

****Disclaimer****

This syllabus is to be used as a guideline only. The information provided is a summary of topics to be covered in the class. Information contained in this document such as assignments, grading scales, due dates, office hours, required books and materials may be from a previous semester and are subject to change. Please refer to your instructor for the most recent version of the syllabus.

ENG 393

Theories of Literacy

Spring 2020

“Literacy does not require or inexorably lead to any particular development, but it is a powerful tool available for organizing, extending, providing resources for, and transforming all of our social endeavors.”

--Charles Bazerman

“To be truly literate, a person must be conversant with a specific body of knowledge known to educated people, or, more precisely, the cultural knowledge of the dominant society.”

--E.D. Hirsch Jr.

“Literacy is a system of oppression that works against entire societies as well as against certain groups within given populations and against individual people.”

--Elspeth Stuckey



“It’s not what’s inside your head, it’s what your head’s inside of.”
--Patrick Hartwell

“**Literacy** (Formed as an antithesis to *illiteracy*). The quality or state of being literate; knowledge of letters; condition in respect to education. *Esp.* ability to read and write.”

--Oxford English Dictionary

More and more, we are divided into two nations: One that reads and one that can't, and, therefore, one that dreams and one that doesn't. Reading is the basics for all learning, and it must be the foundation for all other education reforms."--George W. Bush

“There is no thing, literacy, only constellations of forms and degrees of literacy, shifting and turning as history rearranges the social formations in which they are embedded. Pieties of literacy with a capital L ought to be scrutinized: Which literacy? Whose literacy? Literacy for what? How?”--Andrew Sledd

ENG 393 Theories of Literacy Spring 2020 Course Description

As the statements above illustrate, theories of literacy are embedded within the values and assumptions of individuals, institutions, and academic specialization. In this course, we will survey and map out key works and movements in literacy theory and research, their influences on academic scholarship and education, the ideological assumptions that inform them, and how we might view these theories in the study of writing, rhetorics, and literacies, and within broader sociocultural landscapes.

Instructor -Peter Goggin

Line # 19825

TTH 12:00-1:15 STAUF A317

TEXTBOOK: Cushman E., et al. (2001). Literacy: A critical sourcebook. Bedford/St. Martin.

REQUIREMENTS: (Detailed descriptions of the following required assignments will be distributed)

- literacy keyword report and presentation
- participation and attendance
- midterm & final exam
- reading quizzes