

## English 7000/8000 Literary Research

Fall 2016 M 5:30-8:30 PT 315

CRN: 81758

Prof. Theron Britt

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### TEXTS:

Peter Barry *Beginning Theory: An Introduction* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

ISBN 978-0-7190-7927-6

F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby*

ISBN 0-7432-7356-7

Joseph Gibaldi *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition

ISBN 978-1-60329-024-1

Lois Tyson *Critical Theory Today: A User Friendly Guide*

Second Edition ISBN 0-415-97410-0

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course is designed for literature majors and is meant to provide a survey of contemporary literary theory and research methods with the aim of giving students a strong and useful grasp on the critical tools necessary for literary scholarship. **Course syllabus and other materials will be posted on UMDrive; go to the appropriate class listed on [umdrive.memphis.edu/tbritt/public](http://umdrive.memphis.edu/tbritt/public)**

We will begin with an overview of literary research methods and library and online research tools, and we will continue by reading primary literary texts—short stories, *The Great Gatsby*—through a number of contemporary critical approaches. Such approaches will include a foundation in psychoanalysis, feminism, queer theory, deconstruction, Marxism, postcolonialism, African American, and cultural criticism, but will also move to include related contemporary critical perspectives such as trauma theory, posthumanism, ecocriticism, and cognitive theory.

### SEMINAR PAPER AND GRADES

Students will be responsible for a seminar paper on a literary topic of the student's choosing (including a prospectus outlining the project), and for an in-class presentation summarizing the key issues of their chosen literary work and problem, and short weekly written response paper assignments based on the reading. Students are encouraged to focus their seminar paper and presentation on a topic that could be developed into a conference presentation or eventually into publication. Grades will be figured on a 1000 point system: Seminar paper, 400 points; in-class presentation on research topic, 100 points; weekly response papers, 500 points.