

Intro to College Lit

April 18-21, '14

- ⦿ Reminder about Think Piece/In-Class Write #2
- ⦿ TMMWLYGATCW/O
- ⦿ Intro to Marxist Criticism
- ⦿ Intro to Feminist Criticism
- ⦿ Poetry Madness

NEXT TIME!

- ⦿ Bring a Think Piece over *Invisible Man*.
 - Remember that “thinking” is actually in the title of the assignment. If your brain isn’t working hard while you’re writing a think piece, you’re doing it wrong.
 - Put it on [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) and bring a paper copy.
- ⦿ OR! You’ll be doing an in-class write next time over *Invisible Man*.
 - Topic hint? *Reread the Epilogue*. Probably all three options will be asking you to analyze a passage from the Epilogue and relate it to the book as a whole.
- ⦿ Can you do both? Yes. But you can only submit ONE.

TMMWLYGATCW/O

- ⦿ Many of you are going to college next year! This is exciting!
- ⦿ There will be many things to learn.
- ⦿ Most of these things you will have to learn by experiencing them.
- ⦿ However, because I LIKE YOU, I'm going to spend a little time every day for the rest of the semester telling you a few things you should know that you may not hear elsewhere.

TMMWLYGATCW/O #1

- ⦿ Get a stapler.

This is a piece of art:



Marxist Criticism

- ⦿ Marxist criticism is a type of criticism in which literary works are viewed as the product of work.
- ⦿ Practitioners of Marxist criticism emphasize the role of *class* and *ideology* as they reflect, propagate, and even challenge the prevailing social order.
- ⦿ Rather than viewing texts as repositories for hidden meanings, Marxist critics view texts as material products to be understood in broadly historical terms.
- ⦿ **Literature reflects an author's own class or analysis of class relations, however piercing or shallow that analysis may be.**

Even shorter:

- ◎ **It's all about power.**
- ◎ **Power = Money.**
- ◎ **Analyze the power relationships in the book as they relate to economic factors.**
- ◎ **Pay attention to socioeconomic *class* and how it affects how the events of a book play out.**
- ◎ **Try to figure out what sort of a judgment about class and power the work is conveying.**

Let's practice!

- ⦿ This is embarrassing, but until someone suggests a safe-for-school, more contemporary substitution, we're going to watch [Puff Daddy, Mace, and the Notorious B.I.G.](#)
- ⦿ Aren't the 90s weird?
- ⦿ Also, if you're ever looking for a really interesting contrast to the above video, check out M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes" video. (Not safe for school...sorry.)
- ⦿ Here are some questions I'll ask you to think about as you watch:

- ⦿ What role does class play in the work; what is the author's analysis of class relations?
- ⦿ In what ways does the work serve as propaganda for the status quo; or does it try to undermine it?
- ⦿ What does the work say about oppression—or are social conflicts ignored or blamed elsewhere?

And on the other hand...

- ◎ Well, is it really “on the other hand”?

Got any ideas...

- ① ...about how you could apply Marxist criticism to something we've read thus far in class?

Myths Debunked!

FEMINIST CRITICISM

Quickwrite: Answer the following questions for *your own gender*.

What does our society expect of women/men?

- What behaviors and attitudes are rewarded and encouraged?
- What behaviors and attitudes are accepted, though maybe not rewarded?
- What behaviors and attitudes are punished and/or discouraged?
- **Where do messages about acceptable behavior for women/men come from? Where do we encounter them?**

In your groups...

- ① Share your thoughts.
- ① See if you can come up with more.

Then!

- ⦿ Write that business on the poster!

Feminist Criticism:

What it is, then.

- ⦿ Feminist criticism is, at its core, the attempt to analyze what gender norms and expectations are communicated by texts.
- ⦿ Feminist criticism analyzes how BOTH men and women are “constructed” in texts.
- ⦿ Like Marxist criticism, feminist criticism is concerned with power—but in this case, power as related to gender (rather than money).
- ⦿ Focuses on the relationships between genders, and how texts portray these.
- ⦿ HANDOUT!

Applications to what we've been reading?

- ⦿ There are some, as it turns out!

For next time...

- ◎ Your Think Pieces over *Invisible Man* are due at the beginning of class (turn them in to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) and bring a paper copy—no need to post on Google Docs this time). OR
- ◎ Prep for In-Class Write #2!