

**Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism**  
**English 340-01**  
**Introduction to Literary Theory**  
**TR 3:30-4:50 Murphy 104**  
**Dr. Stacia Bensyl SSC 222I**  
**Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:bensyl@missouriwestern.edu)**  
**Office hours: 1:30-3:30 TR, 10:00-12:00 W, and by appointment**

**Required Texts:**

Bressler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2007.

Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.

Handouts and online texts assigned in class.

**Course Objectives:**

- • **Become familiar with various critical theories of literature.**
- • **Apply those theories to texts.**
- • **Write about texts using critical theory.**
- • **Discuss critical theory in the classroom.**

**In order to reach those objectives students will:**

- **Write four, 4-5 page papers applying four different critical theories to four different texts (at least three of which must be literary). Instructions for these papers will be distributed in class. Each paper is worth 50 points.**
- **Participate in class discussion and writing about literary theory.**
- **Choose to participate in the optional Worthless Quizzes (no class credit given) applying critical theory to a text. Those questions are posted outside my door. Most students find these amusing and, dare I say, fun.**
- **Take an objective (multiple-choice, matching, etc.) mid-term worth 100 points.**
- **Take an objective (multiple-choice, matching, etc.) final exam worth 100 points.**

**Attendance policy:**

I don't take roll, I just expect you to be here. Yes, it is *theoretically* possible to pass the class even if you aren't here every day, but it will hurt your grade.

**Student Disability:**

Students with disabilities (impaired hearing, vision, reading disorders, etc.) should notify me in writing of the disability before the end of the first week of class. In consultation with the Center for Academic Support, I will work out a course of study for such students.

**Academic Honesty:**

I abide by the standards for academic honesty outlined in the student handbook. Students whom I catch cheating—and I do catch them—will automatically receive an “F” in the course. I will also report them to the department chair and the dean.

*Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process*

*Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. 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 activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student’s grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.*

*Please see the 2006-07 Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>*

**Grading policy:**

You cannot pass this class without turning in all four papers. It’s important that I see your work throughout the semester. The grading scale is as follows.

- 100-90% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 59-0% = F

**Assignment values:**

<b>4 papers @ 50 points each</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>200 points</b>
<b>1 mid-term exam @ 100 points</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>1 final exam @ 100 points</b>	<b>=</b>	<b><u>100 points</u></b>
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>400 total points possible</b>

**Final Exam:** Thursday, May 6, 2:00-3:50

**Tentative Class Assignment Schedule**

**Please remember that this is a TENTATIVE schedule. We may need to adjust due dates or assignment dates as the semester progresses.**

**NB: Don’t be alarmed by all of the “paper due date” listings. Remember that you must write four papers. You choose your theory and your text.**

January	19	Introduction
	21	Bressler 1-20
	26	Joyce Introduction

	28	Joyce Chapter I
	26	Joyce Chapter II
	29	Joyce Chapter III
	31	Joyce Chapter IV
February	2	Joyce Chapter V
	4	<b>Paper due date (Bio. or Hist.)</b>
		<b>New Criticism</b>
		Bressler 50-66
	9	New Criticism and Joyce
	11	New Criticism and Joyce
	16	<b>Paper due date (New Critical)</b>
		<b>Marxist Criticism</b>
		Bressler 191-207
	18	Marxism and Joyce
	23	Marxism and Joyce
	25	<b>Paper due date (Marxist)</b>
		<b>Structural and Deconstruction</b>
		Bressler 96-131
March	2	Structuralism and Joyce
	5	Structuralism/Deconstruction and Joyce
	7	Structuralism/Deconstruction and Joyce
	9	<b>Mid-term exam</b>
	11	<b>Paper due date (Structural/Deconstruction)</b>
		<b>Psychoanalytic Criticism</b>
		Bressler 142-161
	16	Spring Break—no class
	18	Spring Break—no class
	23	Psychoanalytic Criticism and Joyce
	25	flex day
	30	Psychoanalytic Criticism and Joyce
April	1	<b>Paper due date (Psychoanalytic)</b>
		<b>Feminist Criticism</b>
		Bressler 167-186
	6	Feminism and Joyce
	8	Feminism and Joyce
	13	<b>Paper due date (Feminist)</b>
		<b>Post-colonial Criticism</b>
		Bressler 235-244
	15	Post-colonialism and Joyce
	20	Post-colonialism and Joyce
	22	<b>Paper due date (Post-colonial)</b>
		<b>Queer Theory</b>
		Bressler 252-260
	27	Queer Theory and Joyce
	29	<b>Paper due date (Queer Theory)</b>
		Winding up

