

## SYLLABUS

PH3214, "Philosophy and Literature"  
 Asst. Prof. John Holbo ([phihjc@nus.edu.sg](mailto:phihjc@nus.edu.sg))  
 Office Hours: Thursday afternoons (2-5).

**The requirements for the module are:**

**Term paper (topic your choice), due around week 12 (date TBA): 30%.**

**Class/tutorial discussion & blog contributions (we'll talk about that.): 30%**

**Open-book, essay-style final exam: 40%**

**Here is the schedule of readings, as of August 15, 2007. I will certainly tinker as we go.**

**Week 1**

Susan Sontag, "Against Interpretation," in *Against Interpretation*; e-Reserve.

Michael Knapp and W.B. Michaels, "Against Theory," in *Against Theory*; e-Reserve.  
 Also available through JSTOR. LINC: search journal *Critical Inquiry* 8, No. 4 (1982), pp. 723-742.

**Week 2**

Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy"; e-Reserve (probably will be listed as title: *Aesthetics: A Critical Anthology*, eds. Dicke, Sclafani, Roblin, because I copied it from an anthology.)

E.D. Hirsch, "Objectivity In Interpretation", from *Validity in Interpretation*. e-Reserve.

**Week 3**

Stanley Fish, "Is there a text in this class?", from *Is There A Text in This Class?* e-Reserve.

Recommend reading (available through JSTOR): Stanley Fish, "Why No One's Afraid of Wolfgang Iser," in *Diacritics*, 11, no. 1 (Spring 1981, pp. 2-13); and Iser's response, "Talk like Whales: A Reply to Stanley Fish," *Diacritics* 11, no. 3 (Autumn, 1981), pp. 82-87. [the Iser exchange is useful for understanding Bérubé's critique, next week.]

**Week 4**

Michael Bérubé, "There is Nothing Inside the Text, or, Why No One's Heard of Wolfgang Iser," from *Postmodern Sophistry* (eds. Olsen & Worsham). e-Reserve.

Martin Stone, "On the Old Saw, 'Every Reading of a Text Is An Interpretation'", from *The Literary Wittgenstein*; download a PDF and read some comments by me here: <http://www.tiny.cc/526uu>.

**Week 5**

Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author". (Haven't decided about this one yet.)

Jonathan Culler, *Structuralist Poetics*, chapter 1. e-Reserve.

**Week 6**

Jacques Derrida, "Signature, Event, Context". (Haven't decided about this one yet.)

**Week 7**

Reading for next week: a few things by me. (We'll see how things are going.)

**Week 8**

Readings for next week: a number of recommended readings—D. Dennett and J. Haugeland on "Real Patterns", Goodman on "Star-Making", maybe a bit from R. Millikan and D. Dretske on functions and teleosemantics. But nothing required. (I'm giving you a break, just talking your ears off. That's the plan.)

**Week 9**

Max Black, "Metaphor". (Apparently the library doesn't have a copy. I'm looking into this. Maybe we'll use the Richard Moran piece on "Metaphor", from *A Companion to Philosophy of Language*.)

Donald Davidson, "What Metaphors Mean", from *Inquiries Into Truth and Interpretation*. e-Reserve.

Recommended: another Davidson article, "A Nice Derangement of Epithets," from *Truth and Interpretation*, ed. E. LePore). (I haven't put this on e-Reserve yet because I'm not sure whether I want to burden you with it.)

**Week 10**

Roland Barthes, "From Work to Text" (haven't decided; haven't put this one on e-Reserve yet.)

Gregory Currie, "Work and Text", *Mind*, 100, no. 3 (1991), 325-240. Available through JSTOR.

**Week 11**

John Searle, "The Logical Status of Fictional Discourse", *New Literary History*, 6, no. 2 (Winter, 1975), 319-332. Available through JSTOR.

selections Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Works and Worlds of Art*. e-Reserve.

selections from Kendall Walton, *Mimesis as Make-Believe*. e-Reserve.

**Week 12**

Chapter 1 of Lamarque and Olsen, *Truth, Fiction and Literature*. (I'm not sure about this one yet. I haven't put it on e-Reserve yet.)

**Week 13**

Pulling it all together.