

## **21L.451 Introduction to Literary Theory**

### **Oral Presentation Guidelines**

The oral reports are a crucial component of the class. In general, these should be 2-3 pages long (i.e., of a length such that it takes about 10-12 minutes to read out). After the reports have been read, discussion will begin. There is some flexibility to the format of the reports. The important point is that they are meant to incite, provoke, trigger discussion of the texts we are reading. To this end, you may decide a brief summary of the main arguments, followed by questions for discussion is the way to go. Or you might want to provide the outlines of a reading of the literary text for the week using the tools the critical reading provides, in order to bring into view the strengths and limits of that critical approach. Or you might wish to choose another (short) text of your own accord, through a discussion of which the theoretical approach is examined. Or you might have some other way of communicating what you want to. Fine, as long as you bear in mind that you have a 10-12 minute frame within which to carry out your plan. Remember, the questions raised by the report in particular (and by the group in general) are directed to everybody and not just to me. You are all expected to think independently and respond to the questions raised by reports and discussions. The success of the course depends finally on you and your engagement with the material.

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