

How to Prepare for Class

All readings listed on the calendar below are required and you will be tested on them as well as on the information and ideas I present in class.

- *Though readings may seem short in number of pages, you are unlikely to understand any reading fully until you have read it at least three times.*
- Read with your pen in hand; take notes, underline and look up all unfamiliar words and memorize the terms in the “terms” column below.
- Consider forming a study group with friends from class. You can compare readings, discuss writing assignments, and prepare for exams together.

Wk	Date	Reading	Homework Notebook Writing	Terms and Main Ideas
1	1/12	Introduction	None.	Literary analysis, formalism, close reading, <i>explication de texte</i> .
2	1/17	Reading: Polonsky, “Why Poetry?”	Respond to all the questions on 9-12 (do this in your notebook, not your book).	narrator, enjambment
	1/19	Reading: Polonsky, “Emotions”	Respond to the paragraph on 33 that includes “in a journal entry.”	denotation, connotation, archetype, tone
3	1/21	Reading: Polonsky, “Images”	Respond to to the two paragraphs on 49 that include “in a journal entry.”	concrete, abstract, sensory, sensual
	1/23	Reading: Polonsky, “Stories”	Respond to the paragraphs on 103 that begin “in a journal entry.”	parallel structure, medicine wheel, ballad
4	1/31 2/2	Reading: Polonsky, “Sound”	Respond to the paragraph on 136 that begins “in a journal entry.”	assonance, rhyme, rhyme scheme, internal rhyme, slant rhyme, meter, foot, blank verse, spondee, trochee, anapest, dactyl, free verse, quatrain, sonnet (Petrarchan/Elizabethan) , haiku, sestina
5	2/7 2/9	Reading: Polonsky, “Metaphors, Similes, and Symbols”	Respond to the paragraph on 177 that ends “in a journal entry.”	Simile, metaphor, personification, symbol
6	2/14 2/16	Reading: Polonsky, “A Grab Bag of Devices	Write a journal entry in response to the question on 207 titled “Unearth a Poem” using the poem “Spoils” on 201.	Line breaks, allusion, motif, synecdoche, metonymy, synesthesia
7	2/21	Reading: Polonsky, “Irrationality, Dreams, and Paradox “	Write a “dream” poem of your own in response to the instructions on 230–1. Have fun!	Rationality/irrationality, dream, Zen Buddhism, paradox
	2/23	Reading: Polonsky, “Welding it Together”	No writing assignment today. In class, we will spend time reviewing for the midterm.	
8	2/28	MIDTERM. The midterm will require you to explicate several short poems and to define terms we’ve learned so far.		

Wk	Date	Reading	Homework Notebook Writing	Terms and Main Ideas
	3/2	Reading: Barry, "Introduction" and the three proof-texts (in the back of the book)	Respond to the "Stop and Think" exercise on 8.	"SQ3R" as a technique to remember when reading theoretical texts.
9	3/7 3/9	Reading: Barry, "Theory before 'Theory': Liberal Humanism"	None.	form and content; organic form; I A. Richards, William Empson, F. R. Leavis, John Locke; Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i> ; types of theory named on 33; totalizing notions or ideas
SPRING BREAK! YEAH!				
10	3/21	Barry, "Structuralism"	Respond to the "Stop and Think" exercise on 45-6.	Ideas of Saussure; Levi-Strauss; Barthes; <i>langue</i> and <i>parole</i> , signifier and signified; Barthes's five codes (in class we will go over these and, as a group, we will complete the Stop and Think" exercise on 57-8).
	3/23	Programming day - no class today.	None.	
11	3/28	Barry, "Structuralism" (continued from 3/21)	Respond to the "Stop and Think" exercise on 55.	
	3/30	MIDTERM. The midterm will require you to explicate several short passages and to define terms we've learned so far.		
12	4/4 4/6	Barry, "Poststructuralism and Deconstruction"	Deconstruct this famous passage from the <i>Declaration of Independence</i> : "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. . . ." Try to <i>read the text against itself</i> , unpacking its binary oppositions, omissions and assumptions.	Decentred view; post-structuralism; Derrida; <i>aporia</i> ; absence; <i>lacuna</i> ; reading the text against itself; binary oppositions; the verbal, textual, and linguistic stages of deconstructive process.
13	4/11 4/13	Barry, "Postmodernism"	Respond to the "Stop and Think" exercise on 90-1 using the Nazi holocaust of WWII (murdering Jews, homosexuals, dissidents, gypsies, and others) as your example.	Postmodernism; modernism; high modernism; asceticism; Habermas and modernity; Lyotard and totalizing discourses and 'Grand Narratives'; Baudrillard, <i>simulacrum</i> , 'loss of the real,' representation, hyperreal.
14	4/18 4/20	Barry, "Narratology"	Familiarize yourself, if necessary, with the familiar tale "Cinderella," then write a short analysis of a feature film that incorporates the Cinderella structure, showing how this example uses the structuring elements. Example: <i>Pretty Woman</i> .	Narrative, story, <i>anagnorisis</i> , <i>hamartia</i> , <i>peripeteia</i> , Propp, morphology, and morphemes (Propp's word for these story elements); Genette, <i>mimesis</i> , <i>diegesis</i> ; focalizers and narrators; analeptic and proleptic narratives; <i>in medias res</i> ; frame narratives; direct and tagged speech.
15	?	FINAL EXAM. The final will be <i>cumulative</i> and will require you to define key terms (short answers) and perform a critical reading of a text selection (poetry or prose; you will have a choice of excerpts).		