

21L.451 Introduction to Literary Theory

Final Paper

This final essay is an open topic one that requires you to compose a 6-8 page essay on a text/film/cultural artefact of your choice. In essence, your task is to analyse your chosen object of study using one or more of the poststructuralist theoretical paradigms we have engaged with this semester. You are free to draw on the basic theories with which we began (New Criticism, Reader Response, and Structuralism), but the essay does need to show sustained engagement with the subsequent theoretical approaches.

You are welcome to write on any of the primary texts we have already looked at in class, or to work with any of the midterm texts that you didn't already analyse. Or you can choose something entirely different: a novel, a film, a poem, a painting, an interesting object – with one caveat: please clear it with me before beginning, since I need to have some familiarity with whatever you choose in order to assess your essay fairly.

So, the basic requirements are:

Length 6-8 pages, 12pt Times Roman or equivalent font, 1" margins.

Remember to title your essay and to number the pages.

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