakespeare, *Othello* Act 5

10/11 Freud "Family Romance"*; Chessler, "Why Madness"*; Mulvey "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"*

week 9

10/16 Butler *Gender Trouble* Chapter 1*; Sedgwick, "Swan in Love"*

10/18 Flaubert, *Flaubert in Egypt**; Said, *Orientalism* 166-226

week 10

10/23 Munro, "The Albanian Virgin"*

10/25 Cisneros, "Eyes of Zapata"*; Plath, "Daddy"*

week 11

10/30 Forché, "Reunion" †; Faiz, "Don't Ask Me for that Love Again" † PAPER 2

UNIT 4 AMERICA

11/1 from "The Narrative of the Captivity of Mary Rowlandson"*

week 12

11/6 Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky* Part 1

11/8 Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky* Part 2

week 13

11/13 Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky* Part 3

11/15 TBA

week 14

11/20 *Orientalism* pp. 284-end, Berlant, "Theory of Infantile Citizenship"*

11/22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

week 15

11/27 McAlister, "Iran, Islam, and the Terrorist Threat"*; Zizek, "Passions of the Real"*

11/29 Ghosh, "The Anglophone Empire"*; Blogs by Salaam Pax and Riverbend

12/4 FINAL PAPER DUE

*see e-reserves online

†short poem distributed in class