

ENG 38001 - CRITICAL THEORY AND READING

Weekly Journals 10% (100 points)

Updated: October 26, 2018

GENERAL DIRECTIONS: Please keep your journal in KSU Google Docs, *as a single document*. Share this document, on the first due date (September 15) with my KSU email (clrobins@kent.edu). You are strongly encouraged to write at least a rough draft of each journal entry at the end of the week (see the Course Plan). Journals will be evaluated periodically (see the Course Plan). Each entry's final draft should follow the directions, or answer the question(s), for that entry very carefully. Each entry should be well written, with completed sentences and coherent grammar, and should be roughly 300-500 words long. (NOTE: a large paragraph is roughly 300 words long; a medium paragraph is roughly 200 words long; a small paragraph is roughly 100 words long.) These entries are not worth a lot of points each; however, they are your building blocks for both exam work and essay work.

ENTRY DIRECTIONS:

- **Journal #1 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** Plato, Aristotle*
 - **Directions:** Write a large comparison/contrast paragraph regarding the ideas of Plato and of Aristotle.
 - *You might want to wait to finish this entry after the following week's lecture.
- **Journal #2 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** , Medieval Thought, Humanism, 17th Century Thought, Enlightenment Thought
 - **Directions:** Discuss the combined influence of Plato and Aristotle over later Classical thinking and Medieval thought. In a third medium paragraph, discuss the development and ideology of Humanism. In a fourth medium paragraph, discuss how some 17th Century and thinkers of the Enlightenment respond to Humanism (and return to Classical thinking).
- **Journal #3 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** Kantian Thought, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, Symbolism, Aestheticism, Heterology, Formalism
 - **Directions:** Write a large paragraph summary of Kantian Thought. Then, compose a large comparison/contrast paragraph regarding Romanticism, Realism, and Naturalism. Then, in three very short paragraphs, briefly explain the concepts of Symbolism, Aestheticism, and Heterology. Finally, write a description of the different types of formalisms.
- **Journal #4 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** Psychoanalytic Theories and Marxism
 - **Directions:** Write several small-medium sized paragraphs describing various psychoanalytic theories we covered. Write a large paragraph describing the key elements of Marxism. Write a final paragraph comparing/contrasting Marxism with Psychoanalysis concepts, in general.
- **Journal #5 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** Structuralism
 - **Directions:** Write an analysis of the key elements of Structuralism.
- **Journal #6 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** Deconstructionism
 - **Directions:** Write an analysis of how Deconstructionism is different from Structuralism, including a description of key Deconstructionist elements.
- **Journal #7 (10 points)**

- **Focus:** Reader-Response and Reception Theory
- **Directions:** Write an analysis of how Reader-Response and Reception Theory are similar and are different.
- **Journal #8 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** Post-Structuralism and Postmodernism
 - **Directions:** Write a large paragraph describing key elements of New Historicism.
- **Journal #9 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** OPEN TOPIC
 - **Directions:** Try to put pieces together: What do you see, for example, of earlier thinking in more contemporary thinking? How important is Plato, for example, to contemporary literary criticism?
- **Journal #10 (10 points)**
 - **Focus:** OPEN TOPIC
 - **Directions:** Try to put pieces together: What do you see, for example, of earlier thinking in more contemporary thinking? How important is Plato, for example, to contemporary literary criticism?

GRADING RUBRIC

Points will be deducted for failure to properly and fully follow directions. Entries will be evaluated for depth of thought. There is no need to quote or cite anything, as this writing should demonstrate your having successfully internalized key elements enough to describe them in your own words.

A-Level Entry

Demonstrates a very solid understanding of the concepts covered for that focus. It fully responds to the directions for the focus. It demonstrates some depth of thought regarding the focus, some independent thinking (rather than simple regurgitation of my words or the words of others). The writing is coherent and free of grammatical and similar errors.

B-Level Entry

Demonstrates a very above average understanding of the concepts covered for that focus. It fully responds to the directions for the focus. It demonstrates *some* thought regarding the focus, some independent thinking (rather than simple regurgitation of my words or the words of others). The writing is coherent and free of grammatical and similar errors.

C-Level Entry

Demonstrates a very basic understanding of the concepts covered for that focus. It mostly responds to the directions for the focus. It demonstrates little thought regarding the focus, little independent thinking (is mostly simple regurgitation of my words or the words of others). The writing is mostly coherent and free of grammatical and similar errors.

D-Level Entry

Demonstrates a very little understanding of the concepts covered for that focus. It fails to fully respond to the directions for the focus. It demonstrates no real thought regarding the focus, no independent thinking that is of any relevance. The writing is somewhat incoherent and/or full of grammatical and similar errors.

A-Level Entry

Demonstrates very little understanding of the concepts covered for that focus, if any understanding. It barely responds to the directions for the focus. It demonstrates zero depth of thought regarding the focus, and if it has independent thinking, the thinking is way off the mark. The writing is incoherent and/or full of grammatical and similar errors.