

EN 4323/6323: History of Literary Criticism From Plato to the Present

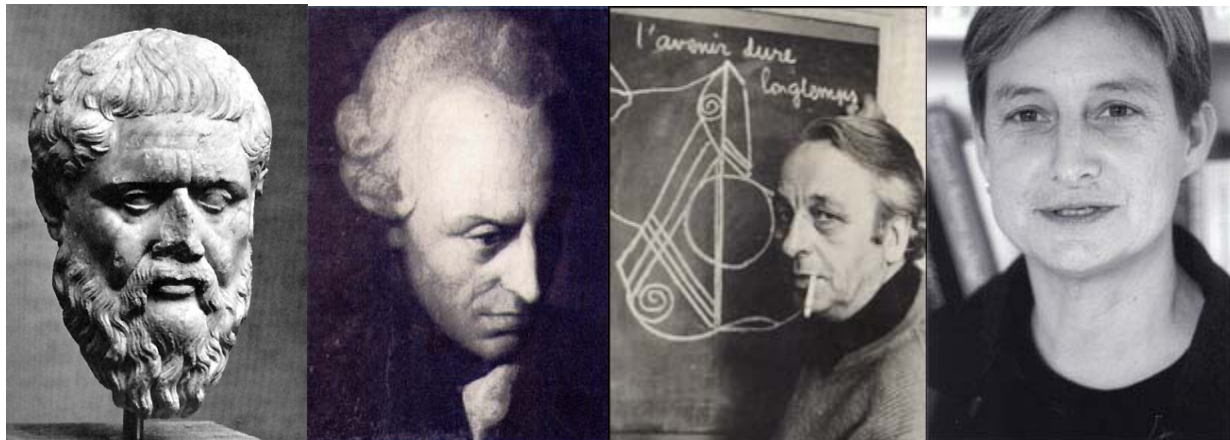
Class Time: Tues/Thurs 12:30

Dr. Shalyn Claggett

Since at least c. 360 B.C.E. (the date of Plato's *Republic*), thinkers have attempted to answer the following questions about literature:

- What do works of literature mean?
- How do they establish those meanings?
- Why do (and why should) we care?

This course will explore how the most influential philosophers, writers, and literary theorists in the past 2,369 years have attempted to answer these, and other, questions about literature and its implications. In our study we will examine the prevailing schools of twentieth-century literary criticism with an eye to their intellectual forbearers. Thinkers we will study include Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, E.D. Hirsch, Derrida, Gadamer, Bakhtin, Walter Benjamin, Irigaray, Adorno, Althusser, and Judith Butler, among others. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical paradigms examined by conducting their own critical readings of selected novels.



Course Requirements:
Two exams, two application essays, and
one class presentation.