**USC**Dornsife

Engl 501

Intro to Grad Studies

**Fall 2018/M 2-4:20 pm/Taper Hall 205**

**Instructor: Dr. Devin Griffiths/Taper 402K**

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**Required Books**

* Jonathan Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*, 2nd ed.978-0199691340
* Rita Felski, *Uses of Literature* 978-1405147248
* Szemensa, Graduate Study for the 21st Century 978-0230100336
* Eric Hayot ,*Elements of Academic Style*  978-0230100336
* Mark McGurl, *The Program Era* 978-0674062092
* David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery, *Introduction to Book History*, 2nd ed. 978-0415688062

Additional Readings

Posted to the class dropbox folder: [link](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xswae4gld6qdhm4/AADQMnKzcaVxUW_XNha_dno2a?dl=0).

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**Weekly Schedule *(subject to change as schedules necessitate)***

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|  | **Topics** | **Readings** | **Deliverable/Due Dates** |
| Week 1 8/20 | Getting started -- So where do we go from here? | Eric Hayot, “The Sky is Falling”; bell hooks, “Moving Beyond Pain”; Jamilah Lemieux, “Not Being Petty”; Joy-Ann Reid, “*Lemonade* is a powerful Black feminist aesthetic in its own right”; Hayot, “From the Workshop to the World” |  |
| Week 2 8/27 | Reading & Asking Good Questions (Group1) | Felski, *The Uses of Literature*; Kyla Wazana Tompkins, “How to Ask Good Questions” Guests: Cruz and Meagan, Trisha Tucker |  |
| Week 3 9/3 | Labor Day |  |  |
| Week 4 9/10 | Mass Higher Education, English, and the Creative Writing Program\* (Group2) | Mark McGurl, *The Program Era*;  Eagleton, “The Rise of English”; Graff “Taking Cover in Coverage.”  Guest: Zofia Lesinska | **4-page Summary of Critical Article: Donna Haraway, “Situated Knowledges” Due** 9/12 |
| Week 5 **9/17** | **Workshop**: Article Precis on “Situated Knowledges” | Hayot, *Elements of Academc Style* Part 1; | **Schedule a meeting with me this week to talk about how class is going** |
| Week 6 9/24 | Book History & Print Culture; Visit to the Cassidy collection, USC Special Collections.\* (Group 4) | Walter Benjamin, “Unpacking my Library.” *Introduction to Book History*  Guest: Zofia Lesinska |  |
| Week 7 10/1 | Theory Now: Ecocriticism & the Anthropocene\* (Group5) | Chakrabarty; Anna Tsing; Stacey Alaimo; Stefanie LeMenager; (additional readings optional).  (By now have skimmed Culler, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*) |  |
| Week 8 10/8 | Theory Now: New Affects\* (Group6) | Christina Sharpe, *In the Wake*; Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism*; Sianne Ngai, *Our Aesthetic Categories (*+ reader optional)….  Guest: Neetu Khanna | **800-1500 word Book Reviews + 1-paragraph venue analysis Due** due 10/10 |
| Week 9 10/15 | Workshop: Book Review | Opening discussion: Check in on how things are going & Feedback. |  |
| Week 10 10/22 | Disciplines and Interdisciplines (Group7) | Szemenza; Readings from “Communicating Science”; Heather Love on “Close Reading and Thin Description”; Kyla Wazana Tompkins on “Promiscuous Reading.”  Guest: Kyla Wazana Tompkins |  |
| Week 11 10/29 | Theory Now: Formalism\* (Group8) | Selections from Maggie Nelson, *The Argonauts*; Caroline Levine, “Forms”; Tara MacPherson, “A Little Formalism”; Kramnick and Nersessian “Form and Explanation”; something on “New formalism” in criticism.  Guest: Maggie Nelson. |  |
| Week 12 11/5 | Academic Writing and Style | Hayot, *Elements of Academic Style* Part II&IV; Szemenza; Bit from the Scientific Article collection; Bruno Latour: “Why has Critique Run out of Steam?” | **200 word Conference Proposal Due** 11/7 |
| Week 13 11/12 | Workshop: Conference or Collection Proposal | Semenza, Chap. 9-10; Hayot Part 3. Visitor Chris Freeman to talk about teaching training and mentoring. | **Please schedule a meeting with me during this week so that we can discuss your final project.** |
| Week 14 Thanksgiving  11/19 | Alt Ac & Worldly Publication | Not sure what to read OR who to invite. See the #alt-academy project at Media Commons. “[**Beyond the Dissertation as Proto-Monograph: Examples and Reflections**](http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/alt-ac/cluster/beyond-dissertation-1)**”; “http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/alt-ac/pieces/introduction-not-help-youre-looking-0”**  Guest: Chris Findeisin |  |
| Week 15 11/26 | Potluck Dinner & Final Presentations | Prepare and deliver presentations on final project |  |

**PRESENTATIONS working in groups of two, each pair of students will be responsible for leading class discussion for roughly the first hour (working around guests) for the readings one week. Please feel free to develop any format/exercise you like for that hour.**

**FINAL PROJECT due (via email) on Wednesday December 12. For your final project you have the option of: (1) a 10-page Hayot style seminar paper, rooted in a question raised by 1-2 of the works we read together, with footnotes and quotes either drawn from works we read for the class or MADE UP, e.g., phrases and statements that you would hope to be able to find in the critical literature; (2) or a roughly 1000-1500 word public humanities essay based on some topic we discussed this semester, prefixed with a short pargraph identifying the venue you would submit it to + a 100 word pitch (that includes an explanation of its timeliness). The style should be appropriate to the venue, but please add footnotes citing specific works/passages we read from class and detailing connections between the essay and our readings.**

**\*Additional Backgrounds (scanned in course dropbox folder):**

**All (except the Chakrabarty) to be found in *The Norton Anthology of Criticism and Theory* 3rd ed., Leitch. (2018).**

**Mass Higher Education and Institutionalization:** MathewArnold “Culture and Anarchy’; Edward Said, “Orientalism“; Terry Eagleton, “The Rise of English”; Graff “Taking Cover in Coverage”

**Book History & Print Culture:** Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility”; Zora Neal Hurston, “What White Publishers Won’t Print

“; Benedict Anderson, “Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism”; Pierre Bourdieu, “Rules of Art: Genesis and Structure of the Literary Field.”

**Formalism:** Aristolte, *Poetics*; Pierre Corneille, “Of the Three Unities of Action, Time, and Place”; Lukács, “The Historical Novel”; Jakobson, “Linguistics and Poetics,” “The Metaphoric and Metonymic Poles”; Northrop Frye, “The Archetypes of Literature”; Wimsatt & Beardsley, “The Intentional Fallacy”; Tzvetan Todorov, “Structural Analysis of Narrative“; Saussure, “Course in General Linguistics”; Li Zehou, “The Stratification of Form and Primitive Sedimentation.”

**Affect**: Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, “Sex in Public”; Rey Chow, “Sentimental Fabulations, Contemporary Chinese Films: Attachment in the Age of Global VisibilitY”; Horkheimer and Adorno, “Dialectic of Enlightenment”; E. Anne Kaplan, “Trauma Culture”; Longinus, “On Sublimity”; Sianne Ngai, “Ugly Feelings”

**Ecocriticism**: Donna Haraway, “The Companion Species Manifesto”; Jane Bennet, “Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things”; Rob Nixon, “Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor” and “The Anthropocene: The Promise and Pitfalls of an Epochal Idea”; Dipesh Chakrabarty, “The Climate of History: Four Theses”; Timothy Morton, “The Ecological Thought”

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory for the class. If you knowthat you are going to be absent on a specific day for a valid reason school trips, etc.), please discuss it with me in advance. For each absence beyond two your grade will be reduced by 1/2 letter.

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage [sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options and other resources.

## **Support Systems**

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* <http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html>provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* [*http://emergency.usc.edu/*](http://emergency.usc.edu/)will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.