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FLLG 501.01: Literary Theory and Research Methods

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Fall 2003

Professor Ametsbichler

FLLG 501: LITERARY THEORY AND RESEARCH METHODS

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Office hours: M: 11-12; W: 2-3; F: 12-1 and 2-3
and by appointment

Course Description:

FLLG 501 is required of all M.A. candidates in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. It is recommended that graduate students enroll in this course at or near the beginning of their studies. It is designed to provide an intensive, hands-on experience working toward understanding and applying various 20th-century literary and cultural theories to texts, authors, and genres as well as offering a practical introduction and set of experiences toward developing some rather sophisticated research skills. These skills will include bibliographic searches, use of a research library, document searching and retrieval, exploration of relevant Internet resources, and e-mail.

At first glance, the two major aspects of the course, literary theory and research methods, may appear somewhat unconnected. However, by *experimenting* with a variety of approaches to literature while engaging in research and bibliographic projects on literary texts, these two aspects will become integrated. In the course of the semester, students will come to understand and appreciate the connections between **theory** and **practice**.

Required Texts:

Childers, Joseph and Gary Hentzi, eds. *Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism*. New York: Columbia UP, 1995.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory. An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1996.

Selden, Raman. *Practicing Theory and Reading Literature. An Introduction*. Lexington: UP of Kentucky, 1989.

Selden, Raman, Peter Widdowson, and Peter Brooker. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*. 4th ed. London: Prentice Hall, 1997.

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Latest edition.

Optional Text:

Lentricchia, Frand and Thomas McLaughlin, eds. *Critical Terms for Literary Study*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1995.

Web site reference:

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id2718> (Excellent link to literary theory).

Grading:	Assignments/Participation	50%
	Project (Prospectus)	15%
	Paper	20%
	Final Exam	15%

Assignments:

There will be weekly **assignments** that include using library resources and putting together bibliographies, discussion of reading assignments, written assignments (analysis of and/or application of theories).

The **project** is a (practice) prospectus for an M.A. thesis, which includes an annotated bibliography, the body of the prospectus, and a narrative explaining: 1) how you chose your topic; 2) how you went about writing the prospectus, 3) which resources you used to inform yourself about the topic, and 4) advising.

The **paper** will be written for a graduate conference that you would like to attend and at which you would like to present a paper.

The **exam** will be administered during finals week: **Thursday, December 18th @ 1:10-3:10 in LA 420.**

Important Dates (Tentative):

September 22 & 24:	Library with Sue Samson
October 9-11:	RMMLA Conference in Missoula (Holiday Inn Parkside)
October 15:	Topic for Conference Paper due
October 16-17:	Visiting Scholar: Professor Elke Frederiksen
October 29:	Topic for Prospectus due
November 5:	Progress report on paper
November 19:	Progress report on prospectus
November 26:	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 12:	Paper due
December 18:	Final Exam
December 19:	Prospectus due

Note: Guest presenters will be announced, as will weekly assignments.

Also note: Please see the course schedule for all important semester deadlines!

AND... 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C...