ANG 6032 Modern Literary Theory
Prof.: Amaryll Chanady
Winter 2018
Monday 13.00-16.00
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The object of this seminar is to introduce graduate students to some of the main theoretical approaches and debates of the past three decades, as well as to some of the major theoretical texts that have influenced contemporary literary and cultural studies. The seminar thus seeks to provide an in-depth study of particular issues and perspectives by concentrating on theoretical writings considered to be of major significance and by situating these within a broader cultural and intellectual context. The main issues dealt with concern the various conceptualizations of subjectivity, especially those influenced by postmodern and poststructuralist theory, and reflections on the specificity of the literary, postmodernity, space, embodiment, literature and the political, experience, biopolitics, cognitive mapping, ideology and psychoanalysis. Theoretical orientations covered extensively in other graduate seminars will not be discussed in detail in this seminar. Although most of the readings on the syllabus are theoretical, several short literary texts will be examined in order to illustrate issues studied in class.

Syllabus

Jan. 8 Introduction
Jan. 15 Literature and the figural: Lyotard and Huemer
Jan. 22 The narratological imaginary: Gibson; literature and affect: Deleuze
Jan. 29 Literature and the political: Jameson and Horton/Baumeister
Feb. 5 The politics of literature: Rancière and Rorty
Feb. 12 Space – from the village to the city: Harvey and Merrifield
Feb. 19 Embodiment and experience: Jay, Grosz
Feb. 26 Literary illustrations: Irving and Atwood
Mar. 5 Mid-term break
Mar. 12 Foucault and the disciplinary society: Foucault and Robert Young
Mar. 19 Biopolitics: Patton and Esposito
Mar. 26 Subjectivity: Butler and Alcoff
April 2 Easter break
April 9 Gender and poetics of space: Bachelard, Chopin and Cisneros
April 16 Conclusion. Papers due

Reading list


Rorty, Richard. “Private irony and liberal hope.” *Contingency, irony, and


**Work Required**

Regular participation in class discussions
One oral presentation in class (20 minutes)
One final paper on a different subject and on texts not covered in class (15 pages)