

Contemporary Theories of Rhetoric

Daily Syllabus

Note – all readings & assignments must be completed by the date they are listed on the syllabus. Please see the Course Policy Statement for details about writing assignments.

January 7 – all teachings begin with an invocation

TO READ

Christian, “The Race for Theory”

Maracle, “Oratory: Coming to Theory”

Harjo, “The Creation Story,” The Woman Who Fell From the Sky,” “The Naming,” “The Flood,” “A Postcolonial Tale,” from *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky*

TO DO

Introductions, decisions, practices, practice

January 14 – on disciplines & discourses

TO READ

Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses”

Foucault, from *Archaeology of Knowledge*:

Part I – Introduction, pgs. 3-17;

Part II – The Discursive Regularities, pgs. 21-76;

Part III – The Statement and the Archive:

“Defining the Statement,” pgs. 79-87;

“The Enunciative Function,” pgs. 88-105;

“The Historical *a priori* and the Archive,” pgs. 126-131;

Part IV – Archaeological Description:

“Archaeology and the History of Ideas,” pgs. 135-140;

“Science and Knowledge,” pgs. 178-195;

Part V – Conclusion, pgs. 199-211.

Kuhn, “The Resolution of Revolutions,” from Natoli, *A Postmodern Reader*, pgs. 376-389

TO DO

Weekly Response due by Monday, 1/13, @noon

January 21 – on subjectivity & agency

TO READ

Ross, “A Very Brief Introduction to Lacan,” <http://web.uvic.ca/~saross/lacan.html>

Lacan, “The agency of the latter in the unconscious...” from *Ecrits*

Silverman, Sections 1, 2, 3 & 4 from *The Subject of Semiotics*

Kristeva, “Approaching Abjection”

Spillers, “Mama’s Baby, Papa’s Maybe”

RESOURCE -- <http://www.lacanonline.com/index/>

TO DO

Weekly Response due by Monday, 1/20, @noon

January 28 – the postmodern & postmodernity, canonsTo READ

Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*

Natoli et al, from *A Postmodern Reader*:

Habermas, "Modernity versus Postmodernity," pgs. 91-104;

Hassan, "Toward a Concept of Postmodernism," pgs. 273-287;

Jameson, excerpts from *Postmodernism*, pgs. 312-332;

Baudrillard, "The Precession of Simulacra," pgs. 342-37

optional

Huyssen, "Mapping the Postmodern," pgs. 105-156.

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 1/27, @noon

February 4 – other postmodernismsTo READ

Natoli et al, from *A Postmodern Reader*:

Hutcheon, "Beginning to Theorize Postmodernism," pgs. 243-272;

West, "Black Culture and Postmodernism," pgs. 390-397;

hooks, "Postmodern Blackness," pgs. 510-518;

Belsey, "Towards Cultural History," pgs. 551-568.

Foucault, Parts I and II, from *History of Sexuality*

optional

Heller, "Cultural Movements as Vehicles of Change," Natoli, pgs. 497-509;

Baker, "Hybridity, the Rap Race, and Pedagogy for the 1990s," Natoli, pgs. 538-550.

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 2/3, @noon

February 11 – post/structural systems & other desiresTo READ

Derrida, "Signature, Event, Context"

Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," (Natoli, pgs. 223-242)

Butler, "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire"

Butler, interview with theory.org <http://www.theory.org.uk/but-int1.htm>

Hall, "Encoding and Decoding" & "Cultural Identity and Diaspora"

DuCille, "The Occult of True Black Womanhood"

Wexler, "Seeing Sentiment"

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 2/10, @noon

February 18 – practice, or a bridge to other canonsTo Read

DeCerteau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*

Harjo, “Mourning Song,” “Northern Lights,” “Who Invented Death and Crows...,” “The Myth of Blackbirds,” “The Song of the House in the House,” “Insomnia...,” “Letter from the End of the Twentieth Century” from *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky*

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 2/17, @noon

February 25 – postcolonial storiesTo Read

Fanon, from *Black Skin, White Masks*:

Introduction, pgs. 7-14;

Chapter One, “The Negro and Language,” pgs. 17-40;

Chapter Five, “The Fact of Blackness,” pgs. 109-140.

Said, from *Orientalism*:

“Introduction,” pgs. 1-30;

Chapter One, “The Scope of Orientalism,” pgs. 31-112.

Viswanathan, “The Beginnings of English Literary Study in British India”

Plus one of the following:

Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

Spurr, from *The Rhetoric of Empire*: Introduction, Surveillance, Appropriation, Aestheticization, Classification, Negation, Affirmation, Naturalization, Eroticization, Resistance

Bhabha, “The Postcolonial and the Postmodern” from *The Location of Culture*, pgs. 245-282.

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 2/24, @noon

March 11 – Spivak, postcolonial mother of us all ☺To Read

Harjo, all poems in Part II-The World Ends Here, from *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky*

Morris, from *Can the Subaltern Speak: Reflections on the History of an Idea*:

Morris, Introduction, pgs. 1-18;

Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak,” original essay published in *Marxism and the Interpretation of History*, pgs. 237-291;

Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” revised essay published in *Critique of Postcolonial Reason*, pgs. 21-78;

Birla, “Postcolonial Studies,” pgs. 87-99;

Spivak, “In Response: Looking Back, Looking Forward,” pgs. 227-236.

RESOURCES --

<http://postcolonialstudies.emory.edu/gayatri-chakravorty-spivak/>

<http://www.postcolonialweb.org/poldiscourse/spivak/spivak1.html>

Interview, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fHoCiBhZ_0

Interview, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8iPj6qka3o>

<http://www.nakedpunch.com/articles/21>

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 3/10, @noon

March 18 - CCCC - no class meeting**March 25 - Bhabha, postcolonial trickster**TO READ

Bhabha, from *The Location of Culture*:

Introduction: Locations of culture, pgs. 1-27;

"The Commitment to Theory," pgs. 28-56;

"The Other Question," pgs. 94-120;

"Of Mimicry and Man," pgs. 121-131;

"Signs Taken for Wonders," pgs. 145-174.

optional

"Interrogating Identity: Frantz Fanon and the postcolonial prerogative," pgs. 57-93;

"Dissemination: Time, narrative and the margins of the modern nation," pgs. 199-244;

Conclusion: "Race," time and the revision of modernity, pgs. 338-367.

RESOURCES

<http://www.postcolonialweb.org/poldiscourse/bhabha/bhabha1.html>

Interview, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Fp6j9Ozpn4>

<http://avery.morrow.name/blog/2010/04/how-to-read-homi-bhabha/>

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 3/24, @noon

April 1 - the third/fourth world: or, decolonizing feminisms in the '90sTO READ

Smith & Watson, eds., selections from *De/colonizing the Subject*:

Sarris, "What I'm Talking About...," pgs. 20-33;

Gould, "The Problem of Being 'Indian,'" pgs. 81-87;

Kaplan, "Resisting Autobiography," pgs. 115-138;

Watson, "Unspeakable Differences," pgs. 139-168;

Goldman, "I Yam What I Yam," pgs. 169-195.

Mohanty, Russo & Torres, eds., selections from *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*:

West, "I Ain't the Right Kind of Feminist";

Mohanty, "Introduction: Cartographies of Struggle," pgs. 1-47;

Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes," pgs. 51-80;

Russo, "We Cannot Live Without Our Lives," pgs. 297-313;

Johnson-Odim, "Common Themes, Different Contexts," pgs. 314-327.

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 3/30, @noon

April 8 – Mignolo+methodological implications

TO READ

Mignolo, from *The Darker Side of Western Modernity*: Preface & Acknowledgments; Introduction; Chapters 1-4

Plus read one of the following:

Mignolo, from *The Darker Side of Western Modernity*; Chapter 5, 6, 7 or the Afterword;

Tuhiwai-Smith, from *Decolonizing Methodologies*:

“Introduction,” pgs. 1-18;

“Imperialism, History, Writing & Theory,” pgs. 19-41.

Wilson, *Research Is Ceremony*

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 4/7, @noon

April 15 – Rhet/Comp now

TO READ

Royster & Kirsch, *Feminist Rhetorical Practices*
& articles To Be Determined

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 4/14, @noon

April 22 – Rhet/Comp now

TO READ

Articles To Be Determined

To Do

Weekly Writing due by Monday, 4/21, @noon

Course Evaluations

Wednesday, April 30th, 3-5 p.m. – all teachings end with a feast

Feast & honorings