FLLG 501.01: Literary Theory and Research Methods

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FLLG 501: LITERARY THEORY AND RESEARCH METHODS

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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:


Optional Text:

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…