

## NEW TOPIC PROPOSAL

Note: The proposed topic below can only be offered two times.

Is GE credit being requested? No

1. College of: Arts and Sciences
2. Center/Program/Department: Literature and Writing Studies
3. Instructor: Lance Newman
4. Topic Abbreviation and Number: LTWR 503
5. Grading Method: Standard
6. Term: Spring
7. Year: 2007
8. Variable Units\* n/a
9. Has this topic been offered previously? No
- If yes, indicate term(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_
10. Topic Title: Marxism and Literature
11. Abbreviated Title for Banner: *(no more than 25 characters, including spaces)*  
**ST:** Marxism and Literature
12. Topic Description:

This course will survey major landmarks of Marxist literary and cultural theory from Marx and Engels forward to the present. We will investigate key analytical concepts, including determination, ideology, hegemony, class consciousness, the limited autonomy of culture, and modernism and postmodernism. Key analytical concepts will be applied to a small number of literary texts, including works by Herman Melville, T. S. Eliot, Ralph Ellison, and Leslie Marmon Silko.

13. Does this topic have prerequisites? No
14. Does this topic have co-requisites? No
15. Does the topic require consent for enrollment? No
16. Is topic crosslisted? No
17. Justification for offering this topic.

LTWR graduate students and advanced undergraduates have expressed an interest in a class in applied literary theory. This particular body of literary and cultural theory is deeply influential within the field of Literature and Writing Studies but our students rarely have an opportunity to confront it directly. Additionally, this course (content and design) complements our department mission and student learning outcomes.


\* Enter units only if this is a variable-units topic course.

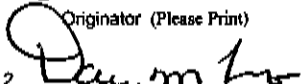
18. Does this topic impact any other disciplines? Note: This number can be skipped if answer to part 9 is "yes." (If there is any uncertainty as to whether a particular discipline is affected, check "yes" and obtain signature.)

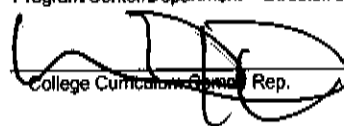
Yes xx No If yes, obtain signature(s). Any objections should be stated in writing and attached to this form.


Discipline \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Support \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Support \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

1. Lance Newman  9/13/06  
 Originator (Please Print) Date

2.  9/14/06  
 Program/Center/Department - Director/Chair Date

3.  9/14/06  
 College Curricular Review Rep. Date

4.  9/18/06  
 Dean of College (or Designee) Date

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Associate VP Academic Programs Date

**LTWR 503**  
**Marxism and Literature**  
**Time**  
**Place**  
**<http://public.csusm.edu/lnewman>**

**Lance Newman**  
**Markstein Hall 126M**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Phone: 760-750-8049**  
**[lnewman@csusm.edu](mailto:lnewman@csusm.edu)**

## Overview

This course will survey major landmarks of Marxist literary and cultural theory from Marx and Engels forward to the present. Key analytical concepts will be applied to a small number of literary works.

We will read and discuss selections from the following theoretical texts, many of which are included in Terry Eagleton, Marxist Literary Theory: A Reader:

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. The German Ideology  
Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. The Communist Manifesto  
Marx, Eleanor. "Shelley and Socialism"  
Benjamin, Walter. The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction  
Lukacs, Georg. History and Class Consciousness  
Trotsky, Leon. Literature and Revolution  
Farrell, James T. A Note on Literary Criticism  
de Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex  
Adorno, Theodor and Max Horkheimer. "The Culture Industry"  
Althusser, Louis. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"  
Jameson, Frederick. Marxism and Form  
Jameson, Frederick. Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism  
Williams, Raymond. Marxism and Literature and Keywords  
Merchant, Carolyn. The Death of Nature  
Eagleton, Terry. After Theory

The following literary texts will serve as subjects for applied analysis:

Melville, Herman. Moby Dick  
Eliot, T. S. The Wasteland  
Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man  
Silko, Leslie Marmon. The Almanac of the Dead

There will be additional recommended readings by the following: Etienne Balibar, Pierre Bourdieu, Bertholt Brecht, Shulamith Firestone, Antonio Gramsci, Stuart Hall, Donna Haraway, Kate Millett, William Morris, Diego Rivera, and Emanuel Wallerstein.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will learn to recognize and appreciate significant authors, texts, and ideas in the Marxist tradition of literary and cultural theory; to understand the relevant social,

historical, and aesthetic contexts of these literary works; to explain and demonstrate the value and methods of historical materialist literary analysis; to practice enhanced theoretical awareness and interpretive skills; to employ idiomatic academic English; and to compose sound analytical prose.

### **Assessment**

Attendance (25%)  
WebCT Postings (25%)  
Midterm Exam (25%)  
Interpretive Essay (25%)

### **Attendance**

Each absence beyond a limit of three will result in a deduction of ten (10) points from your grade for attendance. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have signed the roll.

### **Academic Honesty**

Any instance of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating the dishonesty of others, will result in failure of the course, and may result in more serious disciplinary action, including expulsion from CSU.

You must explicitly acknowledge--using the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation system--any borrowing of words or ideas from any source. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Save all drafts and notes so that you can show that your work is your own. If you do not understand how to cite your sources, ask me for help or go to the Writing Center. For more information, see [http://www.csusm.edu/writing\\_center](http://www.csusm.edu/writing_center)

If you are at all uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, see the official policy at: [http://www.csusm.edu/student\\_affairs/Policies/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.csusm.edu/student_affairs/Policies/academic_honesty.htm)

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you require academic accommodations, you must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS). This office is located in Craven Hall 5205, and can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TDD (760) 750-4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive accommodations should meet with me during my office hours or in a more private setting in order to ensure your confidentiality.

### **Confidentiality**

Federal and state law protects the confidentiality of your educational records. Your grades will only be released directly to you. This includes all graded homework

assignments. Your final exams and papers will be returned by mail if you provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Otherwise, you may pick them up at my office at the beginning of the next semester.

**Reading Schedule to be determined.**