

## COLI 211B – Literature & Psychology

FALL 2009

(Section 1)

**Time:** Tuesday, Thursday: 4:25 – 5:55 pm

**Instructor:** Cagri Baris Kasap

**Office:** LT 1409

**Email:** [ckasap1@binghamton.edu](mailto:ckasap1@binghamton.edu)

**Office Hours:** Thursday – 3:30 – 4:25 pm

### **Course Description:**

Literature is nothing but a direct inscription of psychology. It is nothing other than but seeing many psychologies of different peoples, races, classes, manners, attitudes, alternatives when they are rolling around a fixed central point. In other words, literature is the art of seeing all of these strands from a point that is both out of them and included in all of them at the same time. This is the only condition that allows this fixed point (literature) to be experimental, to be open to experience.

We are going to dwell on this question and will try to describe this relation itself through salient (and more clinical) points of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, Ferdinand de Saussure's linguistics to jurisprudence and autobiography and to see through this relationship political openings in order to understand a little more of what the 'unconscious' is.

This is a class that is going to develop your reading and writing skills. You have to spare at least four or five hours outside the class for completing the assigned reading and writing tasks.

Overall, this is a class to develop your thinking abilities.

### **B) Course Requirements:**

The course fulfills both 'C' (composition) and 'H' (Humanities) requirements.

#### **B.1.) Class Policy:**

Students are supposed to come to class having read the material and to

bring the text books on the dates that they are due. Of not bringing the texts on the assigned date will lower your participation grade for that day.

During the class time, no sleeping is allowed. Anyone sleeping will receive a negative mark for their participation grade on that day.

In the assignments, plagiarism will not be tolerated at all. If I catch any plagiarism, I will directly inform the proper administrative channels. Please check [http://bulletin.binghamton.edu/program.asp?program\\_id=703#1](http://bulletin.binghamton.edu/program.asp?program_id=703#1) for further information on academic honesty violations. Please especially check how plagiarism is defined.

### **B.2.) Participation:**

This is by and large a discussion-based course, thus, discussion and participation will be fundamental. From time to time I will come up with questions or will simply ask you to discuss when the material amounts up to an interest. Of course, I am not going to jump on your throat to speak but it is going to be wise to participate since participation is a major part of your overall grade. Making a commentary is, of course, an important indication of how well you have understood what you read but is not always an easy task to accomplish, either. Once you make some comments, some of them will be right and some of them will be wrong. Do not be offended if I correct some of your commentaries.

Unexpected quizzes might be given by the instructor at any time during the semester. The grades that you receive from these quizzes will be added into your participation grade. The total number of quizzes will create % 5 of your participation grade.

### **B.3.) Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken each class time and therefore is obligatory. Missing more than 9 hours (6 class times) will turn into an immediate failure (F). Only exceptions of official reports and papers will be accepted. This might include health reports, funeral notices, court summons etc. No reasoning without any official documentation will be tolerated!

As far as the unpredictable consequences of life happen, I may not be able to do much either. However, the only exception that I can tolerate could be an earlier notice if the absence is caused because of a scheduled event (home trips, funeral trips etc.). If you do not miss any classes until the end of the term, you will receive an award of extra points if your grade is approximate but not in the borders of the next letter grade. And if you miss any classes, points will be deducted both from your participation and attendance grade and consequently, will affect your overall final grade.

Anybody who is late more than the first ten minutes of the class will not be allowed to enter. This includes me as well. If I am late more than fifteen minutes, you have the right to leave; the class will be canceled for that day.

### **C) Papers Techniques:**

All the papers are double-spaced, in 12 points, with the margins of 1 inch from the top and bottom and 1.25 inches from the left and right. You have to use proper MLA citation format. The alignments on the first page should also be in conjunction with the MLA style. There will be an example of the First Page on the blackboard (Course Documents Menu). You can check <http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html> for instructions on how to cite properly in MLA Style.

### **D) Grade Breakdown:**

Response Papers: % 5 each, (1 page, single-spaced) – are short assignments that will ask to summarize the readings or answer the questions adapted by the instructor.

First Paper: % 15, (3 pages, 1.5 points-spaced) – the topic will be assigned by the instructor and announced on the blackboard.

Second Paper: % 15, (3 pages, 1.5 points-spaced) – the topic will be assigned by the instructor and announced on the blackboard.

Third Paper: % 20, (4 pages, 1.5 points- spaced) – the topic will be assigned by the instructor and announced on the blackboard.

Participation: % 15 - see B.1.

Attendance: % 10 - see B.2.

(First, Second, Third papers are re-writable after consultation with the instructor. Suggestions on Re-writes: Re-writes are not just corrections of grammatical mistakes and other general mistakes that I have marked on your papers. If you just correct the grammatical or other mistakes, you will gain one or two more points increments. Re-writes are designed for re-writing the paper entirely. Thus, I, strongly, suggest to re-write the paper if you want to write the entire paper again.)

## F) Grade Schema:

100 - 90 – A	73 - 70- C
90 - 87 – A-	70 – 64 – C-
87 - 83 – B+	64 – 60 – D+
83 - 80 – B	60 - 50 - D
80 - 76 – B-	50 – below - F
76 - 73 – C+	

## G) Class Texts:

### Mandatory:

- Coetzee, J.M. Foe., New York: Penguin Books, 1986.
- Murakami, Haruki. After Dark. trans. E. Jay Rubin. New York: Random House, 2007.
- Blanchot, Maurice. The Last Man. Trans. Lydia Davis. Columbia University Press. New York: 1985. (**on blackboard**).

### Subsidiary:

- Oshima, Alice and Ann Hoque. Introduction to Academic Writing. London: Longman Group Books, 2006.
- Spivak, Gayatri. "Theory in the Margin, Coetzee's 'Foe' Reading Defoe's Crusoe / Roxana." English in Africa 17.2 (1990): 191-223. Rpt. in Consequences of Theory. Ed. Jonathan Arac and Barbara Johnson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1991. 154-180. (on blackboard)

All the texts can be found in the University Bookstore or on blackboard. I have no objections if you can find any of the books by your own means or find other editions as far as you keep the responsibility of equating the differences in your editions with the one reserved for the course.

## **Tentative Schedule:**

- The instructor deserves the right to change the syllabus any time during the semester.
- This is the general trajectory of the texts and the speed in which we are going to process the readings. However, the readings might be expanded or passed quicker depending on the level of comprehension.

**Sept/01:** Introduction- Meeting

**Sept/03:** *What is Unconscious?* - Freud, Sigmund (on Blackboard) (Response Paper 1)

**Sept/08:** *'The Development of the Libido and Sexual Organizations' Complete Lectures on Psychoanalysis* - Freud, Sigmund (on Blackboard) (Response Paper 2)

**Sept/10:** *The Mirror Stage as the Formative Function of I* - Lacan, Jacques (on Blackboard) (Response Paper 3)

**Sept/15:** Excerpts from *The Sex Which is Not One (of that)* – Irigaray Luce (Response Paper 4)

**Sept/17:** *Course In General Linguistics* – Saussure, Ferdinand (INTRODUCTION: Chapter VII, VII (on Blackboard)

**Sept/22:** continued

**Sept/24:** PART I: Chapter I, IV – (on Blackboard) (Response Paper 5)

**Sept/29:** continued

**Oct/01:** PART IV: Chapter I, II, III (on blackboard)

**Oct/06:** *Foe* – Coetzee, J.M. 1-40

**Oct/08:** *Foe* - 40-80

**Oct/13:** *Foe* - 80-120

**Oct/15:** *Foe* - 120-160

**Oct/20:** *'The Problems of Oedipus' Anti-Oedipus* – (on Blackboard) Deleuze, Gilles & Felix Guattari (Submission of First Paper)

**Oct/22:** *Letter to the Father*, Kafka

**Oct/27:** *An Exaggerated Oedipus*, (on Blackboard) Deleuze & Guattari

**Oct/29:** *The Last Man* 1-25 – Blanchot, Maurice

**Nov/03:** *The Last Man* 25-50

**Nov/05:** *The Last Man* 50-80

**Nov/10:** *The Face*, Agamben, Giorgio (on Blackboard)

**Nov/12:** *After Dark* 0-30 – Murakami, Haruki (submission of the Second Paper)

**Nov/17:** *After Dark* 30-62

**Nov/19:** *After Dark* 62-100

**Nov/24:** *After Dark* 100-134

**Dec/1:** *After Dark* 134-167

**Dec/3:** *After Dark* 167-191

**Dec/8:** *What Remains of Rembrandt Torn into Pieces and Flushed Down the Toilet* - Genet, Jean (on Blackboard)

**Dec/10:** (Submission of Third Paper)