

Introduction to Literary Theory

COLT 302, Class #22008R, Fall 2008, Mon and Wed, 2:00-3:20, THH 106



What does it mean to respond to a work of literature *as* literature? Not just as a representation of this or that, a story about something or other, but first of all as something apart from anything that is narrated or dramatized there? This question opens onto distinctive ways of thinking about literature and the experience it allows. To explore the paths that literature takes often means to challenge what seem to be unshakeable assumptions about the nature of language, meaning, intention, the human subject, interpretation, the difference of truth from non-truth, and so on. With help from contemporary theorists of literature, this course will examine how literature disturbs key assumptions and beliefs, and provokes us to think differently about many essential aspects of experience.

This is a required course for the COLT major and minor.

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