SYLLABUS

PH3214, “Philosophy and Literature”
Asst. Prof. John Holbo (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.
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.)

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.)


**Week 11**


**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.