English 305: Foundations of the Major Discussion Session
Friday Sections, Spring 2020

Instructor: Megan Reynolds (mreynol2@uoregon.edu)
Office Hours: F 10:00 – 1:00 (and by appointment)

A Note on Office Hours: Since this term is remote due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, I will be holding remote office hours. What this means for you is that I will be in our Canvas chat during my scheduled office hours. However, if you would like to have a private meeting, I will be available via email or via Zoom for a video conference.

You can sign up for office hours or see my availability on my Google Sheet (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15PQaQvHqeWQoSEJEm1oROJ2qFvjVr1IOQP5F5yEsxI/edit?usp=sharing)

I’m happy to communicate with you in whatever way you prefer! For video conferences we need to schedule a meeting and I will send you a link so you can enter the meeting. This keeps people from crashing our private meeting. To schedule a meeting simply send me an email or note that you want a private meeting on my Google Sheet for Office Hours. If you have questions about office hours, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Description: This discussion section is a space to put the methodologies you learn in the lecture sessions into practice. We will use these weekly meetings to review and cement the concepts introduced in lecture, answer lingering concerns, and prepare for upcoming assignments. You might consider this discussion section as a way to clarify and engage more deeply with the material covered in lecture each week, as well as a space to think through topics you plan to address in your written assignments.
**Participation:** Your participation in this discussion section is **10%** of your overall course grade, which will be determined by three components: bringing the listed materials, participating in freewriting exercises, and engaging in class discussion.

In order to be an active participant during our class discussions, you should bring the following to each session: the required edition of our text for the week/unit, the reading questions for the week, and some kind of writing utensil and paper. Even though we are not meeting in person, I still expect you to be taking notes and working through the assigned texts. Participation for our discussion section will include asking questions in Zoom or Canvas chat sessions, engaging with your peers, and communicating with me.

**Summary:**
- Bring all of the listed materials
- Participate in freewriting exercises
- Engage in class discussions on Zoom and on Canvas

**Quizzes:** You will take six quizzes total (two per unit), which accounts for **20%** of your overall course grade. These quizzes will be available through Canvas and must be completed by **Fridays before 5:00pm**. At the end of the term, I will drop your lowest quiz score. Due to the nature of the quizzes, you cannot, unfortunately, retake or make them up. They will be available on Canvas from 11:00am-5:00pm so plan accordingly.

**Summary:**
- 6 quizzes total
- 20% of overall course grade
- Lowest quiz grade dropped
- No make up quizzes
Theory Exercises/Final Papers: You will write three theory exercise papers (2-3 pages) and one final paper (5-7 pages): one for each unit and the final on whichever of the texts you prefer. The three short close reading exercises will count for a 39% of your final grade, and the final paper alone will count for 31%. The prompts will be handed out in class well in advance of the assignment and then posted to Canvas. Theory Exercise Papers must be submitted through the correct submission location before midnight on the assigned date in either a .doc, .docx, or pdf format. The Final Paper must be submitted through the correct submission location before midnight. Please see the lecture syllabus for the extension policy and send all extension requests through email so both of us have written documentation for our agreement.

Summary:
- 4 papers total (3 shorter papers, one longer final paper)
- Shorter papers count for 39% and final counts for 31%
- Submit on Canvas before midnight.
- Email me to discussion extensions

Attendance: We will be having Zoom meetings for our discussion section at the time the discussion section is originally scheduled for. This means I expect you to be present during when we would regularly have in-person class. However, I understand that these are strange circumstances we are operating under so attendance will not factor explicitly into your grade. Missing discussion section will mean that you miss valuable time with your peers and myself to work through challenging texts and ask questions so while attendance is not required it is highly encouraged.

Course Communications: Please feel free to reach out to me through the Canvas email system or at mreynol2@uoregon.edu. However, assignments must be submitted through the correct assignment section on Canvas due to the linked nature
of the lecture and the discussion courses, so I cannot accept a paper that is emailed as an attachment rather than submitted properly.

Though I will also try to respond to your emails within 24 hours, please feel free to send a follow-up email only after 48 hours have passed. Finally, please make sure that you check your own university email at least once every day.

**Summary:**
- Email me through Canvas or at mreynol2@uoregon.edu
- No assignment submissions through email
- Follow up emails are acceptable after 48 hours

**Canvas Reminder:** Please make sure that you have elected to receive emails from Canvas for this course, as I will occasionally post announcements or updated information about assignments, some of which might be time sensitive.

**Accommodations:** See the information on the lecture syllabus or the official course policies, but I did want to put a brief reminder that I'm always willing to take your unique situation into account whenever possible. Please reach out to me at any point in the term if you feel that your current circumstances require adjustments of any kind to help you succeed in the class. While there are some accommodations I cannot make, there are plenty of other ways I might be able to help if you feel comfortable disclosing limited personal information to me.