

HON 288: Close Reading

TTh 2:30-3:45

Instructor: Kent Lehnhof (lehnhof@chapman.edu)

Office: Wilkinson Hall 211 (628-2746)

Office hours: TTh 10-11am, 1-2pm, and by appointment

Course Description

Prerequisite, acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of the instructor. This course focuses on small and subtle elements in a wide range of texts. Specific texts vary by semester but generally include a mix of visual images, television commercials, music videos, short films, short stories, op-ed pieces, stageplays, and feature-length films. In considering all of these texts, the objective is to delve into the details, observing and analyzing aspects of the text that often go unnoticed and unexamined.

Texts

Texts vary by semester but generally include a mix of visual images, television commercials, music videos, short films, short stories, op-ed pieces, stageplays, and feature-length films.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

This course seeks to develop or enhance your ability to:

- **Observe, describe, and analyze the intent/effect of subtle details in a wide range of texts**
- **Develop and express (in speech and writing) evidence-based, analytical arguments about a wide range of texts**

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

In pursuit of these outcomes, this course fulfills the learning outcomes of the University Honors Program as well as the learning outcome of the Artistic Inquiry component of the GE Program.

Honors Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

- Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives
- Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood)
- Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world
- Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis

Artistic Inquiry Learning Outcome (GE 7AI)

A student in a 7AI course will:

- Compose critical or creative works that embody or analyze conceptually an artistic form at a baccalaureate / pre-professional level

Assignments

You are expected to complete by class time the assignments listed for that day on the schedule.

Class Participation

I envision our class to be a community of learners. To encourage full participation in this community, I do not allow in-class use of computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices. Though I do not assign a numeric value to your course participation, I expect you to make regular and thoughtful contributions.

Grading

Grades will be based on attendance, reading quizzes, written analyses, a group presentation, and a final project.

Attendance (10%)

Because you cannot honor your commitment to our community of learners when you are not present, I expect regular attendance. You will be allowed to miss two class meetings without penalty. For each additional absence, you will lose 5 points. (For example, a student who misses four class meetings would receive an attendance score of 90.) Additionally, any student missing 10 or more meetings will be ineligible to receive anything higher than a D in the course. For the purposes of attendance calculations, two tardies will be counted as one absence.

Reading quizzes (25%)

You will have a number of reading quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will be administered via Blackboard and need to be completed before the start of class on the day indicated by the syllabus. (The quiz will go offline 10 minutes before class begins.) The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions related to the day's reading and should not be difficult if you have done the reading. However, you will have a 10-minute time limit for each quiz. You are to take each quiz without assistance of any kind. Consulting your text, your notes, your friends, the Internet, or any other outside resource is prohibited. Because you can submit quizzes from just about anywhere and at just about any time, missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Written analyses (30%)

You will turn in a number of written analyses over the course of the semester. You may focus your analysis on one of the texts we read in class, one of the "additional texts" listed/linked in Blackboard, or another text of your own choosing (provided you clear it with me in advance). Written analyses should be at least 900 words in length. To save paper, feel free to single space, duplex, and use fonts as small as 10 pt. You may drop your lowest analysis score. Analyses will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Makes a number of significant, detailed, and specific observations about the text**
- **Offers a compelling analysis of the intent/effect of a number of textual details**
- **Advances a nuanced and sophisticated argument about the text's overall message/meaning/experience**
- **Demonstrates authorial care (e.g., structure, style, mechanics)**

Group Presentations (10%)

You and a group of your peers will be required to make a presentation to the class that offers or enacts a close reading of a text of your choice. Presentations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Offers or elicits a number of significant, detailed, and specific observations about the text**
- **Provides or promotes compelling analysis of the intent/effect of a number of textual details**

- **Advances or evokes nuanced and sophisticated arguments about the text’s overall message/meaning/experience**
- **Is well-planned, well-paced, and interesting**
- **Engages the audience and stimulates further thought/discussion**

Final Project (25%)

You will be required to perform a sustained close reading of one or more texts of your choice. If your final project takes the form of an analytical essay, it should be around 2,500 words in length (approximately 8 double-spaced pages). However, you are free to request approval for other kinds of projects (e.g., a short film, a hypertext document, a Prezi/Power Point presentation). You will need to present to me a final project proposal on **Tuesday, October 27**. Your final project will be due on **Thursday, December 10**. Late projects will not be accepted. Final projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Makes a number of significant, detailed, and specific observations about the text**
- **Offers a compelling analysis of the intent/effect of a number of textual details**
- **Advances a nuanced and sophisticated argument about the text’s overall message/meaning/experience**
- **Displays authorial care (e.g., structure, style, mechanics)**

Grade Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-90	C+	77-80	D+	67-70	F	0-60
A-	90-93	B	83-87	C	73-77	D	63-67		
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities or Special Needs

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or visit www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Academic Honesty

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor and referral to the university Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions, including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's policy on Academic Integrity at www.chapman.edu/academics/academicintegrity/index.aspx.

Equity and Diversity

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman's Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please see the full description of this policy at <http://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/eoo.aspx>. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the dean of students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

Schedule

Week 1

Tuesday, September 1 Introductions What is close reading?	Thursday, September 3 Advertising images
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Week 2

Tuesday, September 8 TV commercials	Thursday, September 10 TV commercials
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Week 3

Tuesday, September 15 WWII cartoons *Written analysis	Thursday, September 17 Short stories *Blackboard quiz
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Week 4

Tuesday, September 22 Short stories *Blackboard quiz	Thursday, September 24 Short stories *Blackboard quiz
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Week 5

Tuesday, September 29 Shakespeare tragedy, act 1 *Written analysis	Thursday, October 1 Shakespeare tragedy, acts 1-3
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Week 6

Tuesday, October 6 Shakespeare tragedy, acts 1-5 *Blackboard quiz	Thursday, October 8 Shakespeare tragedy, acts 1-5
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Week 7

Tuesday, October 13 Shakespeare comedy, act 1 *Written analysis	Thursday, October 15 Shakespeare comedy, acts 1-3
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Week 8

Tuesday, October 20
Shakespeare comedy, acts 1-5
***Blackboard quiz**

Thursday, October 22
Shakespeare comedy, acts 1-5

Week 9

Tuesday, October 27
Final project consultations
***Written analysis**

Thursday, October 29
Group 1 presentation

Week 10

Tuesday, November 3
Group 2 presentation

Thursday, November 5
Group 3 presentation

Week 11

Tuesday, November 10
Group 4 presentation

Thursday, November 12
Group 5 presentation

Week 12

Tuesday, November 17
Group 6 presentation
***Written analysis**

Thursday, November 19
Group 7 presentation

Week 13

Tuesday, November 24
No class (Thanksgiving Break)

Thursday, November 26
No class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 14

Tuesday, December 1
Op/ed pieces
***Written analysis**

Thursday, December 3
Animated short films

Week 15

Tuesday, December 8
Music videos

Thursday, December 10
Visual images
***Final projects due**

Final exam day

Final project presentations