SISU (Spring 2018)
Literary and cultural theory: intensive introduction (Prof. Steppat)

This intensive course offers a comprehensive introduction to major directions in literary and cultural theory, as they have developed in recent decades. In many cases, these two dimensions of theory cover similar ground and have some impact on each other. At least some of the theories will be illustrated with a variety of literary texts from various genres (poetry, short story and novel, drama). Students will be asked to do preparatory reading <u>before</u> the course begins, ESPECIALLY the materials until the 8th course hour. Wherever possible, students will collect their own questions on the materials. They should circulate these questions to members by making use of the SISU e-learning online platform. The actual course sessions will then include an important *focus on students' own questions.* A part of the course sessions will be devoted to examining theoretical approaches for their potential application regarding literary works, and possible modifications of approaches. The course is strongly recommended for any M.A. students interested in transferring to the University of Bayreuth for the international dual degree program. But the course is designed to be equally useful for other M.A. students from various programs. If there is any difficulty gaining access to the text materials, some of which will be placed on the e-learning platform, students should contact Prof. Steppat (Michael.Steppat@uni-bayreuth.de). For 2 credits: essay requirement.

Syllabus
Course hours 1-5: Introduction // Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory*: Structuralism, poststructuralism, followed by literary illustration (Dylan Thomas, Poem)
Course hours 6-8: (cont. Barry) Psychoanalytic theory, followed by literary illustration (Edgar Allan Poe, a short story), feminist theory
Course hours 9-12: (cont. Barry) Marxist criticism, (possible extension: new historicism with cultural materialism), narratology, followed by literary illustration (Edgar Allan Poe, a short story), ecocriticism / *Special handout*: Posthumanism
Course hour 13: Literary analysis, to exemplify: Ee Tiang Hong, Poem
Course hours 14-17: Stuart Hall, *Questions of Cultural Identity*: some core aspects
Course hours 18-22: Literary analysis, to exemplify: Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (section); Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Course hours 23-27: continue the above for critical questions and topic extensions
Course hours 28-32: Literary analysis, to exemplify: William Shakespeare, *Othello*
NB. We may modify the precise hour arrangements during the course period, depending on actual progress

Materials

• Peter Barry. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. 2nd ed. Manchester UP, 2002. (Internet version / = 2009 ed.) Sections as specified above

• Stuart Hall & Paul du Gay, ed. *Questions of Cultural Identity*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 1996. (Internet version, also scans in Dropbox section (see URL below) Pp. 1-16, and as optional extensions: 53-60, 87-107

• Additional: Jonathan Culler. *Literary Theory*. Oxford UP, 1997.
http://webdelprofesor.ula.ve/humanidades/anderzon/materias/materiales/Literary_Theory_A_Very_Short_Introduction.pdf (also in Dropbox section) pp. 5-14, 42-68, 82-105, 120-132: Supplementary reading, to clarify the theories further

Edgar Allan Poe, *The Oval Portrait* (internet version)
Edgar Allan Poe, *The Purloined Letter* http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/purloine.html
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, "Years of the Modern" (internet version)
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, "Passage to India" http://www.bartleby.com/142/183.html / also
      "America" http://whitmanarchive.org/published/LG/1891/poems/318
Dylan Thomas, "A refusal to mourn the death by fire of a child in London" (internet version)
Ee Tiang Hong, "Tranquerah Road": e-version from Prof. Steppat / E-learning platform
Posthumanism (introd. Herbrechter): e-version from Prof. Steppat / E-learning platform
Shakespeare, *Othello*: http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/MobOthe.html
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*: http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/ConDark.html

Access on SISU e-learning platform, section for this course