

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
GRADUATE SEMINARS - Fall 2005

060.648 **George Eliot** - *Anderson*

T 9-12

This seminar will explore George Eliot's novelistic project, with special focus on its intellectual, sociological, and aesthetic dimensions. We will examine her work in relation to 1) the emergent disciplinary and intellectual formations of her time-in the natural sciences, the social sciences, religion, and the arts, 2) nineteenth-century and contemporary debates over the uses of aesthetic form to address philosophical and political issues, and 3) the history of her critical reception across a number of different bodies of thought and modes of criticism. Readings will include selections from both her fictional and nonfictional works, and a significant amount of secondary materials.

060.678 **Melville, Poe, Hawthorne, Stowe** - *Cameron*

Th 9-12

We shall read major fiction by Poe, Melville, Hawthorne and Stowe, and consider how conceptions of identity are treated as psychological, philosophical, and historical problems in the writings of these authors. We shall also be concerned with the formal inventions that accompany these mid-nineteenth century American investigations of personal identity, and with topics such as gothic horror; divinity; and the status of explanation.

060.681 **Literary Theory** - *Ferguson*

Th 1-4

This seminar will involve discussion of various theoretical positions that have been influential in literary studies over the past half century. Early in the semester we'll focus on some recent critical writing (by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick and D.A. Miller) that specifically addresses the question of close reading and some other recent work (by Franco Moretti) that opposes close reading to the notion of "distant reading" to identify the stakes of different kinds of reading practices. With their current (or almost) current accounts of close reading and its current situation in mind, we'll look at New Criticism and the view of close reading that it entailed, along with examples of structuralism, post-structuralism, feminism, and systems theory.

Students will be asked to write four short papers over the course of the semester that will be chiefly devoted to trying to describe the positions of the writers under discussion in a given week.

060.689 **Embodiment/Theory/Film: Modern and Modernist Texts** - *Moon* *M 2-5*

In this seminar we shall explore how embodiment is figured and / or analyzed in a range of texts to be selected from the following: the writings of Poe, Fuller (*Summer on the Lakes*), Melville (*Billy Budd*), Dickens (*The Cricket on the Hearth*), Stein (*Lifting Belly*), Burroughs (*Cities of the Red Night*); philosophical work of Bergson and Merleau-Ponty; selected silent and avant-garde films (Griffith, Eisenstein, Deren, Brackage).

How does a given text evoke / evade / exploit corporeality? How do modes of "textualizing" embodiment vary from writer to writer, or from medium to medium? What are some of the

relations that obtain between bodily movement or affections ("internal" and "external") and the production or interpretation of texts? In the course of the semester, we shall be looking at several different ways of understanding some of the kinds of connections that have been made among bodies, affects, and genres; we shall consider especially closely a set of questions about vision, sound, rhythm, repetition, motion, dance, and the production / subversion in the register(s) of the corporeal of the lyric(al), the grotesque, the sublime.