

English 67 — Literary Interpretation — Fall 2008
Paper #2 Assignment

For your second paper, I'd like you to choose at least one of the essays that we've read since Brooks:

1. Fish, "Interpreting the Variorum"
2. Jauss, "Literary History as Challenge to Literary Theory"
3. Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth"
4. Lakoff & Johnson, from *Metaphors We Live By*
5. Eagleton, "Poststructuralism"
6. Said, "The Text, The World, and The Critic"
7. Barthes, "The Death of the Author"
8. Foucault, "What Is an Author?"

This time, in addition to the kind of analysis of the text's argument that you performed in the last essay, I'd like you to do a bit of library research, in order to find and incorporate into your analysis at least one critical response to the text you've selected. This response can be one that elaborates on the text or one that refutes it, as you see fit, but it should be germane to the argument that you are making about the text or texts in question.¹

You'll be meeting in the library on Wednesday, October 8, in order to begin this research; you should meet at the regular class time in the Keck Learning Room, which is on the second floor on the Mudd side, just past the open area with the computers. Gale Burrow, the library's Literature reference specialist, will walk you through the processes of searching the major databases for literary scholarship, helping you find ways to refine your searches in order to produce the best possible results, and then showing you how to retrieve those results once you've got them. This library session comes with two brief assignments:

— On Wednesday, you should bring a prepared research question with you to the library. In other words, you need to select the text you plan to work with, identify an issue in that text that you're interested in focusing on, and figure out at least tentatively what kinds of responses you want to look for.

— After Wednesday's session, you should email me the results of your searches (i.e., what those searches were, what results they produced, etc.), including a list of the sources that you plan on reading for this paper, along with a sense of why you think these texts may be valuable. This annotated bibliography should include at least five entries, though you'll only be required to use one in your essay.

Your essay should be 5 to 7 pages long, double-spaced, and should use MLA-style in-text citations for any quotations, plus a list of works cited. (You should have a guide to MLA style from your ID 1 class, but there's also a good guide online here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/02/>)

You should turn your essay in to the Sakai drop box no later than **5 pm, Wednesday, October 15**. Note that the essay you turn in on the 15th will be a draft, but it must be a completed, polished draft, ready for a reader. In the week and a half that follows, each of you will meet with one of our Writing Fellows, Erin Reeves and Annie Allhoff, to discuss your essay, after which you'll revise it. The final, revised version of your essay will be due by **5 pm, Monday, November 3**.

¹ On the "text or texts" bit: this is a simpler and more focused assignment if you select *one* of the listed texts, but this time out I wouldn't be opposed to your doing some comparative work between *two* of the essays. Please do keep it to two, though, and know that choosing two texts doesn't get you out of the library research component of the assignment.