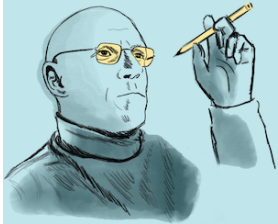


Critical Theory Presentation & Roundtable

eng 5360 / spring 2022 / ohio university / chang



Our class covers a survey of literary and critical theory, particularly by scholars and artists of color. One of the best ways to explore and understand a text is through close reading and taking notes. Another way to explore and understand a text—using what you have gained through reading—is to engage what someone else—a scholar, a respondent—has said or written about it. And finally, another way to explore and understand a text is through lively discussion, questioning both the text and your experience of it, and presenting your ideas to someone else.

You will be required to sign up individually or in pairs for a “presentation and roundtable” twice during the course of the semester. The presentation asks you to outline the theoretical arguments and terms for the week, to make connections between the academic readings and the week’s literature or narrative texts, and to generate class discussion. Your presentation will require forethought, planning, and perhaps some light research. Once you have signed for a particular week and particular text(s), consider the following tasks and roles and make a plan for who is responsible for what:

1. Ahead of time, read your theoretical and narrative texts assigned in your sign-up week.
2. As a group, identify the main ideas or arguments from the theory that can be used to illuminate and analyze the literature or narrative text. Or identify key close readings from the literature or narrative text that explicates and exemplifies the theory.
3. As a group, generate and collaboratively write a **framing discussion prompt**, which includes 1-2 paragraphs that frame and introduces your whole discussion, 2-4 paragraphs that summarize the theory articulating main takeaways (think: how and what would you teach the material), and 1-2 paragraph that summarizes the story (thus far). Each group member must contribute to the framing prompt.
4. Then, the group must come up with **one to two critical questions** to help get the class discussion going for the day. Critical questions should point to particular passages in the narrative, focus on key passages or moments, and integrate useful quotes from the scholarship to provide context or critique. Critical questions must close read the text and do more than just summarize or describe character, plot, and literal theme. These critical questions and contexts will be added to the framing prompt.
5. Then, post the polished discussion prompt (the framing context + critical questions) to the class Bb by the presentation date and time. Posts should be no more than 1,500 words and can include images, video clips, or other media. You can play with what the presentation prompts look like or how to creatively engage the class. A one-page (two-sided) **handout** based on the prompt is encouraged but not required.
6. On the day of the presentation, the group will join the professor in a “**roundtable**” where each member will present their portion of the presentation. Then, with the professor as moderator and host (think “**chat show**” format), everyone will discuss what has been presented and other topics, ending with questions and from the whole class or “audience.” Presenters should be prepared to answer their own critical question.
7. Once the presentation is over and the critical question prompts are posted, you will be expected to help answer the posed questions, explore ideas raised by the texts, and keep the discussion thread moving. Not every single reply needs a response, but **each group member** must respond at least **three** times to the thread before the end of the week. When appropriate, the professor will serve as moderator online.

Your presentation will be graded on relevance, completeness, organization, engagement with the texts with genre, and the overall quality of the collaboration, critical questions, curation and responses, and write-up. Each person in the group must equitably share in the preparation and conversation for the discussion. Once the week is completed, you will be given an opportunity to assess and reflect on the process and project.

Guidelines and Due Dates

- Format:** roundtable & discussion prompt and critique questions, every group member must participate refer to specific passages or moments in the texts for the week
1-2 critical questions, 750-1500 word posts, each includes framing, context, and unique critical questions; handout encouraged; include if necessary a bibliography of sources used
- Due:** on your sign-up dates, twice during the semester
each post should include the presentation date and unique topic as the subject line (e.g. “Week 1: 1/12 PRESENTATION: The Normativity of Expressive Realism”)