MacQuarrie
English 300
Class project 1

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English 300

<center>Freud's Psychoanalytic Analysis and Jacques Lacan's Perspective</center>

Psychoanalytic Analysis "centers famously on the interpretation of stories and character, making the connection to literary and cultural analysis a logical one" (Hall 103).

"Many of the central concepts and procedures of modern psychoanalytic critique derive from the work of Sigmund Freud" (Hall 103).

"Among Freud's many insights and innovations was his refinement of the concept of the "unconscious" to help isolate those hidden forces, desire, and fears that exert influence over us in ways beyond our knowledge and control" (Hall 103).

"Freud's theories-especially those concerning generational conflict between children and parents and the lasting effects of childhood trauma–have not been discredited and are of continuing use to both therapists and critics" (Hall 104).

"Without a doubt, the most influential recent theorist of human consciousness and behavior is Jacques Lacan (1901-1981)" (Hall 104).

"Perhaps his most significant revision is to Freud's approach to early childhood development" (Hall 105).:

"Lacan focuses specifically on the child's entrance into the "symbolic order" as the key to understanding the roots of adult personality and behavior. The symbolic order comprises structures of language, rules of social organization, and interpersonal limits on behavior and desire, the imposition of which mark the child's passage into subjectivity, or differentiated selfhood. Lacan's theories build on the recognition that the beliefs, biases, and gender differentiations of the surrounding culture are actually instilled in the child, that they are culturally specific and conveyed rather than "natural" in the transcendental sense that they often appear to be for Freud" (Hall 105).

"Psychoanalytic theorist Jacques Lacan (has) been particularly influential, serving as the theoretical underpinning for cultural critics who have sought to show how "subjectivities," that is, our very identities, are produced by social discourses and practices. Lacan posited that the human unconscious is structured like a language and treated dreams as forms of discourse. He also argued that the ego, subject, or self that we think of as natural (our individual human nature) is in fact a product of the social order and its symbolic systems (especially, but not exclusively language)" (Murfin 68).

"Psychoanalytic critic Jacques Lacan has treated the unconscious as a form of discourse, the patterns of which are repeated in literature" (Murfin 90).

"The French theorist Jacques Lacan has focused on language and language-related issues. In so doing, Lacan has more than extended Freud's theory of dreams, literature, and their interpretation; he has added the element of language to Freud's emphasis on psyche and gender. Lacan treats the unconscious as a language; consequently, he views the dream not as Freud did (that is, as a form and symptom of repression) but rather as a form of discourse. Thus we may study dreams psychoanalytically in order to learn about literature, even as we may study literature in order to learn more about the unconscious" (Murfin 315).

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Deconstructionist:
A rigorous probing and analysis of a text. Involves the close reading to find the text's contradictory meanings. Purpose is to show that any given text can and does have intertwined yet opposite discourses. Deconstructionism picks apart the self-contradictory elements and looks at the different meanings present in a text.
Greatly influenced by Jacques Derrida.

- Carolyn

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Post-structuralist and Marxism

Structuralist theorize that everything is rigid and easily defined, while post-structuralist doubt there are any kind of rigid guidelines. Post-structuralist believe everything is chaos rather than order. The life experiences of the reader are what stabilize the text itself, opening the interpretation to each individual reader.

Marxism is a theory that literary work is routed in the realm of economic production and politics. Marxist believes in a social order that holds any artist to be committed to the working class cause of the party. Literature should display a progressive outlook on ideology. Marxist always believe in the class structure. The wealthy are like vampires, sucking the blood from the lower class people.

Dante - usury is a worst sin than murder. Unconsciously he is recognizing usury as a way of oppressing the working class.

Comedy: Begins with harshness but ends happily. Dante has derived the word comedy from comos- 'a village' and oda- 'a song'
... making Dante's comedy a "rustic song." In comedy life is grasped and in tragedy life is ran from.

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Formalism, formalist, implies limitations. Primary interest: the way the text achieves their effects and establish a scientific basis to study literature. Ideas, emotions, actions and reality, and even the writer held little significance in defining what the text was about. The text was all that mattered.

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Structuralism: Theory of humankind whose proponents believe that all elements of human culture may be understood as parts of a system of signs. It is concerned with language in the most general sense. Considers all conventions and codes of communication, for example: signals, body language, smoke signals, traffic lights, etc. In literature this theory challenges the long standing belief that a work of literature reflects a given reality.

Deep Structure: Originating with Noam Chomsky essentially asserting there are additional levels beneath the visible surface structure of literary works.
Re: Dante's *Divine Comedy t*he Deep Structuralist point of view would consider not only the work/words in a literal sense, but also in a deeper figurative and/or allegorical sense as well.